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CELTIC LEAGUE



a l b a

CALUMCILLE... AN DÒRAINN AGUS A' BHUAIDH AIGE

Am bliadhna cuimhnichidh sinn air bàs Chalumcille, oir chaochail e 1400 bliadhna seo chaidh. Air 11 Sultainn nochd poball na h-Alba gun robh sin cheart cho dèidheil air a bhi cho saor à Sasain is a bha Calumcille e-fhèin nuair a shaor e Alba à Eirinn aig Drumceatt sa bhliadhna 575 AD.

Leugh mi a h-uile leabhar mu dheighinn Chalumcille as urrainn domh fhaotainn. Bha sgeulachdan gu leòr ri fhaighinn mu na gnìomhan glòrmhor a rinn e ann an Alba agus mar a bha e 'na phrìomh naomh an Alba... ach cha robh mòran ri radha a thaobh na beatha aige an Eirinn. Carson? Shaoil mi gun robh rudeigin air a cheill... chì sinn...

AN ÒIGE AIGE

Rugadh Calumcille an Garton, Dùn nan Gall sa bhliadhna 521 AD agus chaochail e air Eilean I. o chionn 1400 bliadhna, sa bhliadhna 597, aois 76.

Nuair a bha e sia bliadhna air fhichead a dh'aois bha e a' theagasg sa Cholaiste Moibhi, Glaisneamhan, Baile Átha Cliath. Bha a h-uile cail sa chiad dol a-mach a' dol gu math, ach ann an ùine ghoirid, thàinig droch thubaist — a'

phlàigh bhuidhe! Mharbh i oileanaich is luchd-teagaisg agus dh'fhalbh na h-oileanaich dhachaigh. Gun oileanaich dhùin a' cholaiste agus bha Calumcille gun obair!

Mata, thill e dhachaigh, gu ruige Doire, don chinneadh aige. Clann Connail, sliochd O'Neill. Fhuair e obair mar thear-theagaisg don cheann-cinnidh, Aedh, a bha deich bliadhna aig an àm sin. Cha robh Aedh ach na chealgair 's na bhlaigear a bha daonnan a' dèanamh foill agus a' bagairt air ar-a-mach thoirt an aghaidh a cho-ogha Diarmait agus esan 'na Ard-Rìgh Eirinn. Shanntaich Aedh gu mòr a bhi na Ard-Rìgh e-fhèin agus bha e deònach Diarmait hochd a mharbhadh air son sin agus àite a ghabhail.

AN LETH-BHREAC

Bha Calumcille dileas don chinneadh aige, do na Gàidheil agus an dualachas againn, ach, os cionn na h-uile, bha gaol mòr aige air a bhi na mhìsionaraidh a' sgaoileadh Soisgeil Chrìosda a-measg nam pàganach. Ach bha e ro chas is ro

chinnteach 'na bhàrail fhèin.

Mata, thachair tachartas a bha sa chiad dol a-mach suarach ach mu dheireadh thall ruaigeadh ar naomh mach à Eirinn! Bliadhnachan an deigh sin chaidh e gu ruige Moibhil (Moyl) a dhèanamh cèilidh air maighstir-sgoile a h'athne 'na òige... Finian. Bha e glè thoilichte fhaicinn a-risid, ach, chuala e gun robh leabhraichean nuadh aig Finian agus bha gaol mòr aig Calumcille air leabhraichean.

'Bu mhian leam leth-bhreac a dhèanamh den Shalmadiar nuadh agaibhsa,' arsa Calumcille.

Dh'fhuil Finian, oir bha fios aige gum biodh Calumcille a' dèanamh leth-bhrìc gu leòr as a chiad leth-bhreac seo agus bhiodh e a' reic gach fear aig prìs ro mhòr air sgath na mìsionaireachd aig Calumcille, agus bha Finian fhèin agus a' cholaiste aige bochd.

Bha Calumcille cinnteach gun robh e-fhèin ceart gu leòr. Gu dè ach fhuair Finian ar naomh a' dèanamh leth-bhreac neo-laghail re na h-oidheche nuair a bha chuid eile de'n t-saoghal 'na chadal.

AM BREITHEANAS

'Sin a' nall an leth-bhreac agadsa, air neo, theid mi gu lagh cadhon don Ard-chuirt an

Tara,' arsa Finian.

Dh'fhuil ar gaisgeach agus chaill e a' chuis aige.

Dè thuirt am britheamh an Gàidhlig na h-Eirinn ach:-

'Le gach boin a hoinin,

Is gach lebur a lebran'

no, mar a theireadh sin an diugh:-

'Le gach bò a laogh

Is gach leabhar a leth-bhreac.'

Dh'òrdaich an Ard-chuirt Calumcille an leth-bhreac a thoirt do Finian. Dh'fhuil Calumcille a risid, ged a bha am breitheanas gu tu ceart... a' chiad cùis a thaobh na dhligh-sgrìobhaidh. (copyright).

A nisd, bha Aedh 'na inbheach agus smaoinich e gun d'fhàinig cothrum ar-a-mach a thoirt an aghaidh an Ard-Rìgh. Diarmait hochd, Gheibheadh e coire do Chalumcille.

Bhiodh butail ann agus bhiodh Calumcille toilichte an leth-bhreac a nochdadh don Arm bhon a bha e cho chinnteach 'na bhàrail fhèin. Thuit Calumcille (agus esan neo-chiontach) a-steach don ribe aig Aedh olc. Nochd Calumcille leth-bhreac de'n t-Salmadair gu rag-mhuinealach don Arm a bha aig Aedh, roimh Bhàr Cùldreimhne faisg air Drumcliff an taobh an iar na h-Eirinn.

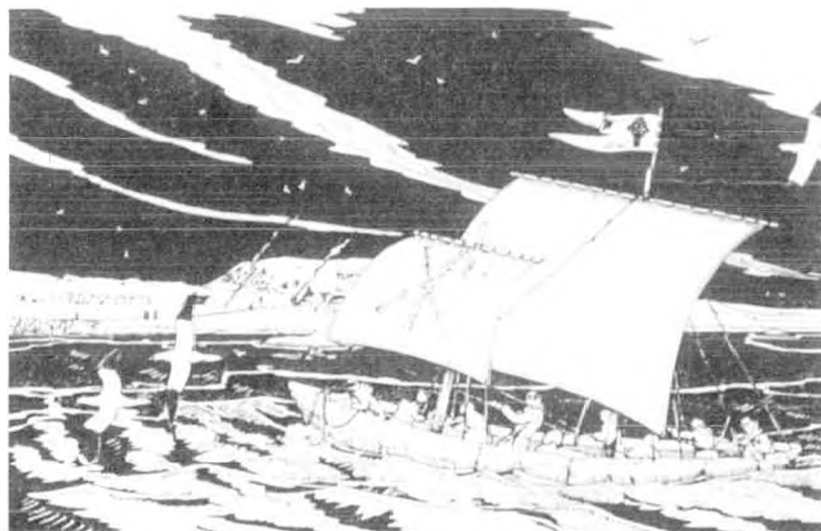
TORADH A' CHATHA

Thuit trì mìle duine an Cùldreimhne agus choirich Aedh a cho-ogha Calumcille.

'Tha a' choir sin aig Calumcille! Nach fhaic sibh mar a dh'fhoillsich e an leth-bhreac don Arm uile gu leir!' arsa Aedh.

Agus chreid muinntir na h-Eirinn e. Cha do thuig iad gun robh Aedh e-fhèin ciontach. An deidh sin bha an leth-bhreac ainmichte 'An Cathach' agus tha e ri fhaicinn fhathast anns an Royal Irish Academy, Baile Átha Cliath! Fad corr is mìle bliadhna chuireadh daoine a-steach do pheile dh'uisge e (an àite buinn airgid) agus thilgadh iad an t-uisge thairs air bò thinn — shabhail e sin 'An Cathach'!

An deidh Cùldreimhne dh'fhuil a' muinntir aig Calumcille an Doire agus theab nach thilg muinntir na h-Eaglaise a-mach... 's e sin Calumcille e-fhèin!



Chruinnich iad ann an Taillte (Telltown) agus taing do mholadh Naoimh Breandan à Bìrr a-mhàin rinn airson ar naomh cha do thuadaich an Eaglais Calumcille. Thuig Calumcille gum biodh càirdean nam mairbh bhon Blàr Cùldreimhe toilichte ga chur gu bàs agus an t-Ard Rìgh Diarmaid cuideachd oir chaidh an latha le Aedh.

FUDACH AN NAOIMH

Dh'fheòraich an naomh comhairliche na h-Eaglaise...

'De ni mi?' arsa Calumcille.

'Bi fàilbh à Eirinn — mach à seo... mach sealladh as Eirinn!'

Thuig Calumcille, le deòirean a' sìleadh air a' ghruaidhean gun robh e-fhèin cèarr... fada cèarr... a bhi cho rag-mhuinealach cho fada 'na bhàinil thein. Rachadh e a dh'Alba bhon a bha a chàirdean an sin daonnan g' iarraidh air tighinn thairis

Rinn Calumcille cèilidh air Finian agus dh'iarr e mathanas. Bha Finian mór-inntinneach agus mhath e ar cleireach le gairdeachas. Thug Calumcille 'An Cathach' do Fhianan mun do dh'fhàg e Eirinn mar dhiobarach deurach le bàta (curach) déanta de sheichean coltach ri bàtaichean cleachdte fhathast sna eileanan Arann deich mìle air fhichead à Gallainn (Galway).

TILLEADH AN T-SIUIL-MARA

Abair gun robh ar curaidh soirbheachail ann an Alba. Bha a mhàthair 'na piuthar aig Fearghais Mac Erc a stèidhich a chiad prìomh-bhaile na h-Alba... Dunadd. Uime sin, bha e a meusg nan co-oghachan aige. Dh'fhàs e cho cumhachdach is gun do dh'ainmich e Aedan mar rìgh sa bhliadhna 574 AD.

An ath-bhliadhna — dà bhliadhna deug an deidh am fuadach aige thill e a dh'Eirinn... ach a-nis bha cuibhl' an fhòrtain a' cur nan caran dhith. Bha e le chèile cumhachdach is gràdhach. Fhuair e cuireadh a dhol don Cho-chruinneachadh Drumceatt (Daisy Hill sa Bheurla) faisg air Leum a' mhadaidh (Limavady) nach eil fada à Doire... gu seòrsa de Phàrlamaid Eireannach.

'S e a' chiad cheist... an sgap agus am mil iad Bàird na h-Eirinn is na h-Alba? Chaidh an latha le Calumcille — mhaireadh na Bàird ged nach biodh iad cho lionmhor. Agus leis a sin fhuair ar gaisgeach taic a' Chruinneachaidh.

Dè an darna ceist ach mu dheighinn geur-leanmhainn Scanlan. Prionnsa Ossery le Aedh. Nochd Calumcille mar a bha Aedh 'na uile-bheist leis an do chur e Scanlan a-steach do chéidse (cage). Bha Aedh ga bhliadhadh le feòil ro shailte agus sin gun bhoinne dh'uisge idir... a' feitheamh agus an do mharbh Scanlan le tart. Chuir iad Scanlan ma sgaoil.

SAORSA NA H-ALBA

A nisd 's e an treas ceist — neo-eisimeileachd na h-Alba.

Am biodh sinn fo smachd na h-Eirinn no nach biodh? Seo agaibh a' cheist. San darna aite fhuair sin sgaoileadh-cumhachd (devolution) a dh-Eirinn oir dh-fheumadh Dalriada saighdearan ma bios riaghaltas na h-Eirinn gan iarraidh.

San aite eile, cha phàigheadh Dalriada (agus mu deireadh thall, Alba uile gu leir) sgillín ruadh do dh'Eirinn mar chis agus mar sin bhiodh Alba neo-eisimealach.

Shaor Calumcille ar dhuthaich air Drumceatt faisg air 1400 bliadhna seo chaidh. Neartaich e ar cànan nàiseanta agus sgaoil se i thall 's a bhos. Taing dhasan shin ar creideamh Criosdaidh a Eilean I feadh Alba.

Chan eil e iongantach gur e Calumcille ar prìomh naomh!

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich (Gilleasbuig Lachlain 'Illeasbuig)

As this is the 1400 anniversary of St Columba's death: this year, it is appropriate that his story be retold as no other saint did so much for Scotland's oldest and national language and independence. This history is largely set in Ireland where the most momentous times of his life were spent and which are not always fully appreciated by Scottish readers.

Gaelic in Scottish History and Culture



Michael Newton GAELIC IN SCOTTISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

by Michael Newton. Published by
An Clochan, 1997. Price £3.00.
ISBN 1-900286-05-X.

A resourceful analysis of the position of Scots Gaelic throughout its history and how, from being the language of the Scottish court, it lost ground to an extent that by the eighteenth century it was no

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SCOTTISH POWER UPDATE

Scottish Power have announced that Gaelic electricity bills will be available from the end of 1998 when their new computer billing system is in place. This decision follows a letter writing campaign by language activists (see *Carn* 97)

longer recognised as the national language of Scotland, but rather the language of the Highlands alone. The need to address this misconception alone still strains the revival, which is making an impact through schools, media and agitation, although at present less than two per cent of Scotland's people speak Gaelic. Michael Newton also addresses other vital topics related to Scottish culture such as music and folklore, using this to develop the essential criteria as to why Gaelic does matter in today's world.

An Clochan is a publishing venture in Belfast focusing on Celtic cultures and languages in particular and minority cultures and languages in general. For further information regarding this and other publications write to: An Clochan, 36 Fruithill Park, Béal Feirste, BT11 8GE, Ireland.

Gaelic News

SECURE STATUS

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) has completed its final report to the government on official status for Gaelic. This follows on from the 'Securing the Future for Gaelic' document of March 1997 and from CnaG's consultation exercise on the proposals which it contained. During this process, CnaG has managed to collect over 10,000 signatures on a petition in favour of official status.

The report recommends that official status legislation be passed to 'establish a basic principle of equal validity for Gaelic and English in Scotland, along the lines of the recognition given to Welsh by virtue of the Welsh Language Act 1993.'

Gaelic should be a key component of the Scottish parliament and it is recommended that a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gaelic be established with a Gaelic officer to assist the committee in its work. Under CnaG's plan, constituents would be entitled both to use Gaelic in their dealings with parliament and to expect the use of Gaelic in reply. It is also proposed that the parliament should have a bilingual policy for its signs, stationery, electronic/multi media and that it should actively promote the use of Gaelic in its documents. Members of the parliament should have the right to use Gaelic in parliamentary committees and debates.

For local government, it is proposed that Gaelic officers be appointed by all local authorities to design and implement policies which would address all issues relating to Gaelic within each local authority's remit.

Like the Welsh Language Act, implementation of the legislation would be based on language plans. Under Comunn na Gàidhlig's blueprint, the Scottish Office, Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Companies and other public bodies in addition to Whitehall administered arms of central government would be required to develop Gaelic policies within three years of the enactment of legislation. The Gaelic policies would be submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland (or, following the opening of the Scottish Parliament, to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Gaelic) for approval. Approval 'should not be granted unless reasonable provision is established.' As under the Welsh Language Act, the private sector is excluded from these provisions.

In the legal sphere, which has long been of symbolic importance to language

activists, it is recommended that persons appearing before courts and administrative tribunals be entitled to both present cases and give evidence in Gaelic. Any document prepared and executed in Gaelic would have full legal force and validity.

For education, it is proposed that statutory provision be put in place requiring local authorities to make Gaelic medium school and pre-school education available where demanded by five or more pupils. 'The minimum such provision in all sectors should be made on at least a one school per area basis'.

On the subject of broadcasting the rather vague recommendation is made that 'legislation is required to create a cohesive Gaelic broadcasting service with capacity for growth to meet audience needs and to enhance the role of broadcasting in the development of the Gaelic language.'

One of the most radical and most widely reported clauses of the report is the one dealing with non-discrimination. It is recommended, amongst other things, that provision be made in the Race Relations Act 1976 and in the portion of the Public Order Act 1986, relating to the criminal offence of incitement to racial hatred, to specifically include Scottish Gaels in the protection offered under these statutes. A special remedy is also recommended to be provided for anyone who feels that any of their rights under the Gaelic Language Act have been infringed.

CnaG's final report on official status has been widely welcomed by the Gaelic community. It is clear that Comunn na Gàidhlig has listened to the views of Gaelic groups and activists concerning its initial proposals. Plans for a language quango for example have been dropped in the face of public opposition.

How much provision would be made for Lowland Scotland under official status legislation was also a major issue in the debate surrounding the recommendations contained in the 'Securing the Future for Gaelic' paper. Gaelic activists, including the Celtic League, argued that the basic all-Scotland provision mentioned should be as strong as possible and that the Cities should be given the same enhanced provisions as the Highlands and Islands for the purposes of the official status legislation.

The 'Secure Status' report reflects this view by recognising Gaelic as a national language and by setting out to 'enhance the profile of Gaelic among the broad Scottish population, and to build an increasing awareness that the living language was not merely the property of Gaelic speakers, but of all Scots.' While Gaelic will enjoy a

stronger degree of provision in the Highlands and Islands, it is clear that the 'basic level of provision' alluded to throughout Scotland has been interpreted in a maximalist way, which if implemented, would grant Lowland Gaels a great deal more rights than they presently possess. The report further recognises that Glasgow and Edinburgh should be recognised as areas for enhanced provision under the terms of a Gaelic language act and states that a policy of 'full bilingualism' is to be the ultimate objective for all major urban areas.

What is particularly noticeable about the 'Secure Status' report is its rights based approach to the question and the articulate and eloquent way in which it makes its case. The report ends by saying that 'ultimately the issue of Gaelic is not just a Scottish issue. It is an issue of human dignity - of belonging, and of justice'. It can only be hoped that the Scottish office will recognise this fact.

The full report is available free of charge from: Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Caolshraid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis, IV2 3HQ. E-mail: Ailean@CNAIG.org.uk

Alasdair MacCaluim

PHONE-BOOK CAMPAIGN

The Scottish Branch of the Celtic League are currently campaigning for bilingual phone-directories in Scotland to match those in Wales. At present none of the Scottish phone-books contain any Gaelic. Please write to British Telecom at the address below, asking that they make the same provision for Gaelic in Scottish phone-books as they do for Welsh in those for Wales. The Scottish branch of the Celtic League would welcome copies of your correspondence.

Write to: Mrs Pat Ellis, Phonebooks Manager, Room 101, Telecom House, Trinity Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent ST1 5ND England.

An Urzh Oraniant

Bep bloaz adalek an nevezamzer betek an dianeost e vez kerzhadegoù gant an Unanourien a-hed hag a-dreuz ar C'hwee'h Kontelezh a Norzhiwerzhon. Kantadoù anezho a vez gwazed hagol gwisket e du, togoù ront war o fenn, skerboù orañjez hir en-dro d'o gouzout ha spilhennet ouzh diaraog o chupennoù, int o kerzhet sonn a-renkadoù a-dreñv bagadoù a sonerien yaouank o c'hwezhañ tonioù brezelek en o lleütoù pe o skeiñ taolioù kreñv ouzh o zaboulinoù bras. An Urzh Oraniant eo a laka a-wel evel-se nerzh ar protestantiezh e Bro-Ulad.

An div vrasañ eus ar c'herzhadegoù-se a vez aozet an eil d'an 12 a viz Gouere e koun eus trec'h William a Orania en Emgann ar v-Bóinn e 1690 hag eben d'an 12 a viz Eost evit keneñvoriñ an 'Apprentice Boys' a zalc'has penn ouzh ar Gatoliged e seziz Derry en hevelep bloaz. Talvout a reont, daoust ma ne vez ket lavaret fraezh, da ziskouez gant peseurt rummad emañ ar galloud bepred er C'Hwee'h Kontelezh. A-ratozh-kaer e vez kerzhet e meur a gêr dre garterioù katolik-rik. Ne fell ket mui d'ar Gatoliged avat gouzañv an daadennoù-se: goulenn a reont ma vo adhentet an dibunadegoù. E lec'hioù zo ez eo bet asantet gwech pe wech d'o goulenn, met an Oranidi a respont ez eo o gwir kerzhet war 'hentoù ar Rouanez' e pep lec'h ma'z int boas da ober. E Portadown, 1996, e voe difennet outo gant ar bolis tremen dre ar Garbhachai met dre forzh gourdrourz ha harpet gant an dizurzh lakaet e lec'hioù all gant al lealourien e voent trec'h: evit gouarnamant London e oa koulz hag anzav ne oa ket barrek da ren e Norzhiwerzhon. Treuzvarc'hadoù zo bet graet abaoe met n'eo ket sur e teuo ar poellgor hag a zo bet savet evit reoliñ ar c'herzhadegoù a-benn da virout na c'hoarvezo reuz adarre en abeg dezho ar bloaz-mañ. Da geñver an taol-se e Portadown e voe gwelet David Trimble, anvet goude-se da rener an Ulster Unionist Party, hag ar muntre bras Bill Wright 'ar Razh' (lazhet gant an INLA e toull-bac'h Long Kesh war-dro Nedeleg diwezhañ) oc'h emguzuliañ. Trimble zo unañ eus pennoù a-raok an Urzh Oraniant ha ken start Unanour hag Ian Paisley nemet ez eo linoc'h, ha gwidreüsoc'h ivez eget e

ziagentiad e penn an U.U.P., James Molyneux. 'Sovereign Grand Master' al lochenn 'Royal Black Preceptory' eus an Urzh. Kement-se a ziskouez ez eo ereet-strizh an Urzh hag an U.U.P. goude ma'z eo hemañ sanset bezañ kerreishoc'h eget strollad Paisley.

Karout a rate darn eus renerien an Urzh rein da grediñ n'o deus da bal pe da vennad nemet difenn o frankiz relijiel, ned eo o c'herzhadegoù netra nemet gouelioù da zegas dihueñ d'hec'h izili ha n'int ket enebet ouzh ar Gatoliged. O haroz meur William a Orania en doa didronet ar roue James II Stewart evit mirout na zeuje ar rouantelezh da vezañ ent kefridiel ur Stad katolik en-dro, met ne fell ket dezho kounaat e oa William e-barzh ur c'hevredad a Stadoù katolik koulz ha protestant savet evit lakaat harz da aloubadegoù Loeiz XIV, hag e oa harpet gant arc'hant ha diplomatiezh ar Pab Inosant XI! Hemañ en dije bet abeg da geuziañ a dra sur rak heskinet kriz e voe ar Gatoliged gant warlerc'hidi William e-pad an darn vrasañ eus an 18-vet kantved. Met Protestanted eus ar seurt na oant ket anglikan, an Digensentourien, a voe difrankizet ivez daoust ma voe distennet ar gwaskerezh warno e-doug ar c'hantved-se. Un abeg politikel a oa d'an enebiezh e-keñver an div ranngredeñn: ne oant ket leal a-walc'h d'ar Rouaned. E gwirionez, Digensentourien eo a oa dreist-holl e kevredigezh an 'United Irishmen' savet e 1791 gant Th. Wolfe Tone e sell da unaniñ an holl Iwerzhoniz ha da ziazezañ ur Republik awenet gant mennozhioù an dispac'herien amerikan ha gall. An emglev etre Katoliged ha Digensenterien a lakaas c'hwen e loeroù ar berc'henned douar ha tudjentil all, Anglikaned anezho gweitubunan. Savet o doa ar re-mañ e 1782 ur Parlamant evit difenn o lazoù hag o brientoù ha tuet e oant da zisklêriañ o dizalc'hded diouzh hini London. O welet koulskoude e oa krog ar Saozon da reiñ un tamm frankiz relijiel d'ar Gatoliged e teuas aon dezho da goll darn eus o beli. Setu ma tivizjont, evit terriñ an unaniezh o tiwaniñ etre ar Protestanted all hag ar Gatoliged, broudañ o feurmourien a-enep ar gouerien gatolik e sigur ma oa ar re-mañ o prenañ douaroù a c'hallje ahendall bezañ gounczet ganto. Se a c'hoarvezas dreist-holl e kontelezh Ard

Mhacha. Da heul tagadennoù ha kabaduilhoù e voe savet eno e 1795 ar gevrenn gentañ eus ur gevredigezh kuzh hag a voe anvet 'the Orange Order'. E penn e oa tudjentil eus an Uhelan. Buan e voe diazezet 'Lochennou' all anezhañ diouzh skouer ar frankmasonerezh, neket heptken en Iwerzhon met e Breizh-Veur ivez. Harpet e oant gant ar Virourien (Tories). Ne oa digor nemet d'ar wazed, hag evel-se eo chomet betek-henn. Pa voe diogelet lazoù ha beli an uhelidi gant an Akt a Unaniezh (1800) a stage Iwerzhon da vat ouzh Breizh-Veur e trojont kein d'an Urzh met kreñvaet e voe hemañ en-dro pa lakaas dieubidigezh ar Gatoliged (1829) an holl Brotestanted d'en em glevet hag e voe degemeret an Digensentourien (Presbiteriz h.a.) e-barzh (1837). Diwar neuze, bep tro ma tiskoueze ar Vroadelourien Iwerzhonut dont da vezañ kreñv (argadou ar Fenianed, Brezel an Douar, Home Rule, ar Brezel-dieubiñ), e save an Urzh Oraniant a-enep dezho o vont betek atizan ar Brotestanted da aozañ pogromou a-enep ar Gatoliged e Belfast.

Diskouezet e voe splann gant an istorour Peter Berresford Ellis, en ur brezegenn graet gantañ e skol-hañv Desmond Greaves e Dulenn e 1996 dindan an titl 'Orangism: Myth and Reality' ez eo an Urzh Oraniant un aozadur politikel hag a denn splot eus rakvarnoù ha diouiziegezh ar werin brotestant evit harpañ galloud ur vegenn.

A. Heusaff

Summary

Every year during the Summer, the Orange Order stages marches throughout the 'Six-Counties' in N. Ireland. By insisting on passing through Catholic areas, often in a triumphalist manner, they result in dangerous confrontations.

AL LIAMM, bimonthly literary magazine in Breton, sub. 180F/outside State 200F to Per ar Bihan, 16 r. des Fours à Chaux, 35400 Saint-Malo.

In the Nov.-Dec. issue, Nr 305, Yann Gerven brings his story 'Liv Ruz an Hesk' to an unexpected conclusion, the decisive clue to the murders mystery coming from a brainy and... enterprising lass. (Breton literature has come a long way since the prude days of Vallee and the Sketla). The most substantial contributions are R. ar C'Halan's account of Jack Kerouac's restless life and Fañch Kerrain's brief biography of Plato, in fact dealing only with his attitude towards the degradation of political life in Athens and his unsuccessful attempts to influence the rulers of Syracuse. There are two poems by Tudual Huon who was awarded the Imram prize last year for a collection of his poetry (to be published this year).

History of Brittany: which version?

When the schools re-open next September, children in Côtes-d'Armor and Finistère will be given free copies of a book of Breton history. This is a new departure that deserves being put on the record. It is being written by Louis Elegouët at the request of Jean-Yves Cozan, ex-deputy, member of the Finistère General Council in which he is in charge of cultural matters. So far nobody but the author has seen the manuscript. A first restriction is that the book is to be reserved to the pupils of the colleges' first form. Moreover the initiative is to benefit only the two aforementioned departments: the others have turned it down, not surprisingly since most of their councillors belong to parties which take their cue from their headquarters in Paris.

J.Y. Cozan is well-known for his keen support of the Breton language, it has earned him the nickname of "Diwan deputy". Now, like a valiant knight, he has stepped forward to fight another battle, but it is far from being won. Morbihan has not (yet?) deemed it worth or right taking part in the project, its council being no doubt influenced by its almost lifelong president, Marcellin, whose fascist leaning was noted during the Gaullist regime – he has now retired from politics, so perhaps the councillors will reconsider? Loire-Atlantique bluntly refused, its councillors being largely under the thumb of Guichard, the old "overlord" of the Pays-de-Loire region created by the Petain government (40% of its budget is spent on trying to concoct an identity for this artificial region and sell it to its disparate parts). The refusal in Ille-et-Vilaine can also be related to the fact that its council is presided over by the Gaullist Mehaignerie. As for the Regional Council of Brittany-4, one would have expected it to stand for the Breton culture and identity, the latter being rooted so deeply in our history – its refusal leaves a bitter taste. Let us hope that the regional assembly for which elections will have taken place by the time this issue of *Carn* comes out will set up a new Regional Council that will take a different view. It will depend on whether nationalists are elected who might then get the negative decision reversed. The vast majority of the Bretons don't know that the attributions of the regional bodies are... the media make sure they don't!

Elegouët's history book is to have 224 pages divided in 17 chapters. He teaches history and geography in Lannuon, but has been given leave by the Ministry of Education to carry out that task. This raises some questions. He will have needed good connections in high places for such a favour. He was hardly known before. Of course one cannot judge his work without

having read it but the move is so well arranged that one may wonder what sort of History of Brittany the children will be presented with. Why did J.Y. Cozan not contact the Skol Vreizh teachers who have a long experience in this field and displayed a genuinely Breton outlook in their 5-volume *Histoire de La Bretagne et des Pays Celtiques*. A team of teachers would have been preferable to deal in a balanced way with such a subject for children. In any case, a national awareness is acquired at primary school rather than at college level. What is needed is a textbook of Breton history for ALL pupils of the 5 Breton departments, distributed in all the public and Catholic schools.

But of course, if the teaching of our history has been "neglected", it is because it would erode the foundations of a pseudo-national French unity. It would show that French power has always been inimical to Brittany, that the Bretons did not relinquish their independence until forced by a military defeat. But the most sensitive point will be the period from 1919 to 1947: how is Elegouët dealing with the emergence of a nationalist movement and with collaboration? Will he present a Breton view of our national history or reduce it to a regional aspect of the French history? This is the nub of the matter. We'll know in September. Just wait and see

Jakez Gaucher



Jean-Loup Chretien

JEAN-LOUP CHRETIEN

The astronaut Jean-Loup Chretien who took part in several space flights together with Russians and Americans and now lives in the USA was selected last year as 'Breton of the Year' by *Armor-Magazine*. He says he enjoys the company of fellow-Celts in the US and though a French army officer he feels he is more Breton than French. He has signed the appeal to the French government to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. (To which a categorical NIEI continues to be opposed).

Repression of Solidarity with Basques

Three men went on trial in November in Gwengamp for their involvement in a demonstration by about 200 people in support of Bretons sentenced for giving hospitality to Basque refugees: Padraig Uhel, fined 5000 F, Klaod an Duigou fined 6000 F and given a suspended sentence of one month imprisonment, Gerard Berengard given one month 'firm'. The latter two have appealed and are taking a case for defamation, based on false identification by the police. Three other persons from Central Brittany who also gave refuge to Basques had their one-year jail sentence confirmed. Annie Lagadec, a journalist who has repeatedly been in court in connection with the right to give hospitality to Basques, was given a similar sentence in Nov. '96. She is since last September in 'semi-liberty' in Rennes.

Breton Cultural Council

One of the decisions taken by the Breton Cultural Council, which federates about 20 associations, at its AGM on Dec. 6 was to set up a commission, which includes professional media people, with the task of preparing proposals for a Breton language television service. It is finally becoming evident that for this we have to rely only on ourselves.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following information should have been included with the map showing Adult Learning on page 8, *Carn* 100.

- Approx. limits of dialect areas
- - - Limit of the traditional...
- ▲ Courses (various levels... duration)
- ▲ Courses on a continuous basis.
- Cultural Centres
- X Theatre in Breton
- ↔ (Correspondences Courses for Students)
- ~ Radio Stations

RADIO KERNE

A licence has been granted to Radio Kerne to broadcast mainly in Breton from Kemper on a 90.2 Mhz frequency. A similar authorisation has been given to Radio Arvorig in Kommanna, SE of Landerne. Both are to operate as community radios.

GOUEL AR BREZHONEG

The annual national Breton language festival, Gouel ar Brezhoneg, will take place this year in Langonned near Gourin on May 30-31.

Money Galore for French

France will never change. After the Regional Council in Rennes had voted in favour of reuniting its four departments with Loire-Atlantique, Oliver Guichard, president of this department's council reacted scornfully, saying that there were more important problems, such as unemployment, in his area. Possibly, but who says that dealing with reunification would prevent attention from being given to them. While not denying the need to tackle unemployment, it may be said that its rate is not exceptionally high in Loire-Atlantique, and that Guichard's administration is not renowned for pioneering attempts to alleviate it. In reality, his refusal to discuss the offer from Rennes has much to do with jealousy and rivalry between local power holders and with a conservatism which they find handy. His reply is typical of the attitude which French officials adopt when they don't want to deal with a problem. There are always more pressing concerns!

They seemed indeed to have even higher priorities than unemployment when they allowed it to reach well over the 12% rate. Was it not the case for the spreading of Francophonie for the past 25 years? The French government spent last Autumn the equivalent of \$17 million (US) on a summit to promote that concept, a sham nourished by the frustration of having lost an Empire and the inability to create a Commonwealth on the 'British' model. The summit was held in Hanoi where hardly anyone speaks French. Some of the countries represented were not even French-speaking or had any specific links with France: São Tomé where Portuguese is spoken, Moldavia, Egypt. John Ryle (*The Guardian*, 17.11.97) writes: 'One cannot help thinking that the French government, which, on top of the Summit, spends nearly \$1 billion a year on promoting the French language and culture, has purchased the attendance of such countries at a rather high price.' France supported a renewal of Boutros Boutros-Ghali's mandate in the UN only because he speaks French, and the genocidal government in Rwanda because it was controlled by the French-speaking minority. A language of culture, perhaps. A language of freedom and fraternity, certainly not, but a language of arrogance, no doubt. Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese and English all number more locutors. French is no longer one of the world's dominant languages. Summits like the one in Hanoi appear like a joke. Why spend such fantastic sums abroad trying to promote a language which is no longer important as far as the world is concerned and when there are, as they put it, 'more

Tribute to the 1870-Armée de Bretagne

The dates of important events are landmarks which sustain the memory of nations, all the more so in the case of deeds which are passed over in silence after martyring those of the participants who were on the losing side. History as well as language is one of the major elements of national identity. The European States know that well. For the history of the real peoples they have persistently substituted an official history that is frequently false and designed to serve imperialistic interests.

But you cannot indefinitely obliterate a people's memory. Each nation has sanctuaries where its gods or heroes sleep, waiting for reawakening. We Bretons have the mythical Avallon and, closer to us in time, Conlie.

In Conlie, halfway between Buchenwald and Wounded Knee, or more precisely halfway between Rennes and Paris, not far from Le Mans, the 'Armée de Bretagne' was literally exterminated during the Autumn of 1870 and the beginning of 1871.

Napoleon III's rule was replaced by a provisional government with Gambetta as Minister of War. To relieve besieged Paris, an army of 80,000 volunteers, which came to be named 'L'Armée de Bretagne', was raised in Brittany. Full powers to organise it were given to General de Keratry on 22.10.70. Hailing from Kerne (= Breton Cornwall), he was republican minded but also inclined to federalism. He set up his headquarters and a camp in Conlie. But soon fears arose among the French leaders that Keratry's army might back a revolt similar to that of the Chouans who fought the French from 1793 till 1800. An urgent appeal to Keratry to forget that he was a Breton was followed by dismissing him from his command. He had protested against having his men left without straw for their tents and supplied with old weapons, inactive in a camp which turned into a quagmire. In fact, on Nov. 22 Gambetta ordered the arsenals not to deliver any material nor ammunition to him. His protest, that he could not send his



Laying a wreath to the memory of the Breton Soldiers of Conlie

To commemorate the tens of thousands of Breton soldiers who died there in a hell of mud or were mowed down by the Prussians, hundreds of Pobl members gathered on January 11 last on the Boulevard de la Liberté in Rennes. The president, P. Montauzier, laid a wreath in the name of the party at the foot of a war memorial before recalling the facts, which we briefly state here.

Following the defeat at Sedan,

soldiers into battle in the state they were as it would mean certain death for them, was ignored. Epidemics (smallpox, typhus) were to cost them about 10,000 lives. Yet in January, 19,000 demoralised men were ordered, badly armed, to attack the Germans, only to be routed and massacred.

Several members of the Association Bretonne, banned in 1858 by Napoleon III, engaged then in a plot of which the aims have not been cleared up, it was not carried out.

On the occasion of the commemoration on Jan. 11th, the passers-by were invited by POBL to sign a petition for the renaming of the street in Rennes which bears the name of Gambetta, the man who deliberately sacrificed the Bretons in Conlie.

Th. Jigourel

pressing concerns'? In continuing to deny the Bretons the means to save their own language, they should realise that other peoples will feel little sympathy with them if French also loses ground.

Séamas Ó Loingsigh

Colum Cille and the Columban Tradition

by Brian Lacey, Four Courts Press,
ISBN 1-85182-321-2. Stg £6.95.

This short book of 91 pages of text and five of notes is an excellent introduction to its subject. It should come to be regarded as a welcome addition to the wonderful Celtic studies library produced by Four Courts Press over the last several years. The author informs his readers that the work does not 'claim to be a substitute for the many works on the subject but an attempt 'to make a digest of what is known about Colum Cille and the 'institution' which he founded as it evolved through subsequent history and to describe something about the way the memory and legacy of Colum Cille was passed on in literature, in art, in folklore and in the landscape itself.'

The book is organised into eight chapters. Chapters 1-3 are about Colum Cille himself. Drawing upon the various Lives of the saint – those of Adomnán and Munus O'Domnaill for example – and the excellent scholarship on the subject – of Richard Sharpe for example – Lacey gleans the facts of the saint's life from the myths, legends and other accretions. Columba's part in the Battle of Cul Dreimne is examined – 'a conflict between the forces of Christianity [represented by the Northern Uí Néill] and those of pagan druidism [represented by the Southern Uí Néill]'. The establishment of Iona and missionary activity amongst the Picts is considered, as is Columba's friendship with the British king of Strathclyde, Rhydderch, and his inauguration of Aidan Mac Gabráin

Book Reviews

as king of Dal Riada 'the earliest Christian inauguration of a [European] king.' The convention of Drum Ceat – in modern day County Derry – is examined and with it the suggestion that Derry was founded as a by-product of it. Due space is also given to St. Aidan's mission to the Northumbrians – a people described by his predecessor as of an 'obstinate and barbarous temperament.'

Chapter four is concerned with Columba's successors at Iona while chapter five examines the contribution of his most famous successor, Adomnán, to the evolution of the Columba cult. In chapter 6 the reader is treated to a tour of the main Columban monasteries – Kells, Rechrú, Swords, Drumcliffe, Moone and Durrow – the latter of which is revealed as the saint's principal foundation.

Chapter 7 is given over to Derry. We learn that Columba was not the sole founder of Derry but was co-founder with a certain Fiachrach. It would seem that Columba's association with the place were played up by his own people – the cenel Conaill to counter the encroachment on their lands of the cenel nEogain; yet it was the latter 'who fully developed the Columba legend and made most use of it.' This promotion of Derry was part of a plan for Derry to assume the leadership of the Columban monastic familia – a role which Kells had performed for 120 years following repeated Viking attacks on Iona. By the C. 12th Kells and the kingdom of Meath were in decline so the opportunity

existed for Derry to take over the leadership role. These developments, Lacey shows, are clear signs that the Columban familia were in process of reorganising along the lines of continental religious orders. The Norman invasion prevented this from happening – not least because many of the Columban monasteries were in the midlands and east of the country, which they came to control.

Chapter 8 follows the evolution of the Columba cult through from the middle ages to the present. There is a particularly interesting section on the efforts of Manus O'Donnell, Ireland's great renaissance prince, in assembling the materials of Betha Colaim Chille.

A further theme of the book is the art of the Columban monasteries. A case is presented to the reader for interpreting the Book of Kells as being created as an act of homage to commemorate the centenary of the saint's death. The parallels which exist between designs on three high crosses on Iona and illustrations in the Book of Kells are shown to be crucial evidence that the work was begun on Iona. Unusually for the period, two of these crosses show representations of the Virgin and Child – as does the book. The fact that the same scene is depicted on a cross at Drumcliffe, another Columban monastery, is 'hardly coincidental' comments Lacey. He also points out that the oldest surviving Irish manuscript, the copy of the psalms called the Cathach – and decorated with La Tene Celtic motifs – is conceivably the work of Columba himself.

In short, this very readable book should stimulate even the casual reader into delving further into its subject.

The Salmon of Knowledge

Celtic Myth and Folklore

by Brendan McMahon

The Salmon of Knowledge

Reflections on Celtic Myth and Folklore



Brendan McMahon

An exploration of traditional narratives from the Celtic lands and the symbolism of Celtic myth and lore. Included are: Hazels of Wisdom, Cornish Giants, Saints and Serpents, The Voyage of Bran, Manx Folk Song

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Celtic Ornament Art and the Scribe

by Courtney Davis, additional Text and Calligraphy by Fiona Graham-Flynn.

ISBN 0 7137 2547 8.

Price £9.99PB.

Celtic ornamentation is currently enjoying

a revival in popularity and, in fact, looks quite modern to most of us. It is, therefore, hard to believe that its roots can be traced all the way back to the Halstatt period (800-450 BC) when stylized bird and human representation decorated the artefacts of the day.

Drawing up all the strands such as the early days of Christianity to the Celts, Courtney Davis celebrates the 'art of the scribe'. His acclaimed and respected artistic skills are evident, and throughout this book he reinterprets and presents the intricacy and beauty inherent in Celtic ornamentation, from the famous manuscripts and gospels to the decorated brooches, word hilts, fine metalwork and craftsmanship.

Illustrated with intricate imitations of Celtic designs, This book gives lots of ideas for artists, designers, craftspeople and historians.

Further information please contact Victoria Mizen, Cassell PLC, Wellington House, 125 Strand, London WC2R 0BB.

Economi Llwyddiannus

Cododd incwm trethi llywodraeth Gweriniaeth Iwerddon dros 14% rhwng 1996 a 1997, gyda rhagolygon o 10% ym 1998. Gellir rhagweld dychwelyd 1.25% o'r Cynnyrch Gros Domestig i drethdalwyr yr ynys. Ceir elw ar y fasnach ryngwladol o £9000 miliwn a chwyddiant o 1.2%. Gwlad fach o faint Cymru yw Iwerddon.

Gaeltacht Ddinesig

Mae Pobal Mha Life yn brosiect sy'n anelu at sicrhau bod 20 o dai newydd ar gyrion Dilyn yn cael eu prynu gan deuluoedd a fydd yn siarad Gwyddeleg. Ymgais yw hon i sefydlu cymuned ddinesig Wyddeleg yn y brifddinas. Cost y tai – £85,000.

MANAW

Cyngor Yr Ynysoedd

Nid ydyw llywodraeth Lloegr wedi rhoi sedd i Fanaw ar y Cyngor newydd sydd yn cael ei gynnig yn y trafodaethau am ddyfodol Iwerddon. Hyd yma bydd cynrychiolwyr o Senedd yr Alban, Cynulliad Cymru, Gogledd Iwerddon, y Dáil a Senedd Lloegr (San Steffan) – dim i Fanaw na Chernyw. O ran Cymru bydd cynrychiolaeth ar gyngor cydwladol yn gam ymlaen, ond a oes perygl mai dyfais ydyw'r cyngor hwn i helpu'r Saeson i gael gafael ar Iwerddon gyfan unwaith eto?

RapT

Pigion Celtaidd

YR ALBAN

Arwyddion gobeithiol!

Cafodd yr SNP gryn hwyl mewn isetholiadau llywodraeth leol yn ddiweddar. Mewn isetholiad yn ward Garrowhill, Cyngor Dinas Glaschu, cipiodd y blaid genedlaethol sedd oddi wrth y Blaid Lafur mewn un o'u cadarnleoedd gyda mwyafrif o 17.5%. Cipiodd yr SNP sedd arall oddi wrth Lafur mewn isetholiad yn Rosyth, cyngor Fiohha/Fife. Cadwodd y blaid sedd St. Ninian's, cyngor Gorllewin Lleudduniawn (West Lothian) gyda mwyafrif clir.

RapT/CJ

Cymdeithas y Dysgwyr

Un o fuddiannwyr y Loteri yw "Comann an Luchd Ionnsachaidh" gyda £60,000 dros 3 blynedd ar gyfer cyflogi rheolwr rhan amser i drefnu cyrsiau a thalu costau tiwtoriaid.

Yr Ifaine

Mae'r Loteri wedi cyfrannu £280,000 i ddatblygu'r mudiad ieuenctid Gaeleg, y clybiau 'Sradagan', ar gyfer plant 5-12 oed. Ar hyn o bryd mae 40 clwb gyda 1500 o aelodau. Mae Bwrdd y Loteri wedi cyhoeddi fersiwn Gaeleg o'u prif lyfryn.

Polisiau Gaeleg

Mae Cyngor yr Ucheldiroedd wedi cyhoeddi polisi ymgynghorol am yr Aeleg sy'n anelu at:

- cynyddu'r nifer o siaradwyr
- annog defnyddio cyfleoedd i ddefnyddio'r Aeleg
- hyrwyddo'r iaith yn y cymunedau
- cryfhau'r diwylliant traddodiadol
- annog cydweithredu rhwng grwpiau'r iaith

Ar yr un pryd mae Comhairle nan Eilean yn adolygu eu polisiau presennol.

Yr Iaith Sgoteg

Iaith Diwtonaidd yr Alban yw Sgoteg ('Scots' neu 'Lallans'). Mae Cymdeithas yr Iaith Sgoteg yn ymgychu am gael

cwestiwn yng Nghyfrifiad 2001 am y gallu i siarad Sgoteg. Er mwyn profi'r angen am gwestiwn felly cynhaliwyd arbrawf drwy sampl. Trwy arolwg o 3000 aelwyd cafwyd ateb fod 30% yn medru'r Sgoteg. Fodd bynnag, nid ydyw Swyddfa'r Alban wedi ildio i'r ymgyrch am gwestiwn am Sgoteg yn y Cyfrifiad.

Materion Crefyddol

Ar ôl cyfnod heb wasanaeth yn yr Aeleg, bydd Catholigion Gaeleg yng Nglaschu'n medru mynychu'r offeren yn fisol o hyn ymlaen. Cynhelir y gwasanaethau yn Eglwys St. Leo yn Dunbreck o dan arweiniad y Tad James MacNeill, darlithydd ym Mhrifysgol Glaschu. Hefyd, mae'r traddodiad o wasanaethau Gaeleg achlysurol yng Nghapel y Brifysgol yng Nglaschu yn parhau.

LLYDAW

Addysg Lydaweg

Gyda'r tymor newydd ym mis Medi gwelwyd cynydd pellach yn y nifer o

ddisgyblion sy'n derbyn addysg Lydaweg neu ddwyieithog. Mae'r dosbarthiad ar draws Llydaw fel a ganlyn:

Ysgolion	Meithrin	Cynradd	Uwchradd	Lycee	Cyfan	Twf -SWM	% '97-'98	Nifer O Ysgolion
Diwan	752	674	268	56	1753	+255	+17	26
Cyhoeddus	581	512	149	41	1283	+133	+12	23
Preifat	481	421	65	1	975	+204	+26	26
CYFANSWM	1821	1607	482	101	4011	+592	+18	75

Mae'r twf wedi bod yn gyflym. Bu'n rhaid disgwyl 12 mlynedd i weld 1000 o ddisgyblion, 4 blynedd arall at 2000, 3 blynedd arall hyd 3000 a dim ond 2 flynedd i gyrraedd 4000. Erbyn hyn mae'r disgyblion cyntaf, 12 ohonynt, wedi sefyll y 'Bac', pawb yn llwyddo, hanner efo anrhydedd, Eleni, agorwyd saith safle newydd – 4 preifat yn An Oriant, Henbont, Treguier a Ploudalmezeu; 2 gyhoeddus yn Kemper a Redon, a thrydedd ysgol

uwchradd yn Kemper. Ar lefel uwchradd ceir 3 ysgol uwchradd ac un lycee gyhoeddus – Lannuon, Roazhon a Lanester, ac un breifat – Gwened/Vannes. Ond dim ond 5% o gymunedau Llydaw sydd ag ysgol ddwyieithog a dim ond 3% o ddisgyblion ynddynt. Fodd bynnag, mae galw gan rieni mewn ll o gymunedau pellach. Disgwylir gweld twf bellach erbyn 1999!

Clive James

CYMRU

Yng Nghymru – Cymraeg!

Mae'r Undeb Celtaidd yng Nghaerdydd wedi cynhyrchu glynion/sticeri i roi'r neges hon i bobl sydd yn anwybyddu ein hiaith. Gellir eu gosod ar jynebost neu ohebiaeth o'r banc cyn eu hanfon yn ôl neu rywle priodol arall. Mae llun o un o'r glynion isod. Melyn ydyw'r cefndir. Os ydych eisiau rhai o'r glynion i'w defnyddio, neu fwy o wybodaeth anfonwch at Yr Undeb Celtaidd – Caerdydd, 11 Heol Gordon, Caerdydd CF2 3AJ.

YNG NGHMYRU –

CYMRAEG!

These stickers have been produced by the League in Cardiff. 'In Wales – WELSH!' is the message. A use might be found for their equivalents in our other countries.

Argyfwng Ariannol

Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg

Mae Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg yn wynebu un o'r argyfyngau ariannol gwaethaf yn ei hanes. Tipyn o dasg fydd i ni oroesi hyd at ddiwedd Mis Mawrth os na ddaw cymorth o rywle.

Ar hyn o bryd mae'n rhaid i ni gael £10,000 ar unwaith er mwyn dod dros yr wythnosau nesaf. Ond ein prif nod yw codi £44,000 drwy archebion banc er mwyn cael incwm sefydlog a sicrhau cyflog i'r staff.

Y dasg nesaf sy'n ein hwynebu yw sicrhau lle i'r Gymraeg yn y Ganrif Newydd gan wneud yn siŵr fod ei dyfodol yn saff yn y drefn wleidyddol fydd yn datblygu yng Nghymru gyda sefydlu'r Cynulliad.

Erfyniwn yn daer am eich cymorth gan ddiolch ar yr un pryd am eich haelioni yn y gorffennol. Anfonwch unrhyw rodd at Gymdeithas yr Iaith, 11 Heol Gordon, Caerdydd CF2 3AJ, Cymru.

Gareth Kiff (Cadeirydd)

News of Wales

A Further Victory

Plaid Cymru have gained Craig y Don ward from the Liberal Democrats in a bye-election for a seat on Conwy County Borough Council.

A Nonconformist Nation Again?

Collapsing numbers of members and ministers are persuading seven separate nonconformist Christian denominations that total unity is the only way to continue. The denominations involved are the Methodists, United Reformed Church, Baptist Union of Wales, Congregational Federation (yr Annibynwyr), Union of Welsh Independents and the Presbyterian Church of Wales. The Baptist Union of Great Britain are observers. If successful, the combined membership will exceed the current largest denomination, the Anglican Church in Wales.

Election Broadcasts

One distinctiveness of the political system in Wales is the tradition of 'free' party political broadcasts by significant parties on the radio and television. This includes

Plaid Cymru, although not all Welsh voters can receive stations in Wales which show them, as the recent referendum showed. There is now a consultative period over the future of such broadcasts.

Language of the 'Mother of Parliaments'

The only languages recognised on the floor of the House of Commons in London are English, (Norman) French and Old English. However, twenty members of that parliament can speak Welsh. Seventeen represent seats in Wales and three in England (Claire Curtis-Thomas, Geraint Davies and Alan Beith). Three are learning Welsh at the weekly lessons at Westminster - Chris Ruane (Dyffryn Clwyd/Vale of Clwyd), Julie Morgan (Gogledd Caerdydd/Cardiff North), and Huw Edwards (Mynwy/Monmouth) (all Labour). Are they all eyeing up seats in the Welsh Assembly, which will, it is assured, be a bilingual (Welsh and English) establishment?

Clive James

CYMDEITHAS IN CRISIS – APPEAL FOR HELP

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Society) is facing one of the worst financial crises in its 35 year history. Without external assistance it will be difficult to operate at present levels.

At present we must raise £10,000. Our long term aim is to receive £44,000 a year through regular income such as standing orders etc. which will ensure job security for our staff.

The last time Cymdeithas made such an appeal was in 1992 when Alun Llwyd and Branwen Nicholas were serving prison sentences. There aren't any Cymdeithas members in jail at present but the battle for the future of the Welsh language continues and Cymdeithas is active in many areas.

Since the General Election we have:

- Met with Ron Davies and Peter Hain in the Welsh Office to discuss strengthening the 1993 Welsh Language Act and the need to develop an independent Education System for Wales. We met with Win Griffiths to discuss our proposal for a Property Act that would safeguard all communities in Wales.

- Met and corresponded with every County Council to discuss Welsh Medium Education.
- Pressured for a Property Act through opposing damaging developments such as Morfa Bychan in Gwynedd and 'Y Buarth' in Aberystwyth.
- Arranged a march through Wales in August, on the verge of the Referendum calling for a Parliament for Wales.
- Pressured for a Welsh Language Act in the private sector by campaigning successfully against international companies such as Tandy.

The next step will be to ensure a prosperous future for the Welsh Language and people in the New Century by creating a new political order in post-referendum Wales.

Thank you for your generous support and we hope that you will be able to assist. Please send any donation to Cymdeithas yr Iaith, 11 Heol Gordon, Caerdydd CF2 3AJ, Wales.

Gareth Kiff
Cadeirydd/Chairman

Clifford Ifan Bere 1915-1997

Below is part of Meic Stephen's tribute to Clifford Ifan Bere, a political activist who devoted his life to the cause of Welsh Republicanism.

Clifford Bere was a Welsh Republican, one of a small group of militants, mostly ex-servicemen and intellectuals who enlivened the political scene in Wales during the 1950s.

The movement was hostile to the Labour Party because of its broken promises on self-government for Wales, critical of Plaid Cymru on account of its pacifism and recognition of the Crown, and utterly opposed to the Tories on just about every other count.

Clifford Bere was, by common assent, the most single-minded of the Republicans, and the most hard-working. It was he who



Clifford Ifan Bere

wrote the movement's manifesto, published in 1948 and held the group together for the eight years of its existence.

The main work of the Republican movement after 1954 was the publication and distribution of a bimonthly newspaper, the *Welsh Republican*. The paper was remarkable for its coverage of Welsh current affairs, especially matters relating to the economy of South Wales such as the future of the coal and steel industries and the plight of the Cardiff docks. It also provided a vitriolic commentary on the Labour Party's attitude towards the question of Welsh self-government at a time when no such critique existed.

Many of its articles were written by Bere. They were sceptical towards the Parliament for Wales Campaign of 1951-55 because it fell short of the republic on which the movement had set its sights and spoke out against military conscription in Wales though arguing in favour of a Welsh army. Prior to the Coronation of 1953, the paper expressed staunchly anti-royalist views.

He was also an able writer and polemicist. Besides a novel, *I Was a King*, he wrote a memoir of the Welsh Republican Movement, *The Young Republicans* (1966), which is a valuable source of information about politics in Wales during the post-war period.

With the movement's demise in 1957, Cliff Bere joined Plaid Cymru becoming one of its most devoted members with a commitment which few have been able to match.

He would have been pleased by the result of the referendum, while at the same time arguing that the assembly which Wales is now to have is only "a half-way house" on the road to full self-government. It is fitting that, at his funeral, his coffin was draped with Y Ddraig Goch, the Red Dragon, the national flag of Wales, a country to which he devoted his life.

Meic Stephens

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS ON ITS WAY

The bill to give Wales its own elected assembly, to be known officially as Y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol or the National Assembly, is passing through Westminster at the time of writing.

The aftermath of the devolution referendum in Wales with its small majority in favour of Wales having an elected assembly has resulted in strange things being said. In the press in England the bitterness of some commentators has resulted in a series of anti-Welsh articles in various newspapers displaying a level of bigotry that the authors would not dare put into print against any other nation.

In Wales the defeated 'Just Say No' campaigners will just not go away. They are responding to the prospect of a Welsh Assembly in different ways. Some have attempted to have the referendum result invalidated by drawing attention to ways in which certain rules might have been breached during the counting e.g. the procedure followed for validating the postal votes was claimed to have been incorrect, and there seems to have been inconsistency in the treatment of ballot papers where the voter, instead of voting with an 'X' as per the instructions, wrote 'No' on the ballot paper.

Some Tories have now come out in favour of the Assembly, deciding they would like to stand for it. Others continue to work against it, either by trying to weaken its powers or by trying to put obstacles into the legislation which would reduce its efficiency e.g. a leading Tory spokesman for Wales (not an elected

representative for anywhere, needless to say, we don't elect Tories in Wales) has called for the representatives on the Assembly of the areas of Wales which voted 'No' to be able to veto the use of the Welsh language on official documents. Such institutionalised connecting of language with support or opposition to self-government is a complete novelty in Wales. While such voices are unlikely to have much influence in the short term, the perceived anti-Welsh shift of the right wing in Wales following the referendum is a cause of some concern bearing in mind that the Tories might well come back to power in the English state during the next 15 years.

Following the referendum result, an anti-devolutionist English businessman living in Casgwent/Chepstow formed a limited company with the name "The Welsh Assembly" with the intention of trying by legal means to stop the Assembly using this name. Such arrogance is as clear an example as one could find of an immigrant acting out his national stereotype.

A draft parliamentary order has been published which sets out those functions of central government which will be handed over to the Assembly if the Devolution Bill becomes law. These include agriculture, fisheries and food; ancient monuments and historic buildings; culture, museums, galleries and libraries; economic development; education and training (not the university); the environment; health and social services; housing; support for industry; local government; social services; tourism; town and country planning; transport; and the Welsh language.

One power which is not included yet is broadcasting. One suspects that the English are aware of the power which television and radio hold over the minds of the people. Plaid Cymru have called for control of Wales's own television channel, S4C, to be handed to the assembly, pointing out the illogicality of England controlling an institution which operates only in our country.

Various other aspects of the assembly will irritate nationalists and republicans. The proposal that assembly members should have to take an oath of loyalty to the Queen of England is being opposed by Plaid Cymru, who have said that the members' loyalty should be to the people of Wales. The decision to bind the seats in the Assembly to the Westminster and European constituencies in Wales, like the oath, is seen as a unionist ploy to make the assembly look less national. However, for us at the moment, the future in Wales is looking encouraging.

Robat ap Tomos/Clive James



Scots Independent – fíorghuth Alban?



Is nuachtán de chuid pháirtí polaitíochta é seo agus a rian sin air. Pléitear toghcháin áitiúla agus fothoghcháin ar an bpríomhleathanach. I dtí eagrán i ndiaidh a chéile fógraítear go bhfuil tacaíocht Labour ag titim agus an Páirtí Náisiúnach ag dul i neart. 'The only true voice of Scotland' mana maiteach an nuachtán seo ach is léir go mbaineann sé le páirtí polaitiúil agus gurb i an pholaitíocht áitiúil, náisiúnta. Breataineach agus Eorpach is ábhar dó. Tá tuairisci ann o bhall de pharlíamaint na hEorpa Allan Macartney agus altanna tuairimíochta ó chuid de theachtaí an pháirtí i Westminster. Is léir gur mhór an bua don pháirtí reifreann na bliana anuraidh inar vótáil pobal Alban ar son pharlíamaint a bheith i nDún Éideann agus go mbaineann an tUasal Macartney an-sásamh as an aitheantas méadaithe atá ag a pháirtí dá bharr. Léiríonn a chuid aitheantas go bhfuil baili an pháirtí ar bís chun aitheantas ar bith a fháil, agus áthas an domhain orthu nuair a thugann daoine i dtíortha eile faoi deara go bhfuil tír dá gcuid féin acu. Tá alt i nGáidhlig ar pholaitíocht náisiúnach Chorn na Breataine, ar chraoladh raidió agus teilifíse sa Ghaidhlig agus ar pholasai teanga Bhaile Dhún Éideann. Alt míosúil atá ag Alasdair MacCáluim agus tá siad deascriofa agus soláite fiú don Éireannach nach bhfuil mórán aithne aige ar theanga cheilteach na hAlban. I ndáiríre tá níos mó eagsúlachta sna hailt sin ná mar atá sa chuid eile den nuachtán mar go bhfuil na scríbhneoirí eile go léir gafa le tromaíocht ar rialtas Shasana agus ar na mórpháirtithe polaitiúla eile sa tír. Deantar léirmheas ar leabhair agus mar a bheiféa ag súil leis is polaitíocht agus teangacha Alban is mó a pléitear.

Thabharfadh an nuachtán seo cabhair don té a dteastaíonn uaidh/uaihi eolas a bhailiú faoina bhfuil ag tarlú i bpolaíocht na hAlban, ach theastódh a lán ábhair eile uait chun léargas iomlán a fháil ar an tír. Mura mbeadh de ghuth ag Albain ach an páipéar seo ba theoranta cúig an léargas a gheofá. Tagraítear don easpa spéise atá ag daoine go ginearálta sa pholaitíocht. Ní haon iontas é nach mbeadh tacaíocht fhorleathan ag páirtí nach dtugann faoi fhadhbann laethúla na muintire ina fhoilseachán. Tá ceisteanna bunreachtúla leadránach do dhaoine a bhfuil a gcaighdeán maireachtála

go dona mar gheall ar easpa seirbhísi sláinte, difhostaíocht agus na mílte rudai eile. Ba ghá don nuachtán seo léargas i bhfad níos leithne a thabhairt agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar cheisteanna a bhaineann le snol na ndaoine sular féidir a mhaíomh go fírinneach gurb é seo guth na hAlban. Nach dtugann na boic seo faoi deara go bhfuil úinéireacht talún, difhostaíocht, na seirbhísi sláinte, an córas cumarsáide, an cultúr agus na mílte nithe eile ina n-ábhair imní do dhaoine agus gur gá plé leo má tá an páirtí a labhrann siad ar a shon chun tacaíocht a mhealladh ó na páirtithe seanbhunaithe impiriúla?

Iarla Mac Aodha Bhui

This article is a review of Scots Independent newspapers

Northern Agreement for Referenda

After much speculation of possible rejection by various parties, rumour and undoubtable tension the parties to the talks on the North of Ireland emerged on Good Friday with an agreement.

The main elements of this are:

- A 108-member Northern assembly elected by proportional representation. An Executive Authority with a First Minister, Deputy First Minister and up to 10 ministers with departmental responsibilities. The ministerial posts will be allocated on a proportional basis. Committee chairs, ministerial posts and committee places will be allocated in proportion to party strength. Key decisions of the assembly must be taken on a cross-community basis.
- A North-South Ministerial Council will be established under legislation at Westminster and the Oireachtas, to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland – including matters of mutual interest within the competence of the administrations, North and South.

The Council must draw up a work programme covering at least 12 subject areas. These areas include: animal and plant health; teacher qualifications; transport planning; environmental protection; tourism; social security fraud and certain EU programmes. The Council decisions will be made by agreement between the two sides and the ministers involved will be accountable. It is stated explicitly that the Assembly cannot function without the North-South Council.

- The Government of Ireland Act, claiming British jurisdiction over all of Ireland, is to be repealed. Provision is made for future polls in the North on its status: such polls must be at least seven years apart. The Irish Government is to hold a referendum to amend Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution to allow the State to be bound to this new Agreement.
- A British-Irish Council will be established consisting of representatives of the British and Irish governments, devolved institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. It will hold summit meetings twice a year to exchange information, discuss, consult and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the relevant administrations.
- A new Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission will be established by Westminster legislation. A new statutory Equality Commission will replace the Fair Employment Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission, Commission for Racial Equality and Disability in Northern Ireland. The importance of respect for and tolerance of the Irish language, Ulster-Scots 'and the languages of the various ethnic communities' is explicitly recognised. The British government is to take 'resolute action' to promote the Irish language. The participants reaffirm their commitment to total disarmament of the paramilitary organisations. An independent Commission will be established to make recommendations for future policing arrangements in the North.
- The Ulster Unionist Party Executive have backed their party leader by a two to one majority. The Sinn Féin delegation will be referring back to their Ard Comhairle (National Executive).

Referenda in the North and South of Ireland will be held in late May.

'WHO FEARS TO SPEAK OF '98?' — TODAY NOBODY!

The commemoration of the bicentenary of the 1798 Rising is well under way now. A full and varied programme of events has been organised running throughout the year. The rising took place in Wexford and the south east, in the North in Antrim and Down and in the West, inspired by the equalitarian ideals of Wolfe Tone and the United Irishman and their aim 'to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter'. It was crushed with great ferocity and brutality by



*Chris McGimpsey,
Ulster Unionist Councillor*

the yeomen and militias raised by the Ascendancy.

In Rathcoole, Co. Dublin a weekend seminar organised by a local committee was held in early March. If events on the official programme are of the same high standard they will succeed very well indeed. Talks were given on the folklore of 1798 linking it to earlier periods and on the songs of '98 (by well known traditional singer Frank Harte). The latter was very welcome. With the war in the North and the official revisionist climate in the 70s and 80s rebel songs disappeared from the airwaves and many of today's generation are not familiar with them. The choir of Scoil Chrónain, the local Gaelcoil, sang a selection of those fine songs (the only songs they have ever learned in English!) many of which recalled fond memories as regular party pieces heard when I was growing up.

The seminar included lectures on the philosophy of the United Irishmen, the history of the rising and the local events and personalities involved. It concluded with a session on what might have been had the rising succeeded and amongst the speakers at that were Dr Martin Mansergh, architect of the Fianna Fáil policy on the North and Chris McGimpsey, Ulster



*Dr Martin Mansergh,
Fianna Fáil Northern Advisor*

Unionist Councillor in Belfast. After the event I took the opportunity to appraise Chris of the Different Celtic League approach to East-West links and gave him a copy of *Carn 100* which he indicated he would look forward to reading! The event was very well attended and appreciated. A monument to local participants will be erected in June in the village.

A full programme of events countrywide can be obtained from Bernard Browne or Catherine Kirby, *Comóradh '98*, Market Square, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Tel: (054)33540/37198 Fax: (054)35115. Email: 98com@aol.ie <http://www.wexford.ie>

Carn 100 Launch A UNIQUE EVENT!

The special issue *CARN 100* was launched in Ireland at a function organised by the Irish Branch of the Celtic League on Feb 26th. It was held in Club an Chonradh, Dublin and featured a reading of poems from the Celtic Poetry Supplement in the special issue.

The issue was launched by Dr Brian Stowell (the first Manx Language officer ever appointed) who came with the financial support of the Manx Branch of the League. In launching the issue he outlined the political and cultural progress made in the last twenty years in the Celtic countries and described in articles in the issue. He also alluded to the dangers facing the Celtic languages but took the opportunity to stress the major step forward made by the Manx language through its introduction, with Manx Government support, into the schools on the Isle of Man.

Following the launch poems were read in each Celtic Language with Irish translations of many. To this writer's knowledge this is the first time that poems in every Celtic language were recited at a poetry court, which must surely make it an unique event!

Partaking were Caoimhin Mac Giolla Leith (Gaidhlig), Alan Heusaff (Breton and Irish), Éamonn Ó Ciosáin (Breton and Irish), Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill (Welsh), Liam Proet, Pádraig Ó Snodaigh, and Biddy

Jenkinson (all Irish), Nicholas Williams (Cornish and Irish) and Brian Stowell (Manx and Irish).

It was a most enjoyable event and our thanks to all poets, translators and readers, to our Manx Branch, to Club an Chonradh and to Bord na Gaeilge for financial assistance. A final word of thanks to Editor, Pat Bridson for her work on the issue and also in helping to organise the event.

COL



Dr Brian Stowell, at the launch reading his own poetry

Air Crash Remains a Mystery – 30 Years On

This year is the thirtieth anniversary of one of the most mysterious and serious air crashes to have occurred over the Irish sea. On the morning of March 24, 1968 an Aer Lingus airliner crashed near Tuskar Rock. All 61 on board died.

The involvement of the British missile range at Aberporth has long been attributed to the crash, but despite substantial circumstantial evidence the British maintain their story that the range was not operational on the day.

Carn has carried a number of articles regarding the crash of Aer Lingus flight EI 172 over the years and the Celtic League have been assessing and exploring peripheral evidence and once again the trail leads back to Aberporth.

In the analysis and conclusion of the official Irish government enquiry published in June 1970 much attention focused on the evidence of eye witnesses. It was clear from this evidence that two aircraft were present in the area on the day. One aircraft seen very much further west of the impact location of the Viscount was described in some detail and it is this aircraft we have focused on.

Witnesses variously describe the aircraft as travelling fast and having bright red colouring on wing tips, tail and fuselage. The colouring identification is crucial in that it does not equate with the green and white colouring of the Viscount airliner.

Our research however, indicates it was the colouring used on unmanned Meteor U Mk. 15 and U Mk. 16 target aircraft operated from Llanbedr in Wales and attached to the Aberporth test programme.

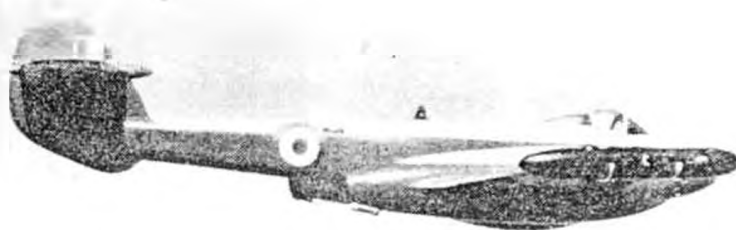
Witnesses who saw the aircraft, over Fethard-on-Sea, which subsequently crashed also observed peculiarities in the aircraft. It appeared "partly enveloped in mist" or "as if on fire" but with no smoke.

Again we have ascertained that the Meteor U Mk. (see *photograph 1*) were fitted with small acquisition flares below the jet pipes and these, when operating would have created the effect observed.

Finally in the context of this mystery aircraft, reference is made in the official report to debris in the sea off Fethard-on-Sea, many miles from the crash site of the Viscount aircraft. A vessel was also reported (although the official report was not able to identify it).

In 1993 Deputy Hugh Byrne set down a question in the Dáil in an attempt to clarify its identity, asserting that a British naval vessel was reputed to have recovered an object from the water. The Minister for Defense (David Andrews TD) denied any evidence of this.

However, if a Meteor unmanned target had been in the area and had crashed, one



1) An unmanned flight by VT310, a U.15, from RAE Llanbedr.
Note the acquisition flares below the jet-pipe fairings

of the standard procedures was for the range vessels to recover cameras which were mounted on the target aircraft. These recorded the progress of the missile test. Again our photographic evidence (see *photograph 2*) clearly shows the detachable camera pods fitted to a Meteor U Mk. 15 at the time.

Meteor debris has since reportedly been recovered in this area which would indicate that at sometime Llanbedr based target aircraft have strayed far from the Aberporth target containment area. This squares with other evidence uncovered by a South Wales journalist who found British government reports expressing concern that testing frequently strayed outside the target area. It also revealed that missiles had difficulty locking-on to target aircraft.

If, as we now believe, a missile failed to lock-on to its target and instead locked-on to the Aer Lingus Viscount that tragic accident may well have been recorded on the target aircrafts cameras, hence the scramble to remove debris from the sea

many miles west of the crash site.

The jury is still out on the crash of EI 712 and the tragic loss of 61 lives. The British government may believe that by stonewalling the issue, and with the passage of time it will be forgotten.

But there are still many unanswered questions and the finger still points to British missile testing in that area at the time.

Usefully for the Irish government, should it wish to reopen enquiries into this matter, the identification and service record of all the Meteor target aircraft at Llanbedr will be well documented. Strangely, the official enquiry in 1970 did not ask for details of the target aircraft of their deployment.

If these records could be provided by the British government it would be a start. The Celtic League are cynical enough to believe however that like certain crucial ships log-books they will have gone missing!

J.B. Moffatt



2) Wingtip camera pods and various command aerals were carried by RA421, the prototype U.15 target drone which was converted from a Meteor F.4.

* The anniversary of the tragedy was given extensive coverage in the media in Ireland and Wales. The general Secretary, Bernard Moffatt appeared on BBC (Wales) television and radio. On both occasions he expressed criticism of both the Irish and British governments regarding the ambiguity still surrounding the deaths of the 61 people on board the airliner. He also took the opportunity to express our general concern about military activity in the Celtic countries. Several newspapers also carried lengthy articles, including the Irish Press, The Sunday Tribune, The Cork Examiner and the Western Mail (Wales). All but one

gave mention of the Celtic League's findings in this matter.

TnaG (Teifitis na Gaeilge) had a report in its main news, in this Celtic League Convenor, Cathal Ó Luain, had the opportunity to raise briefly the questions asked by the Celtic League Military Monitoring Campaign over the years. Prime Time (RTÉ) also devoted an hour long programme to the tragedy.

A special memorial service was held in Cork and Rosslare and relatives who met formed a group to lobby for a full public inquiry.

kernow

Hynwyn Tylleryow Dyw-Yethek

Yma dhe Gernow lemmyn hy ys-kessedhek hy honen rag an Burow Europek Yethow Nebes Kewsys. An ys-kessedhek a den y ysly adhyworth an try bagas mur usy owth enebhe abarth an try form Kernewek dasvewys hag ynweth bagasow erel gans bern y'n yeth.

Yma consels randyr yn Kernow ow tos ha bos whansek dhe dhrehevel arwedhyow hynwyn tylleryow dyw-yethek hag may hyllyn ny avoydya dysputyans poblek yn kever py dewys yn mes an ken-dewysyow yma'n ys-kessedhek ow whylas cafos kesassoylyans y'ga avys dhe Gonsels. Nyns yw hemma mater sempel! Mar pe unverheans yn muvyans an yeth ny vya an mater mar gomelek. Mes yw hemma gwyr?

Yma Agan Tavas owth enebhe abarth Kernewek Unyes hag Cussel an Tavaz owth enebhe abarth Kernewek dewedhes agryes na goth dhyn ny usya marnas formow ystorek adhyworth covathow an termyn us passyes.

Adro dhe peswar ugans cansran hynwyn tylleryow Kernow yw pypynak Kernewek kyn wruk lyes anedha dos ha bos pedrys wosa an yeth dhe verwel y'ga randyr. Kernewek avar yw brassa ran an hynwyn yn Kernow Est hag yn Kernow Cres Kernewek cress hag yn Kernow West Kernewek dewedhes. A vya ewn profya ken-dewysyow rag an hynwyn ma oll yn Kernewek cress poken oll yn Kernewek dewedhes? Yma nebes tylleryow kepar ha Falmouth hag Leedstown na wruk bythqueth cafos hanow Kernewek. Ywa fur lemmyn profya trelyans Kernewek ragtha war astell arweth?

An questyon yw, prag yth eson ny ow profya arwedhow dyw-yethek? Mars yw an skyla war an yl tu awos les Kernewegoryon, nyns yw possybyl nefra drehedhes unverheans gans muvyans a'gan tawas yn stuth del ywa. Mars yw war y gyla dhe brofya neppyth reveth dhe vysytroyon poken ewnhe poder kens, ena nyns us dewys marnas usya formow ystorek.

Summary

Bilingual Placenames

Cornwall now has its own sub committee for the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages. All three forms of Cornish are represented on it and the committee has been trying to reach agreement on advice

to district councils for bilingual signs. In Cornwall the matter is complicated because existing placenames are a record of early middle and late Cornish. There seems little hope of agreement to use one form of revived Cornish everywhere even if this were the correct way to proceed. In Cornwall there is a good case for saying that it is not. The aim should be simple to correct past corruptions of existing names, eighty percent of which are Cornish anyway. This should be done using historically recorded forms from past records.

Ray Chubb

Kernowian Coath: Kernowian Noweth

Ema tha nye pow bean, itan dro tha 400,000 a deez, mouy po lee. A rima, ma 168,000 a pretendia drens Kernuack cumpas, ha nagew hedna buz 42 an cans an bobell. Peea referendum en Kernow, an brossa bar alga dewes dre dalveea than behatna trussa aman ha moaz tha effarn, po whans dothans!

Easys ew gothas rag fra igge an Kernowian a chesya der vanar mar dubm ago heynes angye, ha angye prest a pooza war an deffrans treeth "angye" ha "nye gon hunnen". Nye a venga gwellas gon hunnen avell lydnyath pure: glane eneth! Whathe, pandra igge hedna a meynya, mor medn nye boaz assones avell teez shonick?

Na vee an Keltian o hunnen pobell pure eneth pe rigans doaz than ennisma en kensa dalla, ha pe reeg angye doaz ha anneza en parthow ew henwes hethow Alban, Worthen, Mann, Kimbra ha Kernow (heb menegas obma Breten Vean), gye reeg mellya gen pobell nango treges enna heernath, ha leb o devethes o hunnen thea tirriow kene avell rina thor leb o devethes an Keltian. Dres licklaud ther a nena lee alga crya o hunnen Keltian es nab peath orol. Whathe an holl a theath ha boaz assones avell an Brittes.

Hethow, pewa ell denaha dreze teez, ha angye henwez lebmen avell Skottes, Gothily, Kembrian ampassy, ew seves a lydnyath Sowsnack, Scandinavian, Almaynack, Polish, Ethowack, Aphricanack, Eyndack... ha na orama pandra kene? En Pow an Sausen, pecare. Ha pe lew ew fysmant leas an Sows? Gwidn? Due? Donack? Melyn?

Ha en Kernow, o why cries Trevithick, Polgrean, Penhalligan, Rosevear, Cargeeg, pokean hanow orol ew devethes thor an hanowow-plasow a Kernow? Buz gothe thene adgan dre vee an Sausen leb reeg doaz hunz obma than pow nye, ha sesia an gwelha tirriow nye, ha nena comeras war o hunnen hanow an plasowma avell an leshan angye. Daa ew thene riddia peath reeg Edward Lhuyd screffa ort hebma:

Nag odzha vi a gorra mîr an poezder (ken yu hedda rêol por nîr en Kembra) uar anuo Brethonek Pednzhivikio Kernou, kymeryz a dhort an Telârvo; rag me ôr por-dha try 'ryg radn anydha neuodzha a hanuo, heruedh hanuo an Plaso; ha rag hedda, ple ma faut a Kôth dîskref, nag yu spladn dhort pa an Tîz idzhanz deskennyz.

Ha why? Kernow po Kernowas o why? Thort puna lease? Thor puna termen?

Preze ew, metessen, meddra daa, Spladn ew na ell an contrevogian nye an termen ma, an Sausen, rowlya pewa ew Sowsnack pure seves athor an kensa dalla (eze nothans?), ha pewa ew devethes Sowsnack adewethas; buz nag eze oatham tha angye gweel dewhan dro tha hebma, rag drew an comiska gellez mar bell, ha drewa ree dewal. Onest vee a gweel pecare en Kernow. Rag sertayne, me a ore radn ew due ort ago fysmant whathe drens gwell Kernowian avell rerol a orama ew gwidn... ha leb alga boaz devethes a pelle bennag mar vere drellama judgia. Nensew gwidn an Sausen, han Scandinavian, ha Almaynegian, he kene ri, herweth an breaz commine?

Rag pothew an deez nye treges en Kernow edn po deaw aes, ther a nye mentenya dro nye Kernowian fitty. Per efan, ma leb ew devethes thor deez a vee annezes en pow nye thea termen per goath, mesk rima radn reeg cowas o hanow thort an wheal angye, avell Angove, *an gove*, po an meer angye, avell Annear, *an heer*, Whathe an storian Trevelyan o devethes thor lydnyathe o treges peldar en noor a Pow an Sausen, thea an Ooz Crease eneth: alena, o hedna Kernow po Sows? Nye alga kennkia dro an Vatearnas Ebbet Fewdar Kembrack rag dro Kembrack e seera, Hedda la, rag dro Kembrack an seera eve, Hedda 7as, Na whathe, Ebbet a levery dro hye 'Pyrra Sowsnack'!

Andelha, me a hevol dem drewa preze thene gothas dreze Kernowian coath ha Kernowian noweth. Mesk rima, pewa vee a mar vold ha tha ventenya drew eve 'Pyrra Kernuack', nagew hedna res them tha vrugy, buz avell drigge an Sausen a laull

drens Sowsnack, han Scottes Albanack, han Frenkian Freneack, ampassy, mar te nye ha mentenya dro nye Kernuack hedna a dalveea meynya neppith leadan, ha ledanha, seer lowar, avell drova brederes kenz.

En mean termen, mar medn nye gweel tha Kernow doaz andro ha trailia tha neppith broaz anoweth, bis en wheelas nab sort governans prevath, me a hevol dem na ellen nye moaz pell itna hadre veath an Kernowian buz 42 an cans an hobell! Ma oatham broaz tha nye a mouy Kernowian: hedna ew, brossa part an cans, Conorea, e veath Sausen traitez tha Kernowian na ellen nye cara (buz rerol drellen cara dasly); en contray part, ema kenzemyn Kernowian fitty na ellen nye cara tabm veeth. Na ora why nothans? Ha hedna ew heb compla dreze leb na ell gon perry nye noneil!

Preze ew, metessen, dressa nye pedyr, neh ehan a passporth Kernuack. Dibblans dre gothfeca tha deez boaz treges et an pow rag an leiha a dermen ken boaz considres sely lean, buz nensew hedna an case kenz lebmén dres oll an beaze, en kenniffer pow?

Richard Gendall

Old Cornishmen and New Cornishmen: précis

Because Cornwall is small and the proportion of her inhabitants who claim Cornish ancestry so scanty, the Cornish feel themselves to be under threat. But if we consider how larger countries, due to their very size and viability, have assimilated foreign elements and made of them nationals, whatever their colour, and to good effect, is it not time we Cornish ceased to regard ourselves as that diminishing 42 percent and made of ourselves a 100 percent nation composed of both 'old' and 'new' Cornish? Perhaps the time is ripe for a recognized Cornish passport or nationality based on a minimum domicile, for with only 42% how can we ever hope to make a proper Cornish future for our country?

O'DONNELL LECTURES 1998

The O'Donnell Lectures in the University of Oxford will be given this year by Dr N.J.A. Williams of University College, Dublin, who is himself an Oxford graduate. Dr Williams will give two lectures. The first entitled *Gaeilg, Gàidhlig, Gaelg: the position of Many* will be held in the main lecture theatre in the Taylorian Institute, Oxford, at 5 p.m. on Thursday 22 May 1998. The second lecture with the title *Nebhaz Gerriau dro tho Carnoack: A Few Words about Cornish* will be given on Friday 23 May at the same time of day and in the same place.

Skoedhyans Gwydbaleg Diworth Konsel Béal Feirste

Dhe guntelles gans pennsoedhek dyskans Sowsneg yn Iwerdhon. Sinn Féin yn mysk re erel a leveryys ha muvyans an governans Sowsnek dhe weres gwydhalek hos rann ales a'n muvyans kres.

An kuntelles a dheuth y'n jydh pan wrug an governans sowsnek dyllo deryvas Yagh yn Gwydhaleg neb o dyllys kyns yn Chineg hag Urdu rag an re vyghan a wra defnydhyia an yethow na.

Micheal Mac Giolla Ghunna, Penn rann gonysegyeth Sinn Féin a wovynnas orth soedhogyon Governans Sowsnek rag dastybi yn kever towlennow war tu ha yeth an weryn, skonyys rag termynn pell po gorras erbyn yn igor gans an Governans Sowsnek.

Ev a leveras a goth dhe'n Governans Sowsnek aswoen bri a'n yeth ha kewsel a wrug a'n "ethom gwir an gemmenyth gwdhaleg rag servyans an stat war bar gans sowsnegoryon". Ynwedh i re gewsys yn kever res dhe Governans Sowsnek ri aswoenvos an yeth dre lagha, ha synya an "European charter for regional and minority languages".

An kuntelles ma a sewyas everyans Konsel an Sita Béal Feirste (Belfast) mires orth skoedhyans Gwydhaleg.

An kusulyans a wra oberi gans an desten a dyffrans ow gonysegyeth, hag yn arbennik an yeth Iwerdhonek ha yethow erel le gewsys.

Summary

At a meeting with Britain's top education official in Ireland, Sinn Féin among others stressed that British government moves to help the Irish language were an important part of the peace process.

The meeting took place on the day when the British administration finally agreed to print in Irish a health information pack which had already been translated to the Chinese and Urdu languages for the North's small immigrant community. Micheal Mac Giolla Ghunna, head of Sinn Féin's cultural department asked British Government officials to reassess their government's overall strategy towards the indigenous language, long ignored or openly opposed by the British government.

New English-Cornish Dictionary

Dr Nicholas Williams has recently completed his *Gerlyver Arnoweth Sawsnek-Kernowek* or *Modern English-Cornish Dictionary*. This ground-breaking new work provides Cornish speakers with a comprehensive modern vocabulary. The work used the spelling of Unified Cornish Revised throughout and includes such items as *cangregynek* – carginogenic; *cresfoesyk* – centrifuge; *cof hapkeragh* – random access memory; *tesyans bys-efan* – global warming; *gwylnel* – glider; *dysfaverans herwyth hyl* – racial discrimination; *maynoryeth sodhow* – employment agency; *stumdro termyn* – time-warp; *unsys dourwyth* – intensive care unit; and many others. *Gerlyver Arnoweth Sawsnek-Kernowek* is a further important step in the revival of Cornish and will be welcomed by all those who value authenticity in the revived language. It is hoped to publish Dr Williams's dictionary later this year.

THE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY OF MODERN CORNISH

The Cornish-English part of the *Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish* was published last May. It is the culmination of fifteen years of intensive research by Richard Gendall. He set out on a voyage of linguistic discovery in 1982. That voyage was in the uncharted waters of the Cornish language following its medieval period. The last medieval manuscript was written in 1504. Mr Gendall's studies ranged from that date to the last twentieth century fragmentary remains of traditional Cornish. He had long before established his expertise in Old and Middle Cornish. But Modern Cornish is much more extensive both in quantity and in the variety of its vocabulary. Researching it was a massive task that had to be carried out pretty swiftly.

One thing that has benefitted and extended Cornish studies has been the discovery of manuscripts this century. The earlier pioneers in Cornish this century like Henry Jenner and Morton Nance had not seen them. They could not present Cornish

in its fulness in their works on the language. Mr Gendall's dictionary has got the rich vocabulary of the whole range of Modern Cornish currently available. Users and learners of Cornish have now, for the first time ever, a comprehensive Cornish-English dictionary.

In any work dealing with the Cornish language the question of the spelling used crops up. Mr Gendall's Student's Dictionary records all known spellings of each word. The author in the Practical Dictionary makes a reasoned choice for each word from the various spellings. The result is an orthography strongly reminiscent of that used by William Rowe. One may ask why that is so. It is because Rowe's spelling is the most typical of the later Cornish writers. It is an orthography that one can feel comfortable with. It is, above all, authentic, a factor crucial to the restoration of any minority language.

We look forward now to the other half of the Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish. That will be the English-Cornish section which is due to come out this year. This Cornish-English section is available from: Teere ha Tavaz, Tregill Vean, Menheniot, Liskeard, Cornwall.

Merfyn Phillips

Gwel Kernow A Cornish View

by Ann Trevenen Jenkin, pp180
ISBN 0 9524601 2 2 . Price Stg. £8.00

This collection of poems in English with an essentially Cornish feel written by the Present Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd takes a look at modern Cornish life from a more relaxed, possibly romantic view than is common for poetry of the late '90s (as exemplified by "*Byrth Arnowedh Kernewek*") yet despite this they are a pleasant read. The poems in this collection do not just cover the small world of Cornwall but extend through the wider Celtic world and in one section the county of Devon or more precisely Dartmoor.

The book is well illustrated with a number of both colour and B/W photos.

AN T-ALBANNACH

The Edinburgh based broadsheet newspaper The Scotsman have introduced a new Gaelic page which is to appear every second Wednesday. The newspaper's Gaelic section further hope that this feature will become weekly during 1998. The Scotsman's long-running Friday Gaelic column is to continue to appear weekly. For their efforts, the Scotsman have been awarded Comann an Luchd-lonnasachaidh's Kennedy award for those doing the most to promote the Gaelic cause during 1997.

Alasdair MacCaluim



m a n n i n



Filmyn Celtiagh as Co-Obbraghey

Ny smoo as ny smoo, ta fir-filmyl ayns Nalbin. Nerin as Bretin co-obbraghey ry- cheilley. Y red scanshoil ta bentyn rish shen dy vel ny filmyn as feeshanyn ayns Gaelg Albinagh. Yernish as Bretinsh. Bee paart jeh ny filmyn slane eddyr-Cheltiagh. Ta shen dy ghra, bee ad jeant dy ve coole ayns fer erbee jeh ny tree cheeraghyn as eisht nee ad cur yn ghengey oc hene er y fillym.

Ta sampleyr mie jeh shen ry-gheddyn ayns ny h-ellanyn Albinagh. Ta colught enmyssit Eolas Productions jannoo strane (series) ayns shey aynryn as feed. Ta ny filmyl mychione feallagh aeg ta goaill ayn ayns co-hirraghyn, ta shen dy ghra, ratthal er coorsyn-lhiettrimys. She ayns Nalbin as Nerin vees ny filmyn jeant, lesh argid veih Teilifis na Gaelge as Comataidh Craolaidd Gaidhlig (ren ad caghlau yn ennym veih 'Comataidh Telebhisean Gaidhlig' dys CCG tra haink ad dy ve dellal rish radio chammah as yn chellveeish).

Bee Gaelg Albinagh currit er ny filmyl son Nalbin (enmyssit 'Cleas' - 'Contoyrtys') as Yernish son Nerin (enmyssit 'Eachtra' - 'Contoyrtys'). Ayns Nalbin, ta Eolas Productions jannoo ny filmyn ass lieh Chellveeish Grampian. Ta Eolas Productions gobbraghey veih Steornavaie syn Ellan Lioas - red yindyssagh ny lomarcen my t'ou smooinghyn er ny bleeanyn hie shaghey.

Goll ersooyl veih co-obbraghey, ta CCG er chuirrey da skimmeeyn-jannoo dy jannoo tooilley claryn-ynsee Gaelg Albinagh ry-hoi scoillyn Albinagh. Bee £380,000 ry-chosney veih ny claryn shoh. Y chied ayns jeh'n chalee (project), bee shen cooney lesh yn curriglym dauesyn eddyr queig as kiare bleaney jeig dy eash. Bee CCG cur argid son jeh oor ny smoo dy chlaaryn-ynsee Gaelg Albinagh son BBC Nalbin ny Ammyr 4.

Ren Matthew Mac Iver, Caairliagh CCG, guee er oolley ny sheshaghtyn Albinish dy obbraghey ry-cheilley myr unnid. Dooyrt eh dy nhegin da'n lught-ymseaylley cooney lesh ny reddyn ta taghyrt ayns scoillyn Nalbin bentyn rish yn ghengey Ghaelagh. Mastey ny claryn-ynsee noa, bee strane jeh tree claryn as feed vees feed minnid er liurid, ry hoi sharaghey schleiy'n lhaih, loayrt as eaishtagh. As bee claryn elley cooney lesh ynsagh crauee as moraltagh.

Lheim harrish dys Nerin, ta sheshaght enmyssit 'Oscailt' ('Fosley') kiarail cur er e hoshiaght jannoo filmyn giare ayns Yernish, goaill ymmyd jeh tashtey dy £200,000.

Hig yn argid veih Bord Scannan na hEireann (Boayrd Filmyn Nerin) as Teilifis na Gaelge, ta geearee cur geill mooar da stiureyderyn, fir-screuee as leayreyderyn (producers) ren cheet roo er y gherid. Shegin jannoo daa fillym er y chooid sloo, filmyn vees jeh dys shey minnid as feed er liurid.

Ayns y Chorn, ta colught enmyssit 'Three S Films' jannoo filmyn dy speideilagh rish jeh bleaney as feed. V'eh currit er bun dy jannoo filmyn mychione spoyrt-marrey as filmyn slane Cornagh. Agh, er y gherid, v'ad eginit dy ghol ersooyl beggan veih cooishyn Cornagh dy jannoo tooilley obbyr da colughtyn ta ny smoo na keead meeiley ersooyl, ayns Plymouth. Ga dy row Feailley Cheltiagh ny Filmyn as Feeshanyn feer speideilagh sy Chorn mleaney, ta'n Cornaghys cheet dy ve fo hraastey mooar ayns colughtyn-fillym sy Chorn ta jannoo filmyn mychione cooishyn Cornagh. Goll rish 'Three S Films', t'ad eginit cosney argid liorish obbyr veih'n cheu-mooie, as cha nel y stoo Cornagh cho lajer as v'eh. Ny yei shen as oolley, ta filmyn Cornagh foast jannoo dy mie. Y sambyl share, shen 'Yn Dann An Galow' ('Ayns y Toilshey Mooar'), fillym mychione y Chorn nish, agh trooid sooillyn yn chenndiagh.

As cre mysh Mannin ayns ny cooishyn shoh? Son shickyrys, ta filmyn mooarey goll er jannoo ayns Mannin, agh cha nel ad currit da'n Vanninaghys. Argid t'ayn ny lomarcen, ta Reiltys Vannin smooinghyn. Er y fa dy nee ellan Mannin, s'doillee cosney argid liorish jannoo filmyn giare ayns Mannin, goll rish ny Cornee. Son shickyrys, ta filmyn mychione spoyrt-wheylagh feer speideilagh ayns Mannin. Shoh sorch dy chultoor Manninagh, gyn ourys, agh cha nel eh cooney lesh y ghengey.

Ta feeshanyn Gaelgagh cheet roo ee y tra t'ayn. Va nane jeh jeant ee Alex Townsend ayns Scoill Ard Noo Ninian son Teisht Chadjin Ghaelgagh (General Certificate in Manx), as ta fer elley goll er jannoo liorish Charles Guard son Duke Video. Ta culleeyn-feeshan dy liooar ee

Scoill Ard Phurt ny h-Inshey, agh cha nel ad goaill ymmyd jeu ec y traa t'ayn dy yannoo feeshanyn Gaelgagh. Ee y traa t'ayn, shegin dooin guce dy vel sleih ayns scoillyn Vannin (marish sleih elley) cur er bun ny h-undynyn jeh colughtyn-feeshan Manninagh.

Orree Crennell

Summary

There is increasing Celtic cooperation over film and video making. Film making has taken off in the Isle of Man, but it is almost entirely concerned with making money for the Manx Government, with no concern for Manx culture. There may be the beginnings of a truly Manx video industry.



Fred Radcliffe

Reih Bleeaney Vannan Award

This year's Reih Bleeaney Vannan Award went to Fred Radcliffe.

Candidates for the trophy, awarded by the Manx Heritage Foundation, are nominated by members of the public.

The trophy is awarded to the person who the panel of assessors consider to have provided the greatest contribution to the Island's cultural heritage.

Mr Radcliffe, 72 is a fluent speaker of Manx Gaelic and has made an invaluable contribution to the study of things Manx over many years, a contribution which has ranged over many aspects of Manx life.

His work includes a series of educational packs for use in schools, which have provided a unique source of material for teachers on such subjects as Manx agriculture and fishing, mines and geology.

Mr Radcliffe's involvement in researching the Island's past also stretched to involvement in archaeological excavations, including leading the dig at Perwick Bay which revealed so much about life on the Isle of Man 2,000 years ago.

Manx Natural Heritage Under Threat

It may be using the English language for this speech, but this Speaker does not underestimate the importance of the Manx language for our cultural and national identity.

I would make an urgent call to the Government on that basis for further resource allocation to ensure the survival of our language and further promotion, bringing it, at the very least, to the same standard of usage and credibility as any one else's national language, and something to be proud of.

Three hundred years ago Illiam Dhooe, or William Christian, a man of great courage and conviction, knowing full well the consequences of his actions, attempted to try and resist the breaking down of our ancient heritage by English overlords, and was subsequently shot and murdered by them on this spot.

Our heritage is still under threat, especially, our national heritage. Ironically this threat is still coming from across the water, which is pushing the development line out into our countryside, causing the loss of wild places and dilution of our culture.

Nothing I can think of is more precious or uniquely Manx, than our countryside, typifying the Island, and giving it, its own special character.

It is this special character that causes us to enjoy our home, and land, bringing visitors and business alike to our shores. The Island is still 'green' and has plenty of open space. It is still interesting and mystical - for now.

At the heart of the Manx Countryside are the Mountains, the most prominent and important feature of the Island. This key attribute gives form, shape and variety making the landscape interesting, visually pleasing and truly beautiful.

Many of the mountains appear to have had their covering ladled on, suggesting the might of the Manx Sea God Manannin, giving the Isle of Man its striking and dramatic character.

The advantages of the hill-lands are their steepness and inaccessibility causing them to remain natural and undeveloped. The building line being restricted to the lowland valleys.

This means that the mountains still support a surprising range of rare plants, animals and birds.

These lands and their wildlife are so important the experts class them, not on a local or national level but on an international scale.

I wonder why it is that the Manx Government, knowing the importance of the hills, seem to ignore this factor,



Bill Henderson

seemingly, always pursuing the more lucrative and politically exciting options: construction and development?

The Government owns 50% of these hills and is therefore the most important piece of public owned real-estate, on the Island.

I would make a call on our Government to halt the decline in both our national, and natural heritage, and make a start by preserving and designating this jewel in the Islands Crown: the Manx Hill-lands, as a national park.

Given this Island's abysmal conservation record and woefully inadequate conservation legislation, the Government undoubtedly needs to make a 'U-turn' on its wildlife strategies and put right the environmental vandalism which has gone on for too long. They should have the guts to apply the same energy and conviction with which they court the finance and business communities, and apply that to the Island's urgent conservation needs.

It is this Government's duty to resist the breaking down of our ancient heritage, and act as true, independent, people's representatives, as set forth in their manifesto promises.

They are not here solely to increase the population and encourage further colonisation of our land!

We want our Island to stay the way it is, still with its natural beauty.

We want something left of our ancient heritage.

We want action from this Government.

We want action now, preserve our national treasures: Designate the Manx Hills, do something positive for the millennium.

(Part of the oration at the Illiam Dhooe Service, Hango Hill, Castletown, Isle of Man, 2nd of January, 1998.)

Bill Henderson
Manx Ecological Concern

Appeal

Albert J. Phiebig Inc. Books, P.O. Box 352, White Plains, N.Y. 10602-0352 USA. Fax - 44 1624 673115 would like to hear from anyone who can identify the publishers of: The Proceedings of the 10th International Congresses of Celtic Studies.

UK Government Reviews Manx Finance Industry

Manx Nationalists, Mec Vannin and others, have traditionally opposed the use of Mannin for tax-haven/avoidance purposes, both from its moral and political standpoint.

Mec Vannin's warnings that a Labour government in the UK may very well put a brake on tax-havens, including Mannin, stretch back into the 1970s. Whereas Mec Vannin have traditionally accused the Manx government of letting Westminster walk all over us, there is no point in inviting a battle that may well lead to, in part at least, a re-run of the 1765 Reinvestment Act that effectively rendered Mannin a Crown Colony.

On that occasion, the *Trade* was spirits and tobacco. Then, like now, the operations conducted in Mannin were perfectly legitimate. There was, however, a degree of smuggling of contraband goods from Mannin to the UK. Research has shown that the UK's perception of the level of smuggling was far greater than reality but it cost Mannin its independence.

Now, the *Trade* is the international finance industry and the *contraband* is either another country's tax dues or laundered money. Whether perception is worse or better than reality remains to be seen (if it will ever be seen).

The fact that the new UK Labour Government has a keen interest in the off-shore jurisdictions was born out when, on 19 January, the UK Home Office informed the Manx Government that it was to conduct a six-month review of the the legislation, regulation etc of the finance industries in Mannin and the Channel Islands. They have since *downgraded* the review to a *mapping exercise*. Conducting the review is a freelance accountancy consultant!

The news that the UK Labour government is to review Mannin's finance regulation has been publicly welcomed by Chief Minister Donald Gelling, but if he has been correctly advised, he should be privately sweating buckets.

This development, when properly analysed, bears out yet again that the concerns of the nationalists are fully justified. Mec Vannin warned of the political disempowerment of the Manx people if the finance industry grew too strong. Now, the Manx government is scared to use our own language lest it cause some minor inconvenience to a couple of bankers as any attempt to *effectively*

regulate the industry is met with threats from the various industry mouth-pieces.

Mec Vannin warned of the growing probability that Europe would attempt to clamp down on tax-havens. The Manx government dismissed the warnings yet now the European Court of Auditors, the German government, several MEPs and even MPs are making moves to bring such a clamp-down into place.

Mec Vannin warned that a Labour government in the UK would inevitably look resentfully at Mannin's independence, traditionally nurtured under Tory governments to provide a low tax bolt-hole for pro-Tory ex-pats.

Mister Gelling dare not, of course, publicly state that the repercussions of a UK review could result in an attempt to legislate over our heads since this would upset his beloved finance sector. In an attempt to play down the potential consequences of the review, he has cited the *high standard* of regulation and the constitutional relationship with the UK as reasons to be cheerful.

As for our constitutional position, if we had a government who knew its proper place i.e. governing a country for the benefit of its people, and knew the place of the Westminster government i.e. several hundred miles away in a *different* country, the financiers may have less to fear. The reality is that the Manx statute books are littered with legislation extended by the UK over the heads of our government without consent or consultation.

Television reception licensing, radio broadcast licensing, Official Secrets Act and a host of others bear testimony to the ability of the UK government to walk all over our country when it suits them, even though all the above legislation is challengeable in law.

The current English Minister with responsibility, Lord Mostyn, has quickly moved to back the Manx government stance, saying how good Anglo-Manx relations are and how confident he is that all is rosy in the garden. The question then begs: Why conduct a review?

'New Labour' may not want to disturb the cosy relationship where legitimate UK/Manx investments are concerned, but the last thing it wants is another bullet for Europe to fire against it in the shape of money laundering, tax evasion and fraud allegations. The laws that will effectively prevent this are traditionally the laws that

the Isle of Man based finance industry has most strongly and successfully resisted. The result may be very different when the UK government is involved.

Mec Vannin deeply resents the willingness of the UK to compromise our independence. Equally, we deeply resent the failure of our own government to act sufficiently responsibly to avoid the situation in the first place.

EUROPEAN CHARTER ON REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

The London Branch has made some good progress on UK signature and ratification of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.

Acting on their behalf Chris Smith MP, received the following letter from the Foreign Office:

Council of Europe (CoE): European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages - UK Signature

- 1 Thank you for your letter of 23 October on behalf of your constituents Mr and Mrs Kenna of 72 Compton Street, Finsbury, London, EC1V 0BN.
- 2 Since you wrote to me you will have received a copy of Ron Davies letter to me of 18 November, advocating UK signature and ratification without delay (at least in the case of the Welsh language).
- 3 I see advantage to UK signature, which would send a positive signal to those new Council of Europe member states who are required to become party to the Charter as a condition of their membership. However, as Ron goes on to say, both Mo Mowlam and Donald Dewar will wish to give the nature and timing of UK signature and ratification of the Charter careful thought and the position will be clearer once we have their views.

**Trevor Mylchreest
for Robin Cook**

(approved by the Foreign Secretary
and signed in his absence by
the Private Secretary)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
30 December 97

It certainly is promising for the Welsh language — about time too. Members are urged to keep up the pressure by writing to Mo Mowlam, MP and Donald Dewar, MP.



Military Monitoring – A Twenty Year Campaign

The General Secretary outlines briefly some facets of the Celtic League's Military Monitoring Campaign. Started almost by accident it has become one of the League's great success stories. Often ridiculed in the early days, our claims about the problems caused to fishermen by submarine operations, and our concerns that large quantities of military chemical weapons had been disposed at sea, have been vindicated by the passage of time.

INTRODUCTION

The callous murder of a twelve year old girl by the British Army in South Armagh was to lead to one of the longest running and most successful campaigns the Celtic League has ever undertaken.

Majella O'Hare was walking with friends near her local chapel at Whitecross in South Armagh. Initially military sources blamed the IRA, but eventually it was admitted that she had been killed by a burst of fire *accidentally* discharged by a British army patrol, her and her friends had just walked by.

Manx nationalists in Mee Vannin and members of the Mannin branch of the Celtic League had watched developments in North Ireland, particularly in relation to

the use made of the Isle of Man as a base to support operations there. However no campaign of opposition had been initiated. The Majella O'Hare killing altered all this, and the nationalist grouping, the Celtic League & AMA (Anti Militarist Alliance), was established which pledged to campaign until all bases had been removed from the Isle of Man.

In August 1982, the Mannin branch having enjoyed some local success with the campaign, urged the Celtic League Annual Meeting, held in Dublin, to adopt a general policy to 'monitor the development of military activities and installations in the Celtic countries'. The remit was also to include monitoring of the environmental impact.

spy planes were frequent visitors from Aldegrove near Belfast. In 1988 after much concern had been expressed about British army behaviour in a 'Home defence' exercise held on the Island, the British Army quietly left.

The Breton Connection



Protesters alongside the French Navy vessel, Narvik.

Very little opportunity presented itself to give practical support to our opposition to French military activity, although several of the submarine incidents monitored involved Breton vessels. However visits by French naval vessels always attracted protest, and in the early 1980s the crew of the French minelayer Narvik, paying a courtesy visit to the tiny fishing village of Port St. Mary in the Isle of Man, were greeted by such protesters. Later visits by French vessels used the harbour at Douglas, where the French could avoid such opposition by tying up in the security area of the Port.

The Submarine Problem

An Irish fishing vessel has sank after a mysterious collision in the central Irish sea area of Co Louth. BBC Northern Ireland radio made this announcement one morning in April 1982. The announcer went on to quote Royal Navy sources as dismissing suggestions that one of their submarines had been involved. No Royal Navy submarines had *apparently* visited the Irish Sea for several days. The Celtic League not only knew this was a lie but we had graphic evidence to confirm it. A photograph taken just hours before the sinking, of the Royal Navy vessel HMS Porpoise, on passage towards the area the Sheralga went down. The Sheralga incident led to further examination of the record of all submarine operating powers in the waters around Britain and Ireland. Comparatively swiftly, we built up a dossier of over 150 incidents, disappearances, sinkings and snaggings of vessels. We engaged in vigorous correspondence with government and International agencies, and with good support from MPs in the United Kingdom and TDs in the Irish parliament, succeeded in having the matter raised at the United Nations. Eventually the International

CAMPAIGNS

The NATO Range

When the general military monitoring strategy was adopted by the League, the Mannin branch had some years of local campaigning behind it. The RAF range of the north west of Mannin, used extensively by NATO, was one of the first targets. Leafleting and a vociferous campaign of monitoring low flying, produced early results and low flying by military aircraft below 2000 feet was banned over the Island's land mass. (This is still one of the few such bans on RAF activity over the United Kingdom and Isle of Man). In 1988 after almost ten years of opposition the Isle of Man government was forced to scrap plans to expand the range facility – a move it was making at the behest of the British government – and in 1993 the range closed and the last British facility was dismantled. A pollution legacy lives on however, and the Celtic League are now campaigning for compensation from the British to clean up 30 square miles of sea bed off the north coast.

The British Army Leave Mann



In parallel with the bombing range campaign, a systematic programme of opposition to British Army use of Mann for military exercises was maintained. The observation of *goings on* in and around the military base at Jurby produced some interesting information. Units from North Ireland periodically used the base, particularly in the mid seventies, and helicopter traffic and fixed wing Beaver

Maritime Organisation (IMO) introduced two specific resolutions to address the problem. Officially the League ended this campaign three years ago when the AGS Mark Kermode laid a wreath to the memory of over 100 fishermen on a dozen vessels, believed lost in submarine related collisions.

That photograph of HMS Porpoise also cost the British Ministry of Defence (MoD) dear. In 1988, six years after the sinking of Sheralga, several hundred thousand pounds in compensation was paid to the owner and crew.



Submarine exercise area

The Sea Dumps

He swelled up like a balloon, turned purple and shed all his skin including his scalp. Reports like this, after a Breton trawler was contaminated by mustard gas in 1969 after fishing in the Beaufort Dyke area, led us to the assumption that not all the materials deposited were as inert as the authorities would have us believe. For over twenty years the Celtic League has campaigned for information about the contents of Beaufort Dyke and other sea dumps. Fifteen years ago we expressed concern that in addition to chemical weapons, nuclear material had also been disposed of at sea in these inshore areas. In 1993 we stepped up the campaign and called for Irish government support at a special Dublin Conference, the theme of which was 'A Dangerous Legacy in Our Seas'. Nothing, however, could have prepared us for the scale of the environmental disaster the British have created – to which a solution has still to be determined. From 1995 onwards there has



Royal Navy vessel, HMS Porpoise, on passage towards the area where the Sheralga went down.

been a stream of confirmatory evidence that vindicates our campaign. A staggering one million tonnes of explosives and chemical waste have been deposited in Dumps around the Irish coast and in Beaufort Dyke. In 1997, the British also owned up to the disposal of nuclear waste. The monitoring of this eco-disaster led to the development of cooperation with local authorities, in the areas affected by material seeping from the sea dumps. This campaign will continue for many years to come.



A fireman deals with strange objects.

Micro Wave Links – To Irish Neutrality

One of the issues used to illustrate the advantages of a coordinated monitoring campaign, when the League AGM considered the issue in 1982, was the revelation by the Mannin branch that the UK's Air Defence System was using facilities in Ireland to relay information from its main radar station, at Bishops Court in Ulster.

The Mannin branch had stumbled on the information when investigating why heavy capacity micro wave links were being constructed, linking Bishops Court through Mannin to the Lancashire coast. Several articles subsequently appeared in the Irish media. However the Irish government rejected the claim that the traffic constituted a breach of its neutrality.

Army Bases and Military Pollution – One in the Eye for Portillo

The Celtic League, after extensive research during 1992, determined that a serious pollution problem may have occurred around a wide range of used and disused military bases. We became aware that the MoD were suppressing two reports (one concerning Army bases, the other RAF airfields) which were highly critical. Requests to have the information released led initially to blanket denials that the reports existed. However using information from the Army document in 1993, we published our findings.

The issue was taken up on our behalf by George Foulkes MP (a good supporter in a number of monitoring campaigns we pursued). The rather bumptious junior Defence Secretary Nicholas Soames, initially denied our claims. However when we passed our report via Foulkes to Portillo, the Defence Secretary had to do a u-turn on earlier government comment and announce a staggering 600 'land quality statements' on military bases and installations.

The range of other Monitoring activities was, and is, extensive. Monitoring and campaigning against low flying in Wales and Scotland; publicising suppressed information about the problems caused by carbon fibre pollution at aircraft crash sites; investigating the operation of British military forces in Ulster and

exposing the humiliating attempt by the MoD to buy second hand helicopters world wide, to shore up its faltering helicopter force in North Ireland, prior to the 1994 cease-fire; continuously probing and exposing facets of the still mysterious crash of an Aer Lingus airliner over the British Aberporth missile testing range in 1968 (this resulted in a release of papers and official logbooks ahead of the thirty year rule); opposition to extensions to the Aberporth missile complex; attempting to unravel the mystery of the disposal of weapons manufactured in Britain's chemical weapons complex at Nancekuke in Cornwall, which closed many years ago. All these are just a sample of the elements that have made up our military monitoring in recent years.

The Celtic League have not worked alone. No record of our work is complete without acknowledgement to people like George Foulkes (Labour MP), Donald Stewart (SNP) in Scotland, Dafydd Wigley and Dafydd Ellis Thomas (PC) in Wales, and Hugh Byrne (TD) in Ireland. These are just some of the parliamentarians who helped us. Also action and interest by various Irish governments and by International bodies such as the IMO have been invaluable. Over the years a greater degree of openness, in particular by the British government, has also assisted - however it is pertinent to qualify this by saying information has invariably been proffered to avoid or deflect media embarrassment.

The campaigns would have not have progressed without good publicity and a stream of press releases over the years, which produced a good take up by both the National media in Scotland, Wales, Ireland, London and also news media world wide.

The submarine monitoring campaign and the Chemical weapons dumping issue were picked up globally, and this in turn assisted our efforts.

Twenty years after it began, our Military Monitoring campaign continues.

J B Moffatt

More detailed information on individual campaigns is available from the General Secretary of the Celtic League.



ALBA? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Under the title *What's in a name* Carn no 95 featured a short article which discussed the etymology of the word Alba. This is a matter in which I have done some research, and as my conclusions differ from those quickly exposed in the mentioned article, I decided to share my view with anyone who might be interested. For I consider that a good deal of interesting information about a concrete place can be obtained from its very name.

Well, here is a brief history of the name of the land of the Scots in their mother tongue.

The word Alba is the survival in the Gaelic language of $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon$ (Albion), the name the ancient Greeks learnt the isle of Britain bore. Remember that Alba, like $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon$, is a nasal theme. I mean, the last letter of the root of both names is a 'n', which is shown in the genitive case, at least in formal speech (compare also with Irish *Albain* and Welsh *yr Alban*). The *AgDA 5th Ed.* (About the World), a treatise on geography dating from c. 300 BC falsely attributed to Aristotle, is among the earliest records of this name:

Pseudo-Aristoteles, *De Mundo*, III

(In that part of the world there are two islands, referred to as British, Albion and Ierne: these are bigger than the islands of which we spoke before [those in the Mediterranean Sea], and lie beyond the land inhabited by the Celts [that is, Gaul]).

The Romans -they were the best pupils of the Greeks also in Geography - borrowed this name, and used it transliterated. The *Natural History* of Pliny the Elder (finished c. AD 77) will provide us with a fine example:

Ex adversu huius situs Britannia insula clara Graecis nostrisque monumentis inter septentrionem et occidentem iacet. Germaniae Galliae Hispaniae facito maximis Europae partibus magno intervallo adversa. 'Albion' ipsi nomen fuit, cum 'Britanniae' vocarentur omnes de quibus mox paulo dicemus.

C. Plinius Secundus, *Naturalis Historia*, IV 102

(Opposite to that place, between north and west, lies Britain, an island well known not only to Greek records, but also to our own. This island is located in front of Germany, Gaul and Spain, the largest countries of Europe, but after a great distance from these. Its name was 'Albion', although all the islands I shall mention shortly after are given the name 'British').

Then is from Latin that the French, English or Spanish, for example, have obtained a poetic name for England; and it is no wonder if this name is used mainly for England. The reasons for this are the same that have made the name Britain another terminological fiction, for this name after all has also come to mean England only. However, both meanings of Albion (Britain and England), are, if not wrong, at least improper. We shall understand the motives if we go further back still in history.

The earliest Greek and Carthaginian explorers who fared to Britain (c. 500 BC, once the kingdom of Tartessos in southern Spain collapsed, for the Tartessians had always monopolized Atlantic commerce) thought that the indented peninsulas of Cornwall and Wales were simply the largest of a number of scattered islands belonging to a mysterious north-western Atlantic archipelago. This archipelago stretched from Unissama, modern Eusa in front of Brittany (the $\pi\upsilon\delta\epsilon\upsilon$ of the Greek geographer Strabo, who mentions her for the first time; the name is Old Celtic, and means the uppermost; the Welsh word *uchaf* is the modern form of the same ancient name), up to the shores of Ierne (bear in mind that the classical antiquity placed Ireland to the north of Britain). All the 'islands' one could find sailing from Brittany until reaching Ireland were considered to form a community, and were called Oestrymnides after Oestrymnis, the oldest recorded name for Brittany. $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon$ is the Greek adaptation of a foreign name, which designated the inhabitants of western Brittany (those of modern Bro Leon and Kernew-Uhel). This people is successively named $\chi\eta\theta\alpha\alpha$ (Ephorus, c. 350 BC), $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon$ (Ptolemy, c. 325 BC), $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon$ (Artemidorus, c. 100 BC) and *Ossismii* (Caesar, 100-44 BC).

We owe thanks for the notice of these last details to a late Roman versifier, Rufus Festus Avienus (c. AD 300), who wrote *Ora Maritima*, a poem of a genre we find surprising nowadays, for it is didactical poetry on geography. Avienus worked on a poetical description of the mediterranean coasts, and since he had a taste for antiquities, he gathered the oldest historical sources at hand in the several public libraries of Rome. Some of the information he gives about the Celtic islands can be traced as far back as 6th century BC:

Sub huius autem prominentis vertice sinus dehiscit incolis Oestrymniceus, in quo insulae sese exerunt Oestrymnides, laxae iacentes, et metallo divites (...)

Asi hinc duobus in Sacram (sic insulam dixere prisci) solibus cursus rati est. Haec inter undas multam caespitem iacet, eamque late gens Hiernorum colit. Propinqua rursus insula Albionum patet.

Avienus, *Ora Maritima*, 94-112

(Under this promontory's crest the Oestrymnian gulf spreads out, and contains the Oestrymnides, islands with broad plains and rich mines of tin and lead. (...) From here there are two days of sailing up to the Sacred island (so the ancients called her). This island amidst the waves is very large, and the race of the Hierni habite it extensively. Next, back in the opposite direction, is the island of the Albiones).

Avienus does not mention Britain at all. Since he deliberately makes use of the most remote testimonies available to him, he instead talks of Oestrymnides, Ierne and finally Albion. Yet this Albion is not Britain, but an enigmatic 'island' lying somewhere north of Wales and Cornwall, and close to Ireland.

In this early times the ancient Celts had not spread over the whole of Britain, and therefore the previous inhabitants of the island still remained, although confined progressively to the mountainous north and west under the pressure of the newcomers. These pre-Celtic peoples were not of Indo-European stock, but Mediterranean (this etiquette is shared by several different peoples of antiquity, as the Iberians, the Ligurians and the Etruscans, among others). They gave their island a name whose root reappears in many illustrious examples all over their home country. The most remarkable are the city of the Ligurian Intemelii, *Alba Intemelium* (modern Ventimiglia, close to the Italo-French frontier), the mythical *Alba Longa* (the city founded in Italy by the Trojan hero Aeneas), and *Alpes Montes* (the central Europe mountain range). The basic meaning of the root **alp-* is then explained as 'stone, rock', whence 'mountain', which is evident for the Alps, but also for Alba 'city', for a hilly environment was preferred for new cities (remember that Rome herself was surrounded by seven hills at first).

Therefore our Albion can be understood as the abrupt and inaccessible northern refuge of those who some centuries later the Romans would call Picts, and in consequence Alba, the current evolution of that early denomination, can be rendered as «The Land of the Mountains», or even «Highland», if it were allowed.

We see then the long history and extraordinary resistance of this toponym, which has designated the same land for 2500 years capturing an essential of the

character of the country, the Highlands, the heart of the Gaelic culture.

Alex Guilarte
Barcelona

(Final note: It has been defended also a Celtic etymology, putting in relation the root **albjo-* with the middle Welsh *elydd*, 'world'. But an Indo-European etymology is unlikely due to the reasons exposed above).

LETTER

A Chara,

As a matter of accurate record, I have never described the Galicians nor Asturians as 'vultures' nor attempted to portray them as such. Neither, to my knowledge, has my estimable comrade Rob Gibson (Xon de la Campa ya Valdes' letter, *Carn* No. 99). In discussing the subject of our Galician and Asturian comrades' relationship with the Celtic nations, I do not think emotive and inaccurate language helps.

I have been a supporter of the Galician and Asturian independence movements since the mid-1960s when I wrote about their struggle in newspapers such as *Western Mail* (Cardiff) and *Evening Standard* (London). I have never had any problems with accepting that Galicia and Asturias have a Celtic heritage and have been most happy to accept invitations to speak on matters Celtic in Galicia. But even Xon de la Campa ya Valdes clearly accepts the fact that neither Galicia nor Asturias can be described as Celtic nations. Neither, in my experience, would most Galicians nor Asturians argue that fact. In their submissions to the United Nations and other international bodies prior to the 1970s, claims to nationhood rested upon their distinctive Romance language and culture, a literary language different from Castilian, and not on any Celtic criteria.

Incidentally, the Royal Galician Academy, issues these figures, percentage of population, for a knowledge of the Galician language: Corunna - 90.8%; Lugo - 88.26%; Orense - 93.84%; Pontevedra - 92.53%; and Galicia - 91.01%. These are pretty impressive linguistic statistics, though 'knowledge' does not imply 'use'.

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In October, 1992, the President of Galicia (El Presidente, Xunta de Galicia), Manuel Fraga Iribarne, who was a keen exponent of his country's Celtic heritage, contacted me offering his congratulations on my work which had explained the realities of the situation as opposed to the misunderstandings which were then being circulated. We discussed in detail Galicia's past and future role in the Celtic world. El Presidente Iribarne agreed that while his country was a land of Celtic heritage it could not, any any meaningful criteria, be called a Celtic nation.

There are several areas in Europe which could make the same claims to greater or lesser extents. Cumbria had pockets of Celtic speakers long after Galicia (the language was noticed in areas in the 14th Century) but no Celticist, let alone a serious member of the Celtic League, would propose that the League now recognise Cumbria as a modern Celtic nation.

If, at any future period, the Celtic League felt about to make some sort of recognition of Galicia and Asturias in terms of their ancient Celtic heritage, they would have to make the same recognition to France, England, the Po Valley, countries along the Danube and even the area of the central plain of Turkey, including Ankara. That would weaken the argument of the modern Celtic nations for international recognition of their distinctive nationhood.

Peter Berresford Ellis

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For further information contact the Alba
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A Journey in Celtic Music

- Cape Breton Style

Sheldon MacInnes,

0-920336-55-8 / \$21.95 PB, November
1997 / 170 pp / 6 x 9 / Illustrated,
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e-mail General Secretary:

b.moffatt@advsys.co.im

e-mail Assistant G.S.

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Gaelic in Parliament

The Secretary of State for Scotland,
Donald Dewar, has announced that the
Scottish Parliament is to have "Limited
facilities" for simultaneous translation of
the proceedings into Gaelic or foreign
languages". What this will mean in
practice remains to be seen.

Alasdair MacCaluim

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For information about the Celtic
League contact secretaries:

ALBA Risniddh Mag Aoidh, 7/1 Newton
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BREIZH

Correspondence: Viviane Le Menn,
Kersiguenou 29160 Crozon-Kraon,
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The General Secretary and P.R.O. of the
Celtic League is Bernard Moffatt, 11
Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan,
Mannin.

Tel - UK (0) 1624 627128

The Editor is Ms P. Bridson, 33 Ceide na
Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Atha Cliath,
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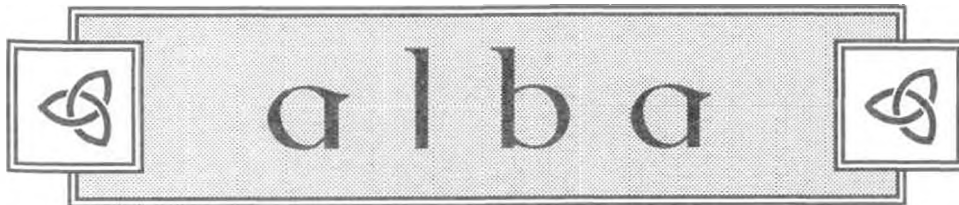
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An d'Thàinig Sinn à Portugail?

Mata tha fios againn cheana gun d'fhàinig na Gaidheil à Eirinn gu ruige Alba. Ach, cò as a thàinig iad roimhe sin? Is docha gun d'fhàinig as an Spàin no à Portugail.

Tha fios a'm gum bheil sin uamhasach doirbh a dhearbhadh, ach tha dithis fhianaisean againn, agus tha fios againn ma bhios dà neach ag aontachadh sa chuir-lagha bithidh an siorram agus am breitheamh a' géilleadh gum bheil co-dhearbhadh ann.

Ach cò iad, na fianaisean seo? Mata, tha an dama fear Eireannach... Lebor Gabàla Erenn (Leabhar Gabhail na hÉireann) agus am fear cile Albannach... ar Litir à Obair-bhrothaigh 1320.

'S e leabhar inntinneach a tha anns an Lebor Gabàla Erenn oir, sa chiad dol a-mach, chì sinn gum bheil an t-ughdar a' dèanamh a dhìchill sgeulachdanan Chrìosdaidh a cheangail ri seann eachdraidh nan Gaidheal. Ach aig deireadh an leabhar seo dé tha an sgrìobhaiche a' dèanamh ag aithris eachdraidhean is sgeulan nan Seann-Ghaidheal roimh teachd Soisgeul an Tighearna.

Seo agaibh eachdraidh mic Mhìl (no Mhìlid). An deidh siubhal tre na h-Eiphit. Crete is Sicily c'àite an d'fhàinig iad ach don Spàinn, seadh, an Spàinn i-fhèin. Seo far an do thog Bregon tùr. Mata latha de na làithean dé chunnaic Ith MacBhregoin fad as an tùr seo ach Eirinn. Smaoinich e gun robh sin caran neònach bhon a bha Eirinn cho fad as. Air an adhbhar sin sheòl e fhéin agus a chuid dhaoine gu Eirinn!

Tri bliadhna seo chaidh bha mi a' dèanamh comhradh ri fear à Portugail air cho eu-comasach agus a bha e do MacBhregoin Eirinn fhaicinn on tùr anns an Spàinn.

"Seadh," dh'aontaich an sgoilear Portugaileach, "ach bha iongantais air an ùghdair gun d'fhàinig Mac Bhregoinn agus a dhaoine thairis air an fhairge gu ruige Eirinn as an Spàinn. Carson? Mata, chuala

mi barail gun do fhuadaich na Breatannaich (As a' Bhreatainn-bhig is as a' Chuimrigh) na Gaidheal a-mach as an Spàin!"

A nisd, thug sinn iomradh air a' chiad fhianais, dé mu dheighinn am fear Albannach? Is e sin an Litir à Obair-bhroth aig 1320 mar a dh'ainmich mi mar tha. Their i gun do shiubhail na h-Albannach à *Scythia* Mhór faisg air a' Mhuir *Tyrrhene* gu Carraighean *Herculaïs* (faisg air Gibraltar) agus an sin gu ruige an Spàinn. Dìreach mar a thuit Lebor Gabàla Erenn... an Spàinn?

A reir ùghdair na Litreach à Obair-bhrothaigh ghabh na h-Albannaich còmhnaidh ùine ro fhada anns an Spàinn a-measg dhaoine borh ach cha do cheannsaich iad na h-Albannaich a dh'aindeoin sin. Ach an robh e a' ciallachadh gun do dh'fhuadaich na Breatannaich na Gaidheil mach as an Spàinn gu ruige Eirinn! Ach chan eil dearbhadh ann. Chan urrainn dhuinn ach leth-fhacal a chur an cluais!

Ach tha fios againn far a bheil Tìr nan Gaidheal anns an Spàinn... sin *Galicia* no Gailisia agus dé ainm an t-sluaigh a tha air an sin ach *Gallegos*. Ged nach eil Gàidhlig aca fhathast chuala mi gun do ghabh an *Celtic Congress* iad bho'n sgiath leis gu bheil iad a' faireachdain cho Ceilteach fhathast!

Is ann à Gailisia a sheoladh na bàtaichean gu Eirinn bho cladaichean Ghailisia aig an àm sin. chan eil sinn uamhasach cinnteach dé seòrsa dreach a bha air na bàtaichean no curaichean sin ach fhuaradh modail meanbh òir den a' chiad linn Roimh Chrìosd aig Broighter air cladach Loch Foyle faisg air Doire ann an Eirinn. Ged a tha am bàta seo cho beag chì sinn gu bheil e a' riochdachadh soitheach a bhiodh a' dol do'n mhuir fhosgailte agus bhon a bha druim a' bhàta mar sin bhiodh e comasach dhith an t-aiseag a' dèanamh thar na fairge.

Bhiodh cnàimhneach no *framework* fiodha air a' bhàta seo agus bhiodh e

còmhdaichte le seichean. A reir iomradh air turas Naomh Breandan gu Innis Tìle agus is docha cuideachd thairis air a' Chuan Siar bha gach seiche air a cartadh le rùsg daraich agus còmhdaichte le teàrr thairis air gach tathadh. Ghiùlanadh iad im air bòrd air son na seichean a chumail uisge-dhionach.

A reir aithis bhiodh a' churach aig Calumcille rud eigin coltach ri seo. corr is trì fichead troigh agus bhiodh fichead seiche oirre le sgioba mu fhichead fear agus treallaichean gu leòr air air an giuain cuideachd.

Ged nach eil lorgan na Gàidhlig ach uamhasach tearc a-measg na cànaichean Ghailisianach agus Phortugaileach tha aitealan inntinneach againn air na daoine a tha a' fuireach ann an Gailisia agus ann am Portugail mu thuath an diugh agus sna làithean a dh'aom.

Tha iad a' cluich na pìob-mhór ann an Gailisia agus caithidh fir am feile-beag fhathast ann am Portugail air aon latha sònraichte. Sin agad an fhirinn! Iongantach ri ràdh. Chì sinn am fheile-beag Portugaileach fad aon latha a-mhàin agus sin sa bhaile beag Miranda do Douro agus sin ar an treas Di-domhnaich den 'n Lùnasdal gach bliadhna. Dannsaich na h-òganaich nam fèilidheachan-beagadanns a' chlaideimh. Ach chan eil na claidhmhean air an cur tarsainn air an làr ach air an riochdachadh le maidean nan laimh. Agus chan eil breacan air na fèilidheachan-beaga ach air dath geal. Bu mhór am beud.

Ged nach eil cus Gaidhealachas no Ceilteachas air uachdar an talmhainn a-measg nam beò an sin tha seachd bailtean deug Ceilteach a tha nise 'nam bruan ri fhaighinn anns an àirde tuath de Phortugail.

Is e Citânia de Briteiros am baile Ceilteach as ainmeile agus tha e seachd mìle gu leth à Braga san taobh tuath de Phortugail. thuit me Braga. Bha am baile seo (a tha an diugh an ire bhith 'na bhruan) stéidhichte sa bhliadhna 800 Roimh Chrìosd agus bha daoine a' fuireach ann fad ceithir ceud bliadhna. Is docha gun robh Gaidheil a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann roimh teachd nam Breatannaich a' bruidhinn Seann Chuimreis.

Sa bhliadhna 1875 fhuair àrsair (*archaeologist*) d'am b'ainm Dr Martin Sarmiento tughan (*axes*) cloiche, seudraidh (*jewels*), crèadhadaireachd (*pottery*) dhathte, còrr is trì fichead bonn airgid is umha bho 149 Roimh Chrìosd agus an lompair Constantine, buill-airm (*weapons*) is innealan agus tha iad uile ri fhaicinn faisg air laimh sa bhaile Cuimeares ann an ceann a tuath Phortugail.

Tha làraichean aig na bailtean Ceilteach

sin ri fhaicinn. gach baile air cnòc creagach. Chi thu ceud gu leth taighean ann an Citània de Briteiros dìreach mar a tha ri fhaotainn ann an Afraca an diugh. Tha iad cruinn agus bhiodh iad tugtha dìreach mar a tha na taighean cruinn ann an Afraca a nìsd. Tha na taighean cruinn sin dealaichte o cheile le cabhsairean le claisean eatorra. Bha taighean ceart-cheàrnach (*rectangular*) mòra le seòmraichean ann cuideachd agus talla a bha nas mó na bha iad uile.

Mach as a' bhaile seo bha faingean ann far an robh iad a' cuail na h-ainmhidhean aca. Bha amaran-ionnlaid choitcheann ann cuideachd. Bha dà bhalla daingnichte a' cuartachadh Citània de Briteiros seo. tha seachd bailtean deug daingnichte sgriosail mu thimcheall Guimaraes is Braga.

A reir na Ròmanaich, cha robh ach aon bhean aig gach duine. Bha na daoine seo seasmhach anns gach cath agus chòrdadh e riutha a bhi dannsadh is gabhail òrain nuair a bha an t-sith ann. Mata, bha iad nan Ceiltich agus chan eile sinne cho eadar-dhealaichte oir theagamh gu robh iad na sinnsearan againn!

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

Summary

Amazing as it may seem evidence exists that could mean that the Gaels came from Galicia in North West Spain and Northern Portugal to Ireland and from there to Scotland. There is documentary evidence in the Irish Book of the Invasions and in the Scottish Arbroath Declaration of 1320 that the Scots and Irish did come from Spain here. With boats similar to those of St Brendan and Columba this is indeed feasible.



An Gaidheal Ur

Scotland's new monthly all-Gaelic paper *An Gaidheal Ur* was launched in Stornoway in May. The paper is produced by the Gaelic cultural association An Comunn Gaidhealach with financial support from the government and is printed by the West Highland Publishing Company in Skye and distributed free inside the West Highland Free Press newspaper. *An Gaidheal Ur* is also posted free to all members of An Comunn Gaidhealach each month. The new paper has created three jobs in the Western Isles.

Alasdair MacCaluim

THE SNP UNDER ALEX SALMOND'S LEADERSHIP

The decade of the 1980s was dominated first by internal divisions in the SNP which saw the banning of the '79 Group. Amongst its leaders temporarily expelled from the party along with seven others was Alex Salmond, a graduate economist who had initially worked for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at the Scottish Office and then as a junior economist with the Royal Bank of Scotland, where he invented the Oil Production Index.

He grasped the need for a more radical edge for the SNP and for its positioning in the context of the European Community. At first he had Jim Sillars, the former Labour and Scottish Labour MP, as an ally and they continued to attract support from the radical wing of the party. After Sillars was elected as SNP MP in the sensational Govan By-election of 1989 Sillars tended to work more closely with the party chairman, Gordon Wilson who had been elected in 1974 and only lost his seat in Dundee East after a rise in the Labour Party at the 1987 election when Alex Salmond had been elected MP for Banff & Buchan, Margaret Ewing to Moray and Andrew Welsh to Angus East.

As a reaction to the SNP by-election triumph Labour in Scotland joined up with the Liberals and others to form the Constitutional Convention and dared the SNP to join. Over a weekend Sillars, Ewing and Wilson agreed to announce the withdrawal of the SNP from the Convention – much to the surprise of Alex Salmond who was not consulted despite being senior vice-chairman of the party. When Wilson announced his retreat in 1990 Wilson and Sillars backed Ewing against Salmond. The latter and a string of new office bearers who generally supported him were triumphantly elected to run the party by the Annual Conference of 1990 in Perth. Tensions remained in the 1992 election and after it. Sillars and his allies Alex Neil, Kenny MacAskill and Ian Lawson presented a fundamentalist stance – ironically three of the four being recent converts from Labour and Tory parties.

Salmond was furious at the unofficial Sillars election slogan for 1992, *Free by '93*, and during the start of the 1992 parliament further flare ups ensued when the three SNP MPs, Salmond, Ewing and Welsh, voted in a minor vote on Euro



Alex Salmond

legislation with the Tories. Despite the activists chagrin this gained the SNP a seat on the EU Committee of the Regions for little loss. Since 1994 Salmond has been able to adopt a working arrangement with Neil and MacAskill through the strong support of John Swinney as Vice convener for Publicity and a reconciliation with the Ewing faction in the party.

Salmond built on Roseanna Cunningham's by-election victory in Perth & Kinross in 1995 by helping her hold her seat and also increase the SNP MP tally from three to six adding John Swinney in North Tayside and Alasdair Morgan in Galloway and Upper Nithsdale.

The 1997 SNP general election manifesto displays the sophisticated stance now agreed throughout the party. Independence in Europe but not to stand in the way of the creation of a devolved parliament. It noted that during the past two years the SNP had placed in the public domain a wealth of information on Scotland's future, along with a costed budget for the first four years of an SNP government. For 18 years the Tories had told Scotland it could afford no more money to spend in Scotland and that Scotland was subsidised by England. In truth Scotland's resources, to the tune of £27,000 million more than we have received since 1979, have poured into the London Treasury.

So the SNP under Alex Salmond has gained wide credibility for the fact that Scotland is a wealthy nation, the 22nd wealthiest in the world. Scotland saves

more, produces more and exports more than England, therefore Scotland can afford many of the things our citizens have been deprived of — better health, well-resourced education, decent homes, more jobs, social justice.

The SNP has proved that she will become a full EU member as part of the rights of state succession which is enshrined in international law. Scotland would therefore have open borders with England, only political union will end — our social union with our neighbours will not. Pensions and investment will therefore be safe, while Scotland could develop an appropriate non-nuclear defence policy and offer all who wish to live in Scotland whatever their origin — full citizenship or merely residency if they so wish. In short Scotland will become a wealthier, freer nation for all its citizens, with freedom of information, a Bill of rights and as a magnet for investment.

The road to independence will be achieved by one of two routes. Firstly by winning a majority of Westminster Scottish MPs and opening negotiations. Or secondly, by winning the majority support of the devolved Scottish Parliament which will be set up in 2000AD.

Thereafter the independence package will be put to the Scottish voters in a referendum as will aspects of EU membership. Then a general election will allow Scots to elect the government of their choice. SNP will contest that election on the programme adjusted to the conditions at that time. Proportional representation will ensure a broadly based parliament that includes all parts of the country, women and ethnic minorities.

Some other key policies include:-

- * equal status for Gaelic in keeping with a multi-cultural society. Gaelic medium education will be ring fenced as in Wales.
- * radical land reform will include a replacement for the archaic feudal system; the development of integrated rural development as indicated by the Cork Declaration, the removal of the Crown Estate Commissioners from controlling the seashore and seabed; the establishment of an accessible land register under the supervision of a Land Commission.
- * much stricter focus sustainable development and more imaginative environmental safeguards. Abolish Skye Bridge road tolls and build up the railways.
- * a community based fisheries policy based on subsidiarity in the EU.
- * planned moves to renewable energy, ending nuclear reprocessing at Dounreay,

YES WE CAN

using the energy rich potential of Scotland to build on the long term recovery of oil and gas reserves.

- * recycling capital housing debts to build much needed social housing across the land.
- * introduction of a minimum social wage for all who don't work, a Cold Climate allowance for 17 winter weeks and restore benefits to 16 and 17 year olds and grants for students.
- * international aid at UN agreed levels and targeted trade based legations world-wide.

With these policies the SNP claims to be *Best for Scotland*. That matter can now be debated all the more widely as the Scottish Parliament is set up to legislate on domestic policies.

Early opinion polls suggest that while Labour's vote is solid for any Westminster election Scottish voters may well vote strongly for the SNP in the devolved parliament. Under the Salmond leadership the SNP has moved to be main challenger for power in Scotland. The next few years should see a quickening pace in the devolution versus independence debate.

Rob Gibson



**Independent Scots read the
'Scots Independent'**

Contact

**51 Cowane Street
Stirling FK8 1JW
Alba/Scotland
Telephone
Stirling 01786 473523**

• Railtrack •

Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central, Scotland's two largest railway stations, are currently being renovated at the cost of several million pounds. As new signage will be erected as part of this process, Gaelic activists are calling upon Railtrack, the company which owns the stations, to make sure that new signs are bilingual.

To add your voice to the campaign, write to: Railtrack Major Stations, Station Manager, Room N249, Waverley Station, Edinburgh EH1 1BB.

Railtrack Major Stations, Station Manager, Glasgow Central Station, Glasgow.

Alasdair MacCaluim

British Telecom

In reply to a recent letter from a Celtic League member requesting Gaelic phone bills, British Telecom said that there was no demand for Gaelic bills and that they had no plans for their introduction in future. They added, however, that they would consider the introduction of Gaelic telephone bills if they were requested by enough customers. For this reason, it is important that as many BT customers as possible request their bills in Gaelic. Write to: C. Coyle, Customer Service Adviser, BT Consumer Division Scotland, Dial House, 65 Pitt Street, Glasgow G2 7AH.

• Border TV •

The Scottish branch of the Celtic League have resumed their campaign for Gaelic television on Border TV. The Carlisle based station which serves the Isle of Man and parts of Northern England in addition to southern Scotland currently refuse to show any programmes in Scottish Gaelic. Border TV have, however, recently indicated that they are looking at their coverage of Scotland afresh in the light of the establishment of a Scottish parliament.

If you would like to help with the campaign for Gaelic television in southern Scotland, please write to Border TV asking them to broadcast Gaelic programmes. The address is: Paul Corley, Chief Executive, Border Television, Cathair Luail (Carlisle), England, CA1 3NT.



Ar Skinwel Iwerzhonek

Betek-henn ez eo deuet an taol da vat gant ar ganol skinwel iwerzhonek, Teilifis na Gaeilge. Diazezet-mat eo bremañ, dedennañ a ra darn eus ar programmoù etre 300,000 ha 400,000 a arvesterien bemdez. A bep seurt a vez kinniget: buhez an dud er Gouezelva pe Iwerzhoniz en estrenvro, breutadegoù aferioù foran, sport, filmoù-treset evit ar vugale (a vez diskouezet a-hed ar sadorn hag ar sul enderv), sonerezh tavarn gant divizoù, keleier evel-just met ar pezh a zedenn ar muiañ eo an heuliad trivliadus eus ar seurt a reer "soap opera" anezho e saozneg hag a drofed a-walc'h gant c'hoari-bouilh rak dalc'hmat e lamm an diviz eus an eil koublad c'hoarierien d'egile. "Ros na Rún" eo anvet – Roz ar Rinoù – Graet eo dreist-holl evit an dud yaouank, ennañ nouspet koublad dimezet pe nann, ur c'houblad heñvelreviat zoken e karg eus ur c'hrouadur ma'z eo aet e gañjolen a vamm da c'haloupat n'ouzer ket da belec'h. Kement ha diskouez ivez e tlefed aotreñ heñvelrevidi da advabañ bugale? C'hwi 'wel, TnaG n'emañ ket diwar-lerc'h en oadvezh-mañ an dispac'h revel... Ne blij ket d'an holl gwelet ar pezh zo evito un dismegañs ouzh an talvoudoù hengounel ha kristen met n'eus ket mui a harzoù d'ar... frankiz. TnaG a ya ivez gant ar froud evit kevezañ. Ne fell ket din lavaret ez eo un dra estren evelato. Er programmoù all e vez melezeurel mat buhez ar vro. Ar pal n'eo ket harpañ emsav an iwerzhoneg dre abostolerezh met degas ar yezh e buhez pemdeziek an dud en ur reiñ dihued dezho. Skignet e vez etre 4 ha 5 eurvezhiad bemdez an iwerzhoneg gant TnaG – muioc'h en daou zevezh dibenn-sizhun.

Teir eurvezhiad a vez aozet er vro, rannet ingal etre ar greizenn hec'h-unan, Teilifis Eireann 1 ha kenderc'herien dizalc'h. Ar peurrest zo filmoù prenet digant broioù all, da skouer 'Machair', ur c'hoari-bouilh e gouezeleg Bro-Skos gant troidigezh an divizoù en iwerzhoneg

merket dindan. Kalz eus ar filmoù estren a vez advouezhiet en iwerzhoneg. Graet e vez gant ar gevredigezh Telegael sezet en un ti bras nevezet ha kresket e Spidéal ma'z eo bet savet en e gichen kêriadenn *Ros na Rún*.

Abaoe pell'zo ez eo bet unan eus emelloù Telegael advouezhiañ filmoù evit ar vugale da vezañ diskouezet gant Teilifis Eireann 1. A-drugarez d'al labour-se ez eo bet sanket e kalon e-leizh a grennarded ar garantez evit ar yezh, muioc'h moarvat eget gant ar skolioù. Pouezus-meurbet eo bet evit TnaG bezañ gouest da gaout digant Telegael filmoù advouezhiet evit arvesterien a bep oad rak kalz koustusoc'h eo aozañ filmoù nevez. TnaG a rank mont en-dro gant nebeut a arc'hant. Goulennet e oa bet £15 milion ar bloaz pa oad o vont da sevel ar servij met ne voe asantet reiñ nemet £10 milion – B. Ahern a oa Maodiern ar Yalc'h neuze. Ur c'hresk £400,000 zo bet roet nevez'zo e-lec'h ar milion a oa ezhomm. Un aluzon! Arc'hant ar Stad a zeu dre hanterouriezh Údarás na Gaeltachta, ar bennadurezh karget da harpañ an diorroadur armerzhel er Gouezelva. Ahendall ez eus un nebeut engouestladurioù prevez ha gounidoù dister a-walc'h diwar bruderezh kenwerzh.

Ar skinwel iwerzhonek en deus roet fred d'un toullad mat a dud. Ouzhpenn 30 den zo oc'h ober war-dro ar mererezh hag ar prenañ-filmoù, ouzh o c'hinnig d'an arvesterien, h.a. Kant eurvezhiad a filmoù zo bet advouezhiet ar bloaz tremenet: 15 pe 20 gouezeleger barrek-mat ouzh en ober. Ha Telegael da vat o tiorren, hag o vont da ziazezañ kreizennoù e lec'hioù all dre ar vro, setu ma'z eus deuet ur c'heloù nec'hus evit dazont ar servij: digresket e vo a 10% evit ar bloaz'zeu ar sammad arc'hant da vout roet evit *Ros na Rún*. Ret e vo eta berraat an amzer gouestlet d'an drama-se.

Mantrusoc'h zo avat: emeur o paouez reiñ o sac'h da 15 eus an advouezhierien, ent die'hortoz-kaer dezho.

Anat eo ez eus bec'h war TnaG evit

mont co-dro gant an arc'hant a zebazher dezhañ. Kasas eo pa c'hoarvez an dra-se hag an holl o kanañ gloar d'an Tigr Kelt, d'al lammgresk en armerzh Iwerzhon, ha Maodiern ar Yalc'h stad ennañ oc'h embann ez eus deuet diwar an tailhoù £400 milion muioc'h eget na oad o c'hedal.

E Kendalc'h-bloaz Kevre ar Gouezeleg e kemennas sekretour meur an aozadur ez eus 1,560,000 eus poblañs ar Republik hag o deus disklêriet e niveradeg 1996 ez int gouest da gomz iwerzhoneg, ha 26% o lavaret e reont bemdez gant ar yezh, kalz pe nebeut. Kement-se a ziskouez ez eo gouest an emsav da ober berzh met ret eo e harpañ a-berzh-Stad. N'eo ket gant an hent-se e fell d'an INTO (C'hweluniad ar Skolaerien Kentañ Derezh) mont hag int o c'houlenn ma vo izelaet dere an iwerzhoneg en Deskadurezh o tegemer, e sigur harpañ an Emglev a Beoc'h, skolaerien eus ar C'hwec'h Kontelezh hep dezho bezañ desket ar yezh da gentañ. Fall a-walc'h eo dija live barregezh ar skolaerien en darn vrasañ eus ar skolioù.

A. Heusaft

Summary

Teilifis na Gaeilge has proved to be a success both in terms of the variety of programs and number of viewers. It broadcasts about 35 hours in Irish a week, 3/4 of which is home produced, the rest being bought from other countries and dubbed by a team of translators in Telegael. Unfortunately financial constraints are threatening the development of the service, at a time when "the economy is booming!" and the 1996 Census figures just released show a large increase (to over 1.5 million) in the number of people who can speak Irish, 26% of them stating that they speak it daily.

Ar Bed Keltiek

on line books, records, Celtic art,
Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82
Brest: 02.98.44.05.38
<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>
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bernez.abk@eurobreteagne.fr

Note: Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper), uses the term e-bost in preference to e-mail, like the Welsh. When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

Pascale Chevillard, "Maouez ar Bloaz '97"

The Maouez ar Bloaz (= Woman of the Year) '97 award was bestowed on March 6 on Pascale Chevillard for her important work as principal of the DIWAN secondary school ar Ar Releg-Kerhuon. This annual award, created in 1996 by Radio Glaz (Lesneven) and Keltic Associations (which aim at fostering Celtic-related activities in Brittany) is meant to highlight the part played by women in the Breton economy and promotion of the Breton culture. As headmistress in Ar Releg-Kerhuon Pascale has obtained excellent results for the 12 pupils who did their Leaving Certificate (GCE A-Levels) — the first time for her school — last year: they all passed, six of them with honours. Proof, if some doubted, that education through the medium of Breton does not disadvantage young people. She stressed however that the priority for DIWAN is not to score but to



Maouez ar Bloaz 1997 Award (photo Gi Keltik)

provide education in the best sense of the word. She insisted also on sharing the honour with Anna Vari Arzur, a nun who has pioneered in Plouvien education through Breton in Catholic schools.

The award consisted of a beautiful Henriot Bollore vase (of characteristic Breton style) and a big bouquet. The

ceremony took place in the office of the Credit Mutuel de Bretagne in Ar Releg, in the presence, among other personalities, of P. Le Treut, president of the Breton Cultural Institute. CMB has been the first bank to accept cheques in Breton.

Gi Keltik
Manager, Radio Glaz

Regional Elections

Regional elections took place in France on March 21, the departments being the constituencies in which the various parties put forward their lists of candidates to be elected by proportional representation. In Region Brittany they were competing for 83 seats on the Regional Council. The French parties' candidates sought to capitalize on the heightened sense of Breton identity, even making use of a few words of Breton in their propaganda leaflets, but there was hardly any debate of the overall Breton issues. It is interesting however, that a two and a half hour discussion in Breton organised by Radio Glas with representatives of the 5 main lists in Finistère expressed agreement on the need to decentralize powers to the Regions in matters of language and culture. In France these elections are only regional in name, they are just a side show in the tug-of-war of the centralist parties.

The Breton independence party EMGANN did not think it worthwhile to play this game. The UDB, having failed to get a commitment from the Socialists to support Breton demands and enter into a pact with them, included 12 militant members of cultural organisations in good positions on its lists in an effort to minimize the splintering of the Breton vote



Candidates discuss in Breton need to decentralise (photo Gi Keltik)

without however departing from its leftist position. They campaigned under the motto "Let us succeed together in Brittany": for tactical reasons they thought it better not to call for self-government or autonomy. This soft approach has yet to prove its worth.

There were other lists with regionalist aims, a different one in each of the Brittany-4 departments. In Finistère, J.Y. Cozan, who as a General Councillor gave valuable service to the Breton language and who has now severed his links with the UDF/RPR parties, got 6.79% of the vote. He was thus elected together with another man on his list. In Côtes-d'Armor the outgoing Regional Councillor G. Gautier, close to the POBL, but standing as an independent, failed to be re-elected.

The best results achieved by the UDB lists were 4.08% and 3.87% in Côtes-d'Armor and Morbihan respectively. In all they garnered 49,336 votes in the 5 departments, an increase of 13,000 compared to 1992 when however they formed an alliance with POBL and EMGANN. Not enough to get any elected. Adding all the votes cast for Breton-minded candidates, the total amounted to 95,000. The UDB is satisfied that the potential for further gains is there, and that the above increase is all the more remarkable that the abstention rate (46.5%) was higher than before — a sign that the people recognise how little the Regional Council can do, given its very limited attributions and meagre budget.

The traditional French parties of Left and Right got 34 seats each, totalling with other minority groups 37 and 38 respectively. The National Front failed to make any progress, even lost 23,000 votes, but got 7 seats. The ecologists fared very badly.

J.Y. Cozan and his associate cast their vote for the Rightist candidate to the presidency of the B-4 Regional Council, the duke Josselin de Rohan Chabot, thus ensuring his election. The duke is expected to rock the Breton boat as little as his predecessor Y. Bourges. However Cozan was rewarded with the Vice-Presidency of the Council in charge of cultural matters. He has since pledged to promote "the Breton personality" and to work for the setting up of a Breton television channel. The pressure is mounting for such a service. Cozan is also now looking around for the possibility of launching a broadly based regionalist movement. Its appeal is not directed only to the "Right", it could be a serious rival to the UDB.

Darempredoù Politikel etre Iwerzhon ha Bro-Skos

Da gentver un droiad e Glasc'ho d'an 9 a viz Mae e liblêrius Bertie Ahern, Kentañ Ministr Iwerzhon, e oa mennet da ziorren darempredoù politikel, kenwerzhel ha sevenadurel etre ar vro-mañ ha Bro-Skos. Se a vete graet e framenn ar C'huzul Iwerzhonat-Breizhveuriat (Kuzul an Inizi) zo da vezañ savet hervez ma'z eo divizet dre an emglev a beoc'h sinet e Beal Feirste d'an 10 a viz Ebrel. Emañ Ahern e soñj delc'her emvedoù reoliek, div wezh ar bloaz marteze, gant ar C'hentañ Ministr skosat a vo anvet goude an dilennadegoù d'ar Parlamant e Din Edin. Emvedoù all a vo etre ministred Iwerzhonat ha kargidi skosat evit plediñ ouzh al lazoù niverus ha zo boutin d'an div vro.

Goude ma oa bet dieubet an darn vrasañ eus Iwerzhon e 1921 ne oa ket bet mui a zarempredoù politikel ecun etrezo.

Er leur ma oa ul liamm bennak etre o dilennidi e rankent bezañ evezhiek: ret e oa diwall na vije anaozet ar Saozon! Met bremañ gant ar c'hemmoù bonreizhel o tegas emrenerezh da Vro-Skos e vo tu da c'houarnamant Dulenn da c'hoveliañ darempredoù kefridiel ganti.

Republikaned'zo zo troet da grediñ e klaskor dre ar C'huzul-an-Inizi sachañ Iwerzhon en-dro e-barzh ar C'h-Commonwealth. Ne gav ket din, rak re a zizunvaniezh a savfe dre ar vro. Dre startaat an darempredoù gant Bro-Skos avat e tlefe bezañ gwanaet eneberezh ur c'haiz eus Unanourien Bro-Ulad ouzh an Emglev a Beoc'h. Plijout a ra dezho kounnat ez int a orin skosat. Diaes e vo dezho chom da vouzhañ ma en em renk mat an div vro ez int perzhiek enno.

A.H.

NANTES IN BRITTANY

More than 5,000 people from all parts of Brittany took part in a demonstration on March 1 in Nantes organised by CUAB, the committee campaigning for the administrative reunification of Loire-Atlantique with the other 4 Breton departments. By all press accounts it was a success, although it coincided with another demonstration, against the French National Front, of which the participants joined the CUAB's late in the afternoon. On the same day, the N.F. had a gathering in another part of the city, attended by about 2,000 people.

It is many years since so many Bretons came together to express opposition to the division of our country the main reasons for which is the will of all French governments to keep it weak. The separation of Loire-Atlantique goes back to a decree of the Vichy government in 1941. It was decided in the context of Pétain's restauration of the provinces but it deliberately ignored the fact that this area had continuously been part of Brittany since 845. The population was not consulted. This arbitrary act was confirmed in 1960 by the arch-centralist Gaullist P.M. Debré. When campaigning for the presidency in 1981, Mitterand promised reunification but forgot about it as soon as elected. Since then, public money has been lavished by the "baron" Guichard, president of the L.-A. General Council, on schemes to create some sort of identity for the artificial "Pays de Loire" region to which "his" department is attached. (Guichard has now retired. Good riddance!)



For Nantes in Brittany 1 3.98 (photo Th. Jigourel)

In April 1997 the Regional Council of "Brittany-4" adopted a resolution inviting the L.-A. Council to reunification talks. This was dismissed by Guichard. The government says no change will occur unless the L.-A. people want it. Don't expect any initiative from Paris!

Yet a majority has been repeatedly shown to be in favour. On March 1 CUAB had a tent on one of the avenues in Nantes for the public to vote on the issue under control from press. 3,032 people took part. 98% voted for reunification. Of those residing in L.-A. the figure was 72%, which was still a strong majority. Granted that it may have been influenced by the coincidence with the demonstration, but on 17 April the magazine Le Pellerin published the results of a representative poll showing that 62% of the people of L.-A. wished it to be part of Region Brittany.

This shows a great constancy in their mind: in 1986 a similar poll conducted by the Nantes High School of Commerce gave a figure of 63%. It is all the more remarkable that for the past 60 years the population of the Nantes area were kept ignorant by the media of events relating to Breton identity in the rest of Brittany.

The UDB is now campaigning for a referendum on the issue in L.-A. The party opposes any reform of the voting system for the European elections (which may finally be based in France on the regions as it is in other European States) if it does not respect the territorial integrity of Brittany. With its 5 departments our country constitutes a European region of average size. It possesses a strong identity which enhances its potential in the economic field. It should have 5 MEPs.

Th. Jigourel and A. Heusaff

Thousands in Support of Charter



For ratification of Language Charter Rennes 4-4-98 (photo Th. Jigourel)

Six member States of the Council of Europe, among those which have signed the European Charter for Minority Languages, have to date ratified it: Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Switzerland, Croatia. However, France, the self-proclaimed land of the Rights of Man, continues to refuse to sign it with the usual contempt and contrived pretexts.

Having got the minimum requirement of 5 ratifications the Charter is now applicable but the French government takes refuge behind the negative advice given a year ago by the Council of State which said that the Charter would contravene the Constitution: its article 2 (introduced undoubtedly as a preventive clause in 1992) states that French is **THE** languages of the Republic. The way is thus blocked to a legal status being given to the "regional" languages. (So try now to get the sacred constitution re-amended! This cat and mouse game could go on until... the mouse falls dead! It is the desired effect).

A demonstration by four or five thousand people took place in Rennes on April 4 to press the French government to adopt the Charter and enable the Breton language to have its due place in the media, in education and in public life. They were responding to the call of some fifteen cultural and political organisations. They marched through the streets behind a huge black and white flag and a pipe band playing the music of the ARB hymn (words by Glenmor). Among them were elected representatives such the outgoing Regional Councillor Gérard Gautier and the new

Regional Councillor Jean-Yves Cozan now vice-president for cultural matters at regional level.

On the same day similar demonstrations were staged by 2,500-3,000 Basques in Bayonne and by a much smaller number of Alsacians in Strassburg. In the evening a Committee of the peoples of France for the signing of the Charter was set up in Rennes.

Thierry Jigourel

Kembraeg evit ar Vrezhoned

by Yvan Guehennec, 160 pages, with an introduction by Goulven Pennaod. Publ. by PREDER, 19 Park Maen Meur, 29700 Plovelh/Plomelin. 80 F + post.

This book of Welsh grammar is written from the point of view of those who know Breton, not as has usually been the case as a translation or an adaptation of textbooks with explanations in English. Given the numerous similarities between Welsh and Breton, the explanations could thus be cut down considerably. The lay-out of the various lessons (33 in all) is clear. In illustrating the rules, the author has used as much as possible terms which are common, but for the spelling, to the two languages. His grammatical terms, coined by the Preder 'school', differ partly from those in use for many decades now and adopted in the monolingual Breton dictionary of An Here. He has thus 'pennanv', 'adanv', 'gwanadur', instead of 'anv-kadam', 'anv-gwan', 'blotadur' for 'substantive',

bimonthly literary magazine in Breton, sub. 180 F/outside State 200 F to P. ar Bihan, 16 r. des Fours a Chaux, 35400 Sant-Malo.

The March-April issue (Nr 307, 120 pp.) brings several poems, one of which, *Mab an Intañvez*, by H. Seubil gKernaoudour, is in richly alliterated as well as rhyming verses about the Peredur the British-Welsh hero who became Parcival in the Arthurian tales. There is also a number of rather short stories, four of them translated from Dutch, German and French: a tale from the *F. an Uhel* collection with a translation into Cornish by S. Amos; a detailed study of how to use the preposition *da* (= to) by Roman ar Glev, the author of a ten volume French-Breton dictionary published in 1993 by **AL LIAMM** which gives numerous examples of contexts in which the words have been used by good writers (some 4,000 pages). Reun ar C'halan has a 7 page account of the poetry of Jorge Guillen, a Spaniard whom he got acquainted with in America and who wrote for him a five page poem, translated here into Breton under the title "Archantourezh ar Morganezed" (The Lure of the Sirens).

adjective', lenition', respectively. He presents the Welsh language in its standard modern form such as it is found in radio and television, in literature and journalism. His book will enable the Breton, but also the Welsh students to gain a good knowledge of the extent to which their languages are similar and thereby a deeper understanding of their structures. Two other volumes are planned.

A.H.

RADIO IN BRETON

Two new community radio stations, Radio Kerne (Kemper) and Arvorig (Kommanna) have now been licensed and are due shortly to start broadcasting in Breton. This is an important step towards creating a federation of the stations broadcasting in our language, thus joining Radio Kreiz Breizh, Radio Gwened, Radio Glas and others. The Breton Cultural Council has just published a booklet giving an overview of the present position of the languages on radio.

A.H.

Os Yw Arian Cymru'n Ddigon Da, Mae Pobl Cymru'n Ddigon Da Hefyd!

Pigion Celtaidd

Ynys Manaw

Y Perthynas Gyda'r Deyrnas Gyfunol

Dros y blynyddoedd trosglwyddwyd mwy a mwy o reolaeth fewnol yr Ynys o Lundain i lywodraeth yr Ynys - Tynwald. Mae'r cyfrifoldeb eithaf ar gyfer llywodraeth dda yn nwylo coron Lloegr, ar gyngor Gweinidogion y Deyrnas Gyfunol. O dan gyfraith ryngwladol mae'r Deyrnas Gyfunol yn gyfrifol am gysylltiadau allanol, ond iddynt ymgynghori gyda Tynwald cyn arwyddo unrhyw gytundeb a fyddai'n effeithio ar yr Ynys. Mae materion amddiffyn hefyd yn nwylo Llundain, a Tynwald yn talu cyfraniad blynyddol.

Y Perthynas Gyda'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd

Mae'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd wedi cytuno statws cynorthwyol gyda'r Ynys sy'n sicrhau mynediad a symudiad rhydd ar gyfer nwyddau rhwng yr Ynys a'r Gymuned. Felly mae'r Ynys yn rhan o'r Gymuned ar gyfer masnach, heb gyfrannu at gyllideb y Gymuned na thynnu budd ohoni. Dyna paham mae'r Ynys wedi ffynnu fel canolfan Ewropeaidd y tu allan i'r Gymuned ond efo mynediad rhydd iddi.

Clive James

Cernyw

Is-Etholiadau

Enillodd y Torïaid ddau is-etholiad yng Nghernyw yn ddiweddar. Enillwyd sedd oddi ar annibynnwr yn ward Gogledd Helles/Helston, dosbarth Kerrier, ac enillwyd sedd oddi ar y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ward Crinnis, dosbarth Restormel.

CJ

Gwyl Y Gernyweg

Cynhaliwyd wythnos o weithgareddau Cernyweg ym mis Ebrill - y "Goel an Yeth" (Gwyl yr Iaith) gyntaf gan Cowethas an Yeth Kernewek. Bwriedir cynnal yr ŵyl, sydd yn cynnwys y Penwythnos Gernyweg draddodiadol , bob blwyddyn o hyn ymlaen. Cynhaliwyd y Bennseythyn/ Benwythnos ei hun (a fynyichir gan ddefnyddwyr y sustem ffonemig "Kemmyrn" gan fwyaf) - gwersi, darlithiau, dawnio - wrth ymyl Lizard yn nehau eithaf Cernyw. Bwriedir cyhoeddi y geiriadur cyntaf o Saesneg i Gernyweg 'Kemmyrn' erbyn seremoni Gorseth Kernow ym mis Hydref eleni.

Yr Alban

Gorsaf Reilffordd Caeredin

Sylwyd gan rai cenedlaetholwyr bod y cyhoeddiadau ar y corn siarad ynghylch platfformau ac amseroedd y trenau ym mhrif orsaf reilffordd Caeredin, Gorsaf Waverley, yn cael eu cyfleu nid yn unig yn uniaith Saesneg (fel y disgwyliai rhywun wrth gwrs!), ond gydag acen Seisnig, a rhai enwau lleoedd Albanaidd yn cael eu cam-ynganu. Mae'n debyg eu bod yn debyg i'r llais cyfoglyd fydd yn cyfleu'r cyhoeddiadau yng ngorsaf Caerdydd Canolog. Cafwyd ymgyrch am gyhoeddiadau corn siarad gan Albanwr (heb ofyn am newid yr iaith) a llwyddodd yr ymgyrch yn o rwydd. Erbyn hyn mae'r cyhoeddiadau yn dal yn Saesneg ond llais Albanaidd sydd yn eu cyfleu. Mae hyn yn esiampl o agweddau gwahanol tuag at iaith yng Nghymru a'r Alban. Gwelir Saesneg ag acen Albanaidd yn sumbol o'u cenedligrwydd gan rai yn yr Alban. Ydi hi'n werth i ni ystyried mynnu nid yn unig statws i'r Gymraeg ond hefyd bod Saesneg swyddogol yn cael ei chyfleu mewn acen Gymreig?

Robat ap Tomos

Yr angen am ddeddf iaith yn y sector preifat

Efallai mai 'gwell hanner na dim' yw'r dywediad mwyaf cyffredin i ni fel cenedl. Hynny yw, hanner sianel, hanner deddf iaith, hanner datganoli hyd yn oed. Rhaid bod yn ymarferol wrth gwrs a symud y frwydr ymlaen gam wrth gam fel petai. Wedi'r cwbl, gall briwsion ymddangos yn ddanteithion go ddeniadol i ddyn sy'n newynu. Cyhyd a'n bod yn derbyn mai camau yn unig ar hyd y daith ydynt, popeth yn iawn. Nid oedd Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 yn ddigon cynhwysfawr. 'Rydym yn rhy ddibynnol o hyd ar 'ewyllys da' a defnyddir y geiriad enwog 'rhesymol ac yn ymarferol' yn rhy aml o lawer i esgusodi ymddygiad na all neb call ei ystyried yn drinaeth gyfartal.

Cred Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg bod angen symud yn awr i fanteisio ar agwedd y cyhoedd at y Gymraeg, sydd, yn ein profiad ni , yn fwy positif nag erioed o'r blaen. Nid sôn am ystadegau ydwyf ond sôn am brofiadau ein haelodau wrth siarad a'r cyhoedd ar strydoedd Cymru. Dyma'r 'prawf litmws' go iawn. O'r diwedd 'rydym yn ennill y frwydr dros galonnau a meddyliau pobl Cymru. Byddai derbyn y sefyllfa bresennol yn gyfystyr a derbyn ein bod yn fodlon ildio'r tir sydd yno i'w ennill. Yn dilyn ein cyfarfod hanesyddol gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru eleni gofynnodd e i ni baratoi adroddiad ar y cyfleustodau a breifateiddiwyd. Ar hyn o bryd ystyrir y cyfleustodau hyn yn rhan o'r sector preifat er bod dyfarniadau o Dy'r Arglwyddi a Llys Cyfiawnder Ewrop yn datgan yn gwbl glir mai rhan o'r sector cyhoeddus ydynt. Gwrthododd y Torfaid dderbyn y cynseiliau cyfreithiol yma . 'roedd dogma'r farchnad rydd yn bwysicach o lawer na rhywbeth mor bitw ag iaith gwlad eilradd fel Cymru. Croesawn agwedd bositif Ron Davies a'i frwdfrydedd at y Gymraeg. Ond beth fyddai'n digwydd pe bai Mr Blair yn penderfynu dewis Ysgrifennydd Gwladol mwy 'dol' yn ei le? Nid yw ewyllys da unigolyn neu unigolion,

pwyl bynnag ydynt, yn ddigon i warchod buddiannau'r Gymraeg. Dylid cynnwys y cyfleustodau a breifateiddiwyd o dan Ddeddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 ar unwaith. Mae'n ddiddorol nodi bod y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig yn paratoi adroddiad ar hyn o bryd ynglŷn â dwyieithrwydd yn y cyfleustodau. Ni ellid gor-bwysleisio pamor bwysig yw hyn oll wrth ystyried y bydd y sector yma'n cael ei ddadreoli'r flwyddyn nesaf. Daeth yr anghysondeb cyfreithiol yma i'r amlwg oherwydd gwaith Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg. O'r diwedd mae pobl yn dechrau gwrandao amom. Fodd bynnag, swyddogaeth bwysicaf Cymdeithas yr Iaith yw gosod agenda a herio'r drefn sydd ohoni. Os yw pobl yn fodlon derbyn popeth yr ydym yn ei ddweud, dim ond dau bosibiliad sydd. Naill ai ein bod wedi ennill y frwydr yn gyfan gwbl neu nid ydym yn cyflawni prif swyddogaeth y mudiad.

Anwybyddwch yr hyn mae Arglwyddi a gweision suful yn ei ddweud. Mae'n bryd i ni ddechrau pwyso am Ddeddf Iaith gyflawn a fyddai'n cael ei weithredu yn y sector preifat yn ogystal â'r sector cyhoeddus. Pam fod rhaid i ni fel cenedl dderbyn hanner mesurau trwy'r amser? Gallaf fod yn rhyw fath o Gymro wrth ddelio â Chyngor ond ni allaf ddisgwyl derbyn yr un 'frait' wrth wneud busnes â chwmnïau mawrion sy'n gallu gwneud cannoedd o filiynau o bunnau bob blwyddyn. Nid oes unrhyw gyflawnhad neu resymeg yn y peth o gwbl. A dweud y gwir, gellid dadlau bod y rhan fwyaf ohonom yn ymwneud â chwmnïau, siopau ac ati yn llawer mwy aml nag yr ydym yn ymwneud â chyrrif cyhoeddus. Yn bersonol, rwy' am fod yn Gymro cyflawn, nid rhyw greadur bach llipa sy'n derbyn bod ganddo ffiniau i'w hawliau. Rhaid bod yn rhesymol, rhaid derbyn mai proses hir ydyw. Lol! Yr unig 'rhaid', yw bod yn rhaid i ni ddechrau sylweddoli mai llai na hanner y frwydr yr ydym wedi'i hennill. Wrth gwrs bydd rhai yn honni y byddai cyflwyno'r fath ddeddfwriaeth yn niweidiol i economi Cymru. Codi hwgannod yn unig yw hyn. Pan ddaw cwmnïau o Siapan i fuddsoddi ym Mhrydain mae'n rhaid iddynt ymdopi ag un iaith estron yn barod, hynny yw, y Saesneg. Mae cwmnïau masnachol yn bodoli er mwyn gwneud arian, ac ni allent anwybyddu marchnad o faint y tair miliwn o bobl sydd yng Nghymru.

Dros y blynyddoedd rwy' wedi siarad â channoedd o gwmnïau gwahanol. Gallaf ddweud yn gwbl ddiffuant na allaf feddwl am yr un cwmni a fyddai'n gwrthod masnachu yng Nghymru pe baent yn

gorfod defnyddio'r Gymraeg. Ystyriwch ein hymgyrch cenedlaethol diweddar yn erbyn Tandy. Dywed y cwmni mewn llythrau atom eu bod yn defnyddio'r Ffrangeg yng Nghanaada gan fod yn rhaid iddynt o dan gyfraith y wlad honno. Nid ydynt yn fodlon defnyddio'r Gymraeg yng Nghymru am nad oes deddfwriaeth i'w gorfodi nhw i wneud hynny. Ond pe bai rhaid ni fyddai dim problem o gwbl. Ydy hawliau'r siaradwyr Ffrangeg yng Nghanaada yn bwysicach na hawliau'r siaradwyr Cymraeg yng Nghymru?

Ar ôl blynyddoedd o ymgyrchu yn erbyn banciau, cymdeithasau adeiladu, siopau mawr fel Marks and Spencer (diddorol oedd gweld Dafydd Êl yn ceisio dweud mai Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg oedd yn gyfrifol am y fuddugoliaeth honno!), Dixons ac yn y blaen, mae'n deg dweud bod y sefyllfa wedi gwella tipyn, yn arwynebol o leiaf. Ond enillion bregus iawn ydynt. Yn ddiweddar cefais sgwrs ddiddorol gyda phencadlys Boots. Wedi i'r Gymdeithas eu cynorthwyo dechreusant godi mwy o arwyddion Cymraeg nag erioed o'r blaen yn eu canghennau. Ond, mae'n debyg fod rhai o'r cwsmeriaid wedi cwyno eu bod wedi mynd ar goll yn siopau Boots wedi'u drysu'n llwyr gan fod y Gymraeg yr un maint â'r Saesneg ar yr arwyddion! Dadl a fu farw gyda'r helynt dros arwyddion ffyrdd flynnyddoedd yn ôl! Ond yn awr, mae Boots yn ystyried lleihau'r nifer o arwyddion Cymraeg a maint eu llythrennau achos bod rhaid iddynt wrando ar farn eu 'cwsmeriaid'. Felly, gall sefyllfa'r Gymraeg waethgu ar ôl llond llaw o gwynion gan bobl sydd ar y gorau yn hollol anwybodus ac ar y gwaethaf yn hollol ragfamillyd.

Un enghraifft yn unig yw hon. Gallwn restru sawl un arall ac oni bai ein bod yn mynnu deddfwriaeth yn y sector preifat bydd mudiadau fel y Gymdeithas yn gorfod plismona'r setyllta ac ymateb yn ffyrmig er mwyn diogelu hawliau siaradwyr Cymraeg.

Ar ddiwedd y dydd nid yw cwyllys da mor effeithiol â fframwaith cyfreithiol, nid yw dwyn perswad mor effeithiol â gorfodaeth deddf. Deallaf fod gorfodaeth yn air anffasiynol mewn rhai cylchoedd, yr un mor anffasiynol â chenedlaetholdeb mewn cylchoedd eraill. 'Does neb yn parchu cenedl o bobl wngalon. Mae'r neges yn syml iawn: Os yw arian Cymru'n ddigon da mae pobl Cymru'n ddigon da hefyd!

GARETH KIFF

Cadeirydd Cenedlaethol,
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg



Defection to Plaid Cymru

Clr. Llew Davies, representing a ward in Bangor, has defected from the Labour group on Gwynedd Council and joined Plaid Cymru.

Bye-Elections

There have been two bye-elections in the Penrhyn-ar-Ogwr/Bridgend County Borough Council area. Plaid Cymru gained Cefn Cribwr ward from Labour with a majority of 34.8% and a Liberal Democrat gained Trelales/Laleston from Labour.

European Aid

To be eligible for European Community Objective One status (the most generous aid), an area has to have less than 75% of the EU average GDP. With the European average being 100, the English state stands at 96; Wales is 80, England being 98, Scotland 96 and Northern Ireland 78. The state's wealthiest area, London, stands at 139. The statistics for smaller areas are notoriously misleading. Those officially above the 75% threshold are Caerdydd/Cardiff (123), Casnewydd/Newport (100), Torfaen (100), Wrecsam (96), Bro Morgannwg/Vale of Glamorgan (95), Sir Fflint/Flintshire (92), Gwynedd (81) and Abertawe/Swansea (78). However is Gwynedd really so much wealthier than neighbouring Ynys Môn (53), Conwy (55), Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire (69) and Ceredigion (59)?

The GDP figures for other Celtic areas of the state are Kernow 69, Highland 77, Fife 77, Borders 82, Scottish Islands 84, Strathclyde 88, Dumfries & Galloway 89, Tayside 91, Lothian 126 and Grampian 129.

Welsh Given Parliamentary Status

The Procedure Committee of the House of Commons has agreed that the Welsh Language can be used at meetings of the Welsh Grand committee when it meets in Wales.

Clive James

Assembly Referendum Result Analysed

A survey of voters after last September's historic referendum in Wales on whether the people living in Wales wanted their own elected assembly has revealed some interesting patterns. The result of the referendum was 50.3% in favour of an assembly with 49.7% against, a 'Yes' majority of some 7,000. The result by supporters of each party was:-

Party	Turnout	Yes	No
Plaid Cymru	76%	93%	7%
Labour	58%	59%	41%
Liberal Democrats	63%	29%	71%
Conservatives	70%	10%	90%

It is significant that the highest turnout was from supporters of the two parties with the strongest views on the national question - Plaid Cymru, the national party, and the Conservative & Unionist party,

traditionally the party of the English in Wales. The relatively indecisive vote of Labour party supporters shows that many of them put unionism before party and class loyalty. The Liberal Democrats are the most pro-devolution of the unionist parties and the negative vote of their supporters can be explained that their power-base is in anglicised Powys where they win support on issues other than the national question.

Voters born in Wales voted 55% to 45% in favour and voters born in England (i.e. mostly immigrants) voted 2-1 against. Fluent Welsh speakers were 7-2 in favour while English-only speakers were 3-2 against. The Yes-No difference according to language was much higher than that for any other non-political factor. It is notable too that the percentage turnout was

significantly higher among Welsh-speakers than non-Welsh-speakers suggesting that the issue meant more to them. Gwynedd, our most Welsh-speaking county, was the county with the highest turnout. Voters under 45 were more inclined to vote 'Yes' and the older voters more to vote 'No'.

This survey confirms the views of nationalist commentators that national identity (rather than geography, social class etc.) was the major factor in determining how people voted, with those considering themselves as Cymry or Welsh mostly voting 'Yes' and those feeling primarily British /English being against. It is significant that the Yes-No difference between Welsh and English speakers was much higher than any other non-political factor.

C. James/R. ap Tomos

Language Rights in Pontypridd

The town council of Pontypridd, south east Wales, was targeted by Cymdeithas yr Iaith following the discovery of their draft language policy which was extremely negative towards Welsh. It included the statement "Bilingual forms are considered to be *confusing* and there are none currently in use by the Town Council. The provision of forms printed in the Welsh language for issue on demand... will be *considered* in the longer term. *Target date: April 2001*" (our italics). Correspondence from Cymdeithas was answered in English. A Cymdeithas spokesman said "It is incredible that five years after the Welsh Language Act they are coming out with statements like this." The Pontypridd area in some ways symbolises the fate of our language over the last century. In the heart of the southern coal field, it was solidly Welsh-speaking up to the mid-19th century. It was anglicised by a heavy influx of English and Irish immigrants seeking work in the mines coinciding with the introduction of English-only education and the "Welsh Not" which ensured the immigrants were not linguistically assimilated. While there are still native speakers in the older generations, there is great demand from younger non-Welsh speaking parents for bilingual education.

Robat ap Tomos

Clifford Ifan Bere

I would like to add to the obituary of Cliff Bere (1915-1997) which appeared in *Carn 101* as it did not mention Cliff's major contribution to Pan Celtic movement and his total commitment to achieving cooperation between the Celtic nations.

It was my privilege to know and also correspond with Cliff Bere since the late 1960s. For anyone interested in Pan-Celticism, his theoretical work *Toward the Political Confederation of Celtia*, published by Y Lolfa, Wales, 1989, was one of the most important discussions of the principle aims of the Celtic League. It remains a work which every Pan-Celticist should have on their shelves.

Cliff was a law graduate from Carmarthen who was an unremitting socialist, Welsh republican as well as Pan-Celticist. He fought Fascism in 1939-1945, serving in the British Army, but refused military recall during the Korean War. He volunteered to work in the Welsh mines during this time to make his point. He subsequently worked in the National Museum of Wales.

Cliff's major novel in Welsh was *Pennod yn Hanes Milawr* (Chapter in the Story of a Soldier), published by Y Lolfa, 1989. A 'future' novel about a war to regain Welsh independence. Significantly,

Cliff quoted A.E. Houseman as the opening quote to the novel:

In my heart it has not died,

The war that sleeps on Severnside

The copy that Cliff signed for me still has a pride of place on my shelves.

Cliff's involvement and activities in the cause of Pan Celticism went back to the 1940s. His articles in the magazine *The Welsh Republic* during the early 1950s prepared the way for the emergence of a more full blooded concept of Pan Celticism in the 1960s with the foundation of the Celtic League.

When he published his pamphlet, containing the manifesto of the Welsh Republican Movement, *The Welsh Republic* (1947) he was unambiguous as to the goal of Pan Celticism:

"Federalism in Britain under English patronage would certainly not give the vital substance of freedom to the Welsh nation only its ineffectual shadow. It is only a continental or Celtic federation of nations that Wales can rightly belong and perhaps owe the moral duty to surrender some part of her sovereignty."

Those words written fifty years ago have a strong resonance today as we, as Cliff foresaw, move into federalism in Britain under English patronage.

Peter Berresford Ellis



Comhairle agus Tacaíocht do Ghaeil na hAlban

Thug triúr ionadaí as Éireann cuairt ar Ghlaschú na hAlbain ar an 13 Meitheamh chun labhairt le grúpa tuismitheoirí faoi scoil lánGhàidhlighe neamhspleách a bhunú. Ba iad an triúr ionadaí ná Pádraic Ó Ciardha, TnaG, Ciarán Ó Feinneadha, tuismitheoir agus bunaitheoir gael scoile agus Jacqueline Ní Fhearghúsa ón eagraíocht *Gaelscoileanna*. Chuaigh an triúr go Glaschú ar chuireadh ó Donalda McKinnon, Ceannasaí na gClár Gàidhlighe i mBBC Alba, ata ina tuismitheoir sa sruth Gàidhlighe sa chathair sin. Tá an sruth sin ar an saol le 13 bliaina agus tá ag éirí go maith leis. Mar sin féin, tá go leor fadhbanna ag baint le tumoideachas a chur ar fáil i dtimpeallacht an chéad teanga. Tá 55 sruth Gàidhlighe ag feidhmiú in Albain faoi láthair, idir an bhunleibhéal agus an iarbhunleibhéal agus idir Ghaeltacht agus Gallacht. Tá na sruthanna sin ag feidhmiú taobh istigh de scoileanna Bearla, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil siad timpeallaithe ag teanga atá i suíomh i bhfad níos láidre ná an Ghàidhlig féin. Tá na tuismitheoirí a bhfuil páistí dá gcuid ag freastal ar an sruth i nGlaschú díograiseach agus fadradharcach. Feiceann siad na deacrachtaí a bhaineann leis an sruth, go príomhach maidir le labhairt na Gàidhlighe sa sruth féin. Deirtear linn go bhfuil sé thar a bheith deacair na páistí a spreagadh leis an nGàidhlig a labhairt catarthu féin agus taobh amuigh den seomra ranga toisc go bhfuil tionchar an Bhéarla ró láidir sa scoil.

Sin ar ndóigh an taithi atá ag Gaeil na hÉireann chomh maith agus tá an eagraíocht *Gaelscoileanna* go mór i gcoinne bunú sruthanna ar an mbonn nach féidir tumoideachas sa dara theanga a chur i bhfeidhm go héifeachtach i dtimpeallacht an chéad teanga. Níl aon cheist faoi ach gurbé an rogha is fearr ar fad ná scoil neamhspleách le príomhoide, buíon múinteoirí atá dílis agus tugtha d'idéil an

tumoideachais agus tuismitheoirí agus páistí atá compordach le nóisean an dátheangachais.

Bhuaíl an toscaireacht as Éirinn le grúpa tuismitheoirí ar dtús agus labhradar leo faoin taithi atá acu ar ghaoideachas in Éirinn. Deineadh tagairt do na deacrachtaí



Jacqueline Ní Fhearghúsa, one of the Irish delegation which visited Glasgow

a bhaineann le scoil neamhspleách a bhunú, fadhbanna le cóiríocht, leis na húdaráis éagsúla, leis an Roinn Oideachais srl., ach luadh chomh maith an spiorad a bhaineann leis na scoileanna, díograis na dtuismitheoirí agus na múinteoirí agus an tairbhe a bhaineann na páistí as a bheith ag fáil oideachais sna scoileanna seo.

An teachtaireacht is láidre a tugadh do na tuismitheoirí an tráthnóna sin ná gurbh fhiú go mór tabhairt faoi agus nach stopfadh aon duine nó aon rud iad dá mbeidís láidir agus aontaithe faoina bhfuil le baint amach acu. Luaigh cuid de na tuismitheoirí a bhí i láthair go raibh fonn orthu muintir na hÉireann a bhí ag cur futhu i nGlaschú a mhealladh chuig na scoile. Mar is eol dúinn ar fad tá daonra mór Éireannaigh i nGlaschú, ach go háirithe ó Thír Chonaill agus ó na sé chontae. Tá súil ag Donalda agus a cairde

go mbeidh siad in ann roinnt de pháistí na ndaoine sin a mhealladh isteach sa scoil.

Bhuaíl an toscaire leis an Aire Stáit Brian Wilson, MP, a bhfuil curam na Gàidhlighe agus Oideachais air ag coisir speisialta an oíche cheanna ag a raibh tuismitheoirí agus ionadaithe ón gCoiste Bunaithe. Labhair an tAire faoina dhílseacht féin don oideachas trí mheán na Gàidhlighe agus faoin dochas atá air go mbeidh ar a laghad scoil amháin neamhspleách lánGàidhlighe i nGlaschú taobh istigh de bhliain. Luaigh sé chomh maith go bhfuil airgead curtha ar leataobh anois chun oifigeach forbartha don oideachas lánGàidhlighe a fhostú chun an réimse sin a leathnú agus a fhorbairt ar fud na hAlbain. Tá páiste an Aire féin ag freastal ar an sruth Gàidhlighe i nGlaschú.

Ach ní hamháin go bhfuil muintir Ghlaschú ag lorg bunscóil neamhspleách, tá sé i gceist acu *campas* Gàidhlighe a bhunú ina mbeidh bunscóil, iarbhunscóil agus cultúrlann ann. Tá sé i gceist chomh maith go ndireofar ar reamhscolaíocht agus ar an oideachas trí leibhéal. Déanfar iarracht ealaíontoirí agus ceoltóirí agus lucht drámaíochta a mhealladh chuig an Ionad Chultúrtha seo. Ach an pointe is tabhachtaí faoin ionad seo ná go mbeidh sé neamhspleách go huile is go hiomlán ó aon Institiúid Oideachais eile.

Bhain muintir na hÉireann an-taitneamh as an turas agus braitheadh gur eirigh leo cuid de thaithi na hÉireann agus cuid den fhuinneamh agus dílseacht a bhaineann leis an oideachas lánGhaeilge in Éirinn a leiriú do mhuintir na hAlbain. Tathar thar a bheith sásta go bhfuil an gaol nua seo cothaithe idir Gaeil agus go mbeimid in ann droichead níos láidre a thógaint idir an dá thír ionas gur féidir linn tacaíocht agus comhairle la tabhairt dá cheile. Ar scath a cheile!

Jacqueline Ní Fhearghúsa
Gaelscoileanna

Summary

Parents from the Gàidhlig unit in Glasgow are interested in founding an all Gàidhlig primary school. At the invitation of Donalda McKinnon, Head of Gàidhlig programmes in BBC Scotland, who is a parent in the Gàidhlig unit, a three person delegation from Ireland visited Glasgow in mid June to share the Irish experience in Irish medium education with those interested.

Gaelscoileanna does not favour units due to the difficulties of providing Irish medium education in an English environment. Independent Irish medium schools, with their own dedicated teaching staff and parents who understand and support the system, are much more preferable. This message was communicated strongly to the



*Tomás Mac Ruairi, new Uachtarán
Conradh na Gaeilge.*

At the Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis held in Limerick in early May a new president was returned. He is Tomás Mac Ruairí, a long time Conradh activist, whom many in the other Celtic countries may have come across through his involvement over the years in organising Irish participation in the *An Lorient* festival in Brittany. He has been a member of the Irish Branch of the League for many years. He stated that he hoped to put the emphasis during his term of office on encouraging youth involvement, setting up branches in third level colleges and organising a number of campaigns to pursue the action plan of An Conradh.

At the Ard-Fheis, the general secretary, Sean Mac Mathúna in presenting his annual report summarised issues which had risen in the last year and would influence the future status of Irish, positively or negatively.

- The need for an Irish Language Commissioner and Ombudsman as part of the promised Irish Language Bill of Rights.
- The constitutional status of Irish endangered as a result of recommendations of the review group on the Constitution.
- Positive references to Irish, although in

Comhairle...

Scottish parents. The difficulties encountered in Ireland in setting up and running such schools were explained as well as the substantial benefits to be gained. The delegation met Minister Brian Wilson, M.P., who has responsibility for Gàidhlig and Education. He expressed his own commitment to education through the medium of Gàidhlig. The visit is a welcome development in co-operation between Gaels and one which it is hoped can be expanded on.

Conradh Elects New President

vague contexts, in the Northern Agreement.

- * The use of Irish in the publicity and information campaigns for the Amsterdam Treaty Referendum.
- * A government promise to seek official and working status for Irish in the European Union.
- * The continuing refusal of the Irish government to sign the European Council Charter on languages.
- * Support structure promised for Irish language education. However there is a need to ensure that promises in the programme for government relating to the establishment of a special National Committee to improve the teaching of Irish and a Resources Centre for learners be implemented.
- * The Irish National Teachers Organisation Congress motion calling for an end to the requirement for Irish for all primary school teachers.
- * A common curriculum being demanded to end the Irish language requirements in



*Seán Mac Mathúna, General Secretary,
Conradh na Gaeilge.*

the Republic.

- * The concessions granted by the Minister for Education and Science to pressure groups leading to greatly weakened requirements for Irish qualifications for second level teachers in the vocational sector.
- * 1996 Census with a new and more detailed system of questions leading perhaps to an increase in the number of declared fluent speakers of Irish.
- * Fears and pessimism expressed in relation to the long term survival of the Irish language areas (Gaeltachtaí).

Amsterdam – Another Treaty Too Far



Patricia McKenna, Green Party MEP, whose constitutional case led to the setting up of the Referendum Commission which operated for the first time disseminating pro and anti information in the May Referenda.

The referendum on the Amsterdam Treaty, which further extends the powers of the EU, was won by the **Yes** camp, not surprisingly as all the major political parties were in favour. However the **Yes** vote was the lowest yet in a referendum on EU powers (62%). The main opposition to the Treaty was led by the Green Party and the party's MEP, Ms Patricia McKenna, published a book *Amsterdam Treaty - the Road to an Undemocratic and Military Superstate*. As always it seems the major **yes** plank was that the Irish had to vote **yes**, or be left behind, see EU grants diminish etc. There was no consideration of the possibility of achieving improvements by voting **no** and forcing changes (as the Danes did in the case of the Maastricht Treaty). It is clear also that the treaty severely threatens Ireland's neutrality reinforcing Maastricht in committing countries to the progressive framing of a common defence policy! Economic observers in Ireland, it may be said are now lamenting the loss of controls of the Irish economy, with possible adverse affects for the booming economy, which will result when Ireland joins the Euro currency system.

Northern Agreement Carried

The proposals agreed to on Good Friday of April 10th were put to referenda in the North and the Republic on the same day. In the North 71% voted in favour of the agreement. It is generally agreed that if this support is maintained and translated into seats in the Northern Assembly for the pro-agreement parties (the election campaign is underway at the time of writing with polling date being 25th June) that the Assembly and its political administration, with its various checks and balances can operate. In the Republic the vote in favour was even greater, about 90%

The referendum there involved substantial changes to the Constitution, principally in Articles 2 and 3, which previously read

Article 2 *The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas*

Article 3 *Pending the re-integration of the national territory and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and Government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect*

and were amended to

Article 2 *It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland. Furthermore, the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage*

Article 3 - 3.1 *It is the firm will of the Irish nation, in harmony and friendship, to unite all the people who share the territory of the island of Ireland, in all the diversity of their identities and traditions, recognising that a united Ireland shall be brought about only by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions in the island. Until then, the laws enacted by the Parliament established by this Constitution shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws enacted by the Parliament that existed immediately before the coming into*



David Trimble, Ulster Unionist Party leader, whose vote against the prisoner release Bill in Westminster does not bode well for the implementation of the Northern Agreement

operation of this Constitution.

3.2 *Institutions with executive powers and functions that are shared between those jurisdictions may be established by their respective responsible authorities for stated purposes and may exercise powers and functions in respect of all or any part of the island*

Despite these substantial changes - introducing the principle of consent from a majority in the North (overlooking the totally non-democratic nature of the foundation of the Northern State by the British in 1920), and raising, with an undefined national territory, the possibility of effects on future claims to oil, fisheries and other natural resources - the proposals, as stated, achieved a huge majority. This was no doubt achieved by the consensus in the 'pan nationalist front' with a major factor being the acceptance of the Agreement by those most heavily engaged in the struggle in the North over the last 30 years.

Of course it has to be seen how the Northern Assembly and its Executive will function. Commitments given on prisoner release and reform of the RUC have to be honoured. Attempts by some Unionists to link the thorny decommissioning issue with prisoner releases don't bode well and certainly no element of 'clawback' on the Agreement can be tolerated.

From the interceltic viewpoint we have to examine the British-Irish Council. "It will be composed of representatives of the British and Irish Governments, devolved

institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales when established and, if appropriate, elsewhere in the United Kingdom together with representatives of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands." This is a far cry from the Celtic League aim of a confederation of free Celtic Nations (including Brittany of course and excluding England and France) and too close to the Britannic Federation Model firmly rejected by the League over two decades ago. The southern Unionist mentality has already expressed itself calling for the Republic to rejoin the Commonwealth in the context of the new arrangements. Nevertheless some welcome must be given to the contacts between Celtic assemblies but let it be clear that such an arrangement can only be regarded as some small advance (but with some inherent dangers) towards our long term aim.



Dal Riata: From Erin to Alba

by Helen McSkimming

Dal Riata was the name of the ancient kingdom which stretched from the northern lands of Ulster and along the west coast of Scotland as far as Oban and the Inner Hebrides. This booklet explores the history of the emergence of Dal Riata - from its origins in Ireland to the inauguration of its greatest king, Aedán mac Gabrain, on Iona.

Drawing not only from classical and Roman accounts, but also from early Irish annals and the oral tradition of myth and legend, *Dal Riata From Erin to Alba* offers fresh insights into the genealogies of these early people of Ireland and Scotland and their links with the other Celtic peoples of Britain.

£3.50 (UK), £3.75 (EU), £4.50 (Overseas). Prices include airmail postage and packing.

Please make sterling cheques/ eurocheques payable to **Dalriada**. Dalriada Celtic Heritage Trust, Dun na Beatha, 2 Brathwic Place, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BN Scotland.

Demand to Probe Sea Dumps

An international commission is urgently required to enquire into the circumstances of the overall dumping policy by which the UK disposed of its own and captured chemical and conventional munitions in the Irish Sea and of western Ireland.

Speaking at the end of May on BBC Radio 4 news programme PM the Celtic League General Secretary reiterated warnings by the Celtic League that sea dumped munitions posed a continuing hazard to communities around the Irish Sea. The League also speculated that coastal contamination incidents were inevitable and would continue.



Irish Marine Emergency Services searching the beaches south of Dublin for more phosphor devices.

Within days this statement had been vindicated as munitions of a type which has to date seriously contaminated beaches in the North of Ireland, South West Scotland and the Isle of Man came ashore on the Co. Louth and Co. Dublin coasts (3/6/98). The description of the munitions matches phosphorous incendiary devices which as aircraft bombs were packed in a flimsy casing. It appears that with the passage of time these casings have deteriorated and the material is being carried by tidal pattern to the south central Irish Sea. The latest news is of concern in that it indicates the spread of munitions hitherto contained in the North Eastern Irish Sea area is likely to be more general.

Speaking in a feature on the Teilifis na Gaeilge main evening news on the 7th June on the washing up along the eastern coastline of Ireland of some thirty of these phosphorus devices Celtic League Convenor, Cathal Ó Luain, confirmed that these were similar to such devices previously brought ashore on coasts in the northern Irish Sea area. He called for a full investigation of the Beaufort Dyke dump and stressed the responsibility of the UK

government to take all necessary measures to secure or render the dump safe in order to protect the Irish Sea coastal communities from the ever increasing risk of further munitions being washed ashore on their beaches.

Beaufort Dyke contains an absolutely staggering and diverse collection of munitions. Several hundred thousand tonnes have been dumped in a period between the 1920s when it was used for the disposal of conventional and chemical material (such as mustard gas) and the early eighties when nuclear material was added to the cocktail. The British government have always misled the public

about the nature and extent of the problem. They originally contended that only conventional material had been disposed of and stuck to this story even after incidents such as that in 1969 when the crew of a Breton fishing vessel were seriously contaminated with mustard gas bombs trawled up at the dyke - two almost died. They eventually admitted disposal of all manner of ordnance but gave assurances dumping had ceased in 1973 - in fact dumping continued both at Beaufort and in dumps to the South West of Kerry until the early 1980s and included nuclear waste.

No coast around the Irish Sea is safe as this latest pollution as far south as Dublin proves. An international commission is urgently required to enquire into the circumstances of the overall dumping policy by the UK in the Irish sea and of western Ireland.

We may not be able to totally resolve the legacy this ill thought out policy has bequeathed but we would be better able to understand it. For now the danger remains lurking in the deep until time and tide brings it shoreward.

J B Moffatt

Irish Sea Radiation Pollution-Target the Real Culprits!

Greenpeace brought an invaluable world focus on Sellafield's pollution record over the past two weeks but its attack on the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland is a meaningless sideshow and is unhelpful to the general process of combating the menace posed by Sellafield to communities around the Irish Sea - the main targets for campaigners are the British government and BNFL.

Both the Irish and Manx governments and their respective public monitoring organisations have been to the fore in alerting public opinion to the threat posed by Sellafield and the governments have reiterated, when appropriate, calls for the plants closure.

The high profile campaign by Greenpeace in the North Irish sea area has brought the attention of a wider world audience to the pollution caused by the plant and, in particular, the dangers posed by the rising levels of technetium-99 in both the Irish and north seas. However, one could be forgiven for believing that the technetium problem had been unmasked by Greenpeace and this is not the case. In fact both the RPII and the Isle of Man governments Laboratory had both identified the rise in technetium-99 during the mid nineties.

In March of this year the Manx Lab again published information confirming the rise in technetium between 1990 and 1997.

Similar information I understand was also available to those who required it from the Irish agency.

There has been a criticism of the RPII for failing to highlight the dangers posed by technetium-99 pollution more aggressively and one could address the same accusation to the Manx agency. However, we would observe that their role is not to match the governments and the environment monitoring groups in opposition to Sellafield but rather to produce impartial data to counteract the aggressive bias in material churned out by Sellafield's PR machine

J B Moffatt



kernow

Pobell Thibarh: Deaw Enapp An Skute

Callish ew hethow tha adgan buz an leiha deffrans treeth poblow an ennisma atter thort ago laverans, en mar vere drigge tavossow Keltack stella en beaw en sortan degre, ha dres hedna ma speciall cowz uses herweth puna tewe an ennis igge teeze a toaz notha: whathe, en leas ther a ny oll usia pecare geys, pecare booz, pecare musick, pecare gwariow, ha en leas pecare tavas, ha ther a ny wherhin thort pecare geaz!

Than, fatel igge an Kernowian a tisquethas an deffrans angy? Eze nekeves gongans drens, po dro angy kens, edn bobell thibarh? Nanty! Pothera ny kelly gon comenetha, en demigow, ha teeze onketh pema gon treven ha gon teer, bis en comeras ker agon wheal, bith voye era ny wheelas tha desky than beaz dro ny Kernowian, ha der vee theine a dermen coath matearnath enwedgack ha heynes nodedgack.

Fraga igge an bobell Gernuack credgy stella drens teeze dibblans, ha erria drew Kernow nevra pow enwedgack, deberhees thort remenat an ennis? Why ell dismigga an rinwhethallma dreth madra en kensa lea pehane vee ny en termen eze passies, ha obma ther a ve referria tha ooz alebma buz hantercans blethan, namoye, pe nag o ny radnes a niel thort e gilla car dro ny hethow drevan an vankan a deeze onketh eze devethes tha dreegas mesk ny ha treeth ny.

Dar, athewethas me geath tha Porthleven ha spenga an dohodgath barha bagas cuthmans Kernuack, gennes an cotha nothans en vlethan 1909, ha an youncka en 1930. Me a dale joynea dre vee ve a hunnen gennes en 1924. Ny reeg cowz dro than termen coath. Nena, ameth ma huthmans, tregorian kenever chy en Porthleven o cooth dothans, en mar vere drigans usia gweel gwary en compla henwyn an contravagian oll, edn strate ouga arall, herweth ago threven, en edn rew, pecarra lidden. Hethow ma an drea comeras gen mar leas sarazin drew an roath coath squatches tha veaz, ha na ore dean veth pewa eze treegas pelle.

Mor meno why gothas paseil o keef than Kernowian an effect han stent an prevatter

angy. Porthleven o radnes en parthow dreth lenga invisibill, ha hy a valsa dro rima urrhian powiow dibarh, mar vere honegath o pob a bar e hunnen. Mar teffa why ha treegas en tewe Eglosbregar, tho why Teweglosbregar, henev *Breagsider*, ha gew why talveea thewh doaz trea neb noze en tremena tereath onketh! E vee pecare pereeg sertan vennen thor Unyredreth laull athewethas, "Nag era ve nevra moaz tha Gambern!", dyegres e leav. Ma pecare daralla a toaz them thor cuthman coath en Mehenett, dean hunt tha deeg ha pagerigans bluth coath periga merwall lebma dro tha whee blethan. Edn journa, termen e vee junkar, 'Reg' geath tha Pensilva en maroga war e bike rag tha dumarrha nebun moze younk, dro tha pemp moldeer athor e chy, buz pereeg polates an dreav e asspeas gy oya dewhans nag o e mawe an pleaw angy, ha rag hedna gy a thallathas tha e doustia a dabmow ha tubednow, "taps an' tubbans" car driga laull.

En deethiowna teeze pleaw o kelmes warbar per stroyt. Gy a welly e gilles kenever journa, oll gy reeg gweal wheal en kethe drea, ha ketep onen comeras gen pecare loander ha pecare whear. Nebas ke vee a gubher, e vee neb sort wheal tha pubonen. Porthleven vee nodedgack rag framia coockow, buyldia rima rag porthow erall, bis en rina en east a Pow an Sausen. E vee dro tha cans ha eath warn igans a sairy keel wheal en garth listry nena, ha an holl dreav o res than neges a framia coockow po pusgetsha, ha hedna re rowlia an bownas.

Puna matter broaz potho why dean an poss, avell cotha an cuthmans ve en Porthleven, rag termen e vee dean younk en radna an letherow edn jeeth e geath ogas than dreath pe reeg an poscadars saya tha tedna tewa teer put broaz puscas comeres en scan. "Ha, Jammes!" ameth angy, "Deeze nese tha gon gweras ny a tedna war deer an sean!" En dalla Jammes na venga, buz gy an dinias war an dewa, ha e garas e bike en doar ha laggia en dowre bis et e greis, wos degy e lavrack pub journa!

Nebes sithednow ouga hedna onen an poscadars theath than Sothva Poss. "Yo!"

ametha, "Obma neppith theze." Ha e reeg gurra dorned muna treeth doola Jammes, mere e aneth. E vee e dewe shara thort an put.

Onen a ny, than, ha na Teweglosbregar, na dean Helles noniel metessen!

Buz rigo why attendia peath reeg deskidnia alerh termen an gwary rugby treeth Kernow ha Pow Cheshire? Dro tha nawe warn igans meel a deeze geath athor Kernow tha Twickenham rag boaz present than finall. An gweale a vee avell moar a listow due hag aur, pecarra ruth vere quilkioedgow. An hub a vee lowre tha goz gweel bothar. An Kernowian reeg credgy dre venga angy cowas, ke vee an egary deraage bedn hanter termen. Per scoen Kernow a gollas moye poyntes, nena hy a thallathas tha vettia gons an deeze Cheshire. Gorvan an gwary, ogasty, ha Kernow nevra toaz nese. Buz, suas! An barner a whethas e beeb rag dewa an gwary. Ha kelles o!

Kelles? Ero why credgy andelna? Ruth golyadgow lawenick, lowenhees devery hy a valsa, reeg lenall an gweale ha gweel para adro than bagas, garma, crya hurraw, slapa an gwariars war an kein! Teeze Cheshire alga per weer goofen pewa reeg cowas! Pereeg kittareen an bagas doaz tha Lesteevan an welcum rigans cowas vee ethick tra, ha arta eth alga credgy dro an gwary keves gen an Kernowian.

Deraage an camera onen an bagas reeg cowz. "Ea, ametha, tho ny tabm dysantyes, rag gwell hy vee a theine cowas, per thehogall, buz tho ny bagas younk, ha nessa blethan, ha ny gwell deskes, ny vedn cowas!"

Otta Kernow ha e theeze. Ma kelles goshy kebmes: matearnath, wheal, peath, teer, treven, frankath, bis et an gwary rugby, ha meno e areth deraage an beaz rag drewa pow bean ha nebas bohodgack, ha cothes war preze dyckles. En drea, e veath honegath a e prevatter, bis en ombla ort e hontrevagian, whathe pothow hy unyes gen commyn cawse, pewa ell e howas? Rag pe ra hy kelly, pothow hy fethes en lagagow ri erall, ma hy nevra cowas an gwelha, ha na ell hy nevra convethas pandrew fillall, na gwander colan. Per co an vlethan 1497: perigans kelly battall an Rose rue en have, an Kernowian reeg derevall aman arta en kidniasna ha moaz arta bedn lu an matearn Sowsnack!

Thera vee dalla tha gonvethas skeans an laverans Kernuack *Onen hag Oll*. Onen pothera ny trea, oll pothera ny ombla warbar bedn commyn eskar!

Mars eze lesson tha voaz deskes deveza lebma, ethewa dre gothe than Kernowian boaz unyes pub ere, ha na en ednack pe ra angy gwary rugby!

Mowth on un like Dolcoath Shaft - Ganow warnodho kepar ha Shaftha dorkoth. Gans Pol Hodge

My re redyas bardhonegow yn Kernewek. bardhonegow yn Kernewek re redis, byttegyns lemmyn my re wrug redya bardhonegow yn Kernewek! *Mowth on un like Dolcoath Shaft* yw bywek ha hwarthus mes gans messaj down ha sad. Pol Hodge re sewenas fest yn ta dre leverel hwedhlw a'y vywnans yn fordh dhidhanus ha gul dhyn minhwerthin y'n kettermyn. Rag ensembl, pan,esen vy ow tyski Kernewek, onan an kynsa gwcrsyow a dhyskis vy o Pader Agan Arloedh.

"Agan Tas ni eus yn nev, bennigys re bo dha hanow..."

Mes lemmyn yma Pol Hodge ow treylia henna a-dro a-barth an yeth.

"Agan Yeth ni usi diworth nev, bennigys re bo dres Kernow..."

Sempel yw, didhanus yw... mes an tra moyha dhe-les yw an messaj res dhe'n redyer heb passya lies owr yn unn styrya an gestestenn ha'n parth a-dryv. Mes pyth yn kever an redyer gans own a vardhonegow fest hir? Yma ensemblow anedha yn sur, byttegyns Pol Hodge re dheuth ha bos pur ates gans lavarow skav nPb a sen y'gas brys rag termyn hir ha gasa dhe goedha an styr tamm ha tamm ynwedh. 'An Vilienn'

Pobell Thibark...

Summary

A People Apart: Two Sides of the Coin

There is today so little apparent difference between the native peoples of this island who share a common culture that one wonders how the Cornish, who have lost king, independence, and much else, still manage to present themselves as a distinct people. An indication of the durability of the Cornish identity may be found on the one hand in the former exclusiveness of local communities, amounting to violent rivalry, and now spoiled by much foreign settlement, where local identity was all-important, and on the other by the ability of the Cornish to unite when faced by a tangible common threat, and so much so that, as at Twickenham recently, and on former occasions, the Cornish in losing always react as if they have won, to the extent that in effect they are unable to lose

Richard Gendall

yw ensembl da a henna.

"Yth yw hi poes avel sten.

Kepar ha'n oy mar leven . Merkys avel Planet Yow..."

Pol a dheriv dhyn bri ha tekter, merkow fin ha leven, ha fatell yllyn ni passya termyn yn unn omwovynn yn kever taklow pur dhown. Mes wosa leverel dhyn yn-kever an vilienn na, ev a's towl y'n avon yn unn leverel:

"Ow korfenna gans 'plonk' y'n Spey."

Bardhonegow a'n par ma yw splann rag dyskatoryon a'n taves ynwedh. Pyth y'n norvys yw . gweh es spena termyn euthek hir yn unn redya bardhoneg sygh ha skwithus? Ny vern dhe'n redyer mars yw skrifys gans rim poran ha meter perfeyth. Mar ny yll an skrifor trelouba an omglywansow down gans y voghes geryow, nyns eus poynt vydh. Y'n gwella prys, nyns eus folenn vydh na wra kabuli an enev. Pol a dhre oll y vaystri warbarth yn *Alf Garnet*. An bardhonek ma yw lavar gwir war an re a vynn assaya ankevi gonisogeth hag istori a Gernow ha gorra neppyth sowsnek yn y le.

Okay, ytho my re gewsis lowr yn kever an lyver... pyth yn kever an skrifor? Pol Hodge a dryg gans y wreg yn Fordh Ponsmeur yn chi neb a si gans an taves Kernewek. Ev ha'y wreg a gews an henyeth y'n chi ha spena brassa rann a'ga bywnans yn unn ughelhe bri hag aswonnvos a'n yeth. Pol a ober rag 'Artys War Anow Kernewek' mes a gemmer pub chons dhe lenna y wonis a-dro Kernow oll ha dres an Tamer keffrys. Kyns an lyver ma,aswonny's o awos ev dhe vos esel an bagas *Berdh Arnowydh Kernewek* (gans Bert Biscoe hag Alan gent). B.A.K a wrug meur a-barth bardhonieth yn Kernow, mes herwyth ow brys vyvy, y brofyans nowydh a gemmer henna pella. Hag a wrug vy kavoes folenn na wrug fytya yn ta y'n lyver?

Na wrug! Ytho mar ny wrewgh hwi, prena lyver bardhonegow neffra y'n bys... prenewgh an onan ma ha ny wrewgh perthi edrek !

M.S.C

Summary

M.S.C discusses new poems by Pol Hodge and recommends readers to buy the book, which is lively and funny, but with a deep and serious message.

FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF CORNWALL

Cornwall would be better served by democratically elected institutions based in Cornwall than by an unelected Bristol based regional development agency, according to Dick Cole, chairman of Mebyon Kernow who spoke to a meeting of the organisation's members in the Camborne, Illogan and Redruth areas in June.

He said, "Labour's present proposals represent a missed opportunity to foster a wider more creative role for Cornish based institutions which if given the necessary funding and powers that they deserve, could develop and play a leading role in the economic regeneration of Cornwall."

Members of Mebyon Kernow in Redruth and Camborne area are angry that Labour promises to help build local communities and make local decision-making more accountable to local people are not being fulfilled.

Alan Sanders, their Camborne based spokesman said, "We continue to see the administration of Cornwall quickly being hived off to agencies based in nearly every large city from Plymouth to Bristol. As an example we see the Camborne based police control room being moved out of Cornwall, possibly to Exeter, no doubt as part of the move to create a super seven county south west regional police force!"

Mr Sanders pledged that MK would continue to campaign for the decentralisation of political powers to Cornwall, an accountable development agency, a European parliamentary constituency for Cornwall and European N.U.T.S. Level 2 status, and will not settle for anything less.

Further Information:

Dick Cole (MK Chairman), Shell Cottage, Moorland Road, Indian Queens, St Columb, Tel: 01726 861454

Alan Sanders, 14 Croft Common, Troon, Camborne, Tel: 01209 613803

Peter Wills, Bosleake Barton, Carn Brea, Redruth, Tel: 01209 710794

Mebyon Kernow in Camborne & Redruth: 6 Rose Row, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1LB

Tel / Fax: +00 (0)1209 214239

Email: MKCRDG@aol.com

Farrysyn ny Çheeraghyn Celtiagh

Hie y Cohaghlym Eddyrashoonagh er cummal ayns Mannin ayns 1998. Ard-chooish y Chohaglym, va shen farrysyn (economies) ny çheeraghyn Celtiagh. She Lorne MacLeod loayr son Nalbin. Ta Lorne MacLeod yn Ard-Hecktyragh jeh Colught Dellal Ynnydaghy yn Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey. Va'n colught shoh currit er bun dy scuirr as dy hyndaa mygeayrt y leodaghey sy farrys jeh'n Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey, yn ard er y çheer vooar ta faggys da'n Ellan Skianagh.

Hug Lorne MacLeod list dy ard-halceyn. V'ad shoh Ollooscoill y Ghaeltaght as ny h-Ellanyn. çhaghnoaylleaght-fysseree. 'Tar erash'. çheet dy ve dty chroiteyr, kiaull as ellynyn, ymskeaylley, as y Ghaidhlig. 'Thig air ais' - 'Tar erash' - shen shalee dy ghreinnaghey sleih voish yn Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey dy heet erash as (y red share) dy chur er bun colughtyn begghey. Ta stoyr-fysseree feer vooar goll er troggal dy roshtyn sleih feis ny cruinney. Yn çhalee ry-hoi Ollooscoill y Ghaeltaght as ny h-Ellanyn, ta shen feer hymoil, er y fa dy bee shoh myr ollooscoill soylagh. Sabhal Mor Ostaig, y cholleish Ghaidhlig er yn Ellan Skianagh, bee shen feer scanshoil sy chooish shoh. Cha nel yn earroo dy cummaltee ayns yn Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey tuittym nish - dy jarroo, t'eh goll seose nish. Ta sleih saa, breeoil garraghey stiagh, y chooid smoo jeu veih'n çheer vooar Albinagh.

Y loayrtagh son y Vritaan, va shen Bernez An Nail, y stiureyder jeh undyns cultooroil ayns Rennes. Ren eh goaill toshiaght lesh focklyn veih art sy phabyrnaight Frangagh Le Monde. Va'n art enmyssit 'Y Virril Vritaanagh'. Va'n art mychione yn aght ta sleih gobbraghey ry-cheillee sy Vritaan, y chreeaght noa ta rygheddyn ayns shen as yn aght ta'n Vritaan 'goll rish Catalonia nish'. Ta'n Vritaan nane jeh ny ardjyn smoo scanshoil syn Oarpey bentyn rish y turrysids as gaase bee. Cha nel y Vritaan croghey er ardjyn elley, er aghtyn dy lionar. Ta ny smoo poble cummal ayn na ayns ard elley sy steat Frangagh.

Lurg y Nah Chaggey Mooar, va'n Vritaan ayns stayd agglagh. Va ny purtyn currit mow as yn fo-strughtoor stroiet. Va'n farrys croghey er cirinys va shenn-emshyragh. Va daa checad as daeed thousane gowaltys ayn, y chooid smoo jeu feer veg - ny sloo na queig acyr as feed.

Ny smoo na lieh-cheead blein lurg shen, cha nel eh myr shen er chor erbee. Ga nagh vel agh shey sy cheead jeh cummaltee y steat Frangagh ec y Vritaan, ta'n Vritaan cur queig as feed sy cheead jeh'n vainney as hoght as daeed sy cheead jeh ny ein. Ta'n Vritaan sy tree ynnyd syn Oarpey bentyn rish oohyn. Ta shiaght millioon muc eck. Shoh paart jeh ny earrooyen hug Bernez magh.

Ta ny caglaaghyn er nyannoo foays da'n farrys ooilley cooidjagh. Agh ta sleih er hurranse dy mooar. Ta'n shenn sethll ersooyl. Ta biljyn ass towse er nyn stroic dy yannoo magheryn mooarey as caghlaa'n çheer dy bollagh. Ta ram stoo er ny hollaghey, erskyn ooilley yn ushtey.

Red va beggan quaagh bentyn rish leaght Vernez, va shen y red nagh dooyrt eh veg mychione y Vritaanish as y cultoor Britaanagh. Freggyrt feysht ec jerrey y leaght, dooyrt eh dy row yn çhengey er ngoll sheese dy mooar, ga dy row reddyn mie ayn, goll rish Diwan, ta cur er bun se oillyn raad t'ad gynsaghey trooid Britaanish. Va obbyr erskyn towse ry-yannoo dy chur cooney da'n çhengey.

Loayr Adam Price son Bretin. Ta eshyn stiureyder ronsaghey as lhasaghey (research and development) ec Menter a Busnes (Ventyr as Dellal) ayns Aberystwyth, ayns pairk-sheanse (science park) ry-hoi cur colughtyn begghey er bun. Paart dy vleeantyn er dy henney, v'eh baghtal nagh row Bretnisheyrn (adsyn as Bretnish oc) çheet rish dy chur colughtyn er bun. Ta Adam smooïnaghtyn dy vel ram Bretnisheyrn foast smooïnaghtyn nagh vel eh cooie dauesyn dy yannoo y lheid - shen red ta Baarleyryn jannoo. 'She ny Baarleyryn ta croo kiartaghyn as she ny Bretnisheyrn ta gobbraghey da ny Baarleyryn'. Er y fa nagh vel creeaght dy liooa ocsyn as Bretnish oc, cha nod

cooishyn goll er bishaghey. Er e hon shen, ta Adam Price dellal rish Bretnisheyrn, cooney lhiu dy chur colughtyn er bun as dellal trooid Bretnish. Peiagh ny ghaa va geaishtagh rish Adam ec y Chohaglym Celtiagh, cha dod ad credjal dy row ny Bretnisheyrn cho faitagh as shen. Agh reesht as reesht ec y Chohaglym shoh va shen yn çhaghteraght: genney creeaght lhiittal lhasaghey.

Loayr Connall O Mórán son Nerin. Eshyn y stiureyder jeh gien mie theayagh (public relations) son Slattery PR. Loayr eh feer niartal ayns loayr jeh margaghyn seyr. V'eh gra reddyn lunagh mychione reiltyssyn Yernagh v'ayn kuse dy vleeantyn er henney as ad 'croe' kiartaghyn foalsey lesh argid nagh row ayn. Va shoh fardailagh dy bollagh as ren ny Yernee gynsaghey lessoonyn piandagh. Kyndagh rish shen, t'ad ny smoo creeney lesh argid nish. Bwooise da'n chreenaght shen as da'n Unnaneys Oarpagh, ta'n Tiger Celtiagh jannoo dy mie as aby l dy chur er bun reddyn casley rish *Teilifis na Gaeilge*.

Loayr Alastair Quinnell son y Chorn. She coonseilagh-countee eshyn as anaase echee er cooishyn Oarpagh. She skeal trimshagh v'eechee. Va ny Cornee leedeil ayns ram cooishyn çhynskylagh (industrial), agh nish ta ny çhynskylagh tradishoonagh er nyn stroic. Cha nel y Chorn geddyn monney cooney noadyr er y fa dy vel ee kinjagh goll er kianglee lesh Devon, ard ta foddey ny s'berçhee. Dy jarroo, ta'n Chorn ayns stayd agglagh.



Charles Cain

Ren Charles Cain loayrt son Mannin. Loayr eh mychione farrys myr cooishynsee as yn aght dy vel yn earroo dy chummaltee ayns çheer feer scanshoil. My va sleih laccal dy ve berchagh as tarroogh, begin geddyn tooilley cummaltee. Agh veagh shen stroic shee as taitnys y çheer. Myr shen, va doillecid ayn. Loayr Charles Cain mychione Mannin - cirinys, çhynskyl, turrysids as y kerroo-argidys. Dooyrt eh dy

row ynsagh scanshoil ass towse. Berçhys Vannin, shen e pobble. As v'ee cur ersooyl pobble mie-ynsit da cheeraghyn elley rish ymmodee bleeantyn. Dooyrt eh nagh row polittickeyryn Vannin ynsit dy liooar. Lhisagh Mannin ve foddey ny smoo daaney, Erskyn oolley. Lhisagh Mannin treayll rick er ny reddyn va goll er feiy ny cruinney as ginsh da'n teihll mychione Mannin.

Orree Crennell

Summary

Speakers from the Celtic countries gave lectures on the economies of their countries at the 1998 International Celtic Congress in the Isle of Man.

L'Ile de Man

Enez Vanav, 1998, Published by Skol-Uhel ar Vro under the direction of Tadhg O'hifearnáin. ISBN: 2-86822-072-X, Institut Culturel de Bretagne, 1 rue Raoul Ponchon, 35069 Roazhon, Tel 0299875800, Fax 0299875808.

This volume is a comprehensive outline of the Isle of Man, concentrating on the Celtic dimension past and present, published in French.

The book is the third in a series and its intention is to make the Celtic countries better known in Brittany, and importantly to contribute towards reinforcing the ancient cultural links. This is an initiative of the intercultural and international section of the Breton Cultural Institute.

Seven authors contributed to the 119 pages which are illustrated with maps, tables and numerous black and white photographs. There are nine chapters covering topics such as Manx language and literature, national identity and the national movement, population and cultural life, geography, constitutional status, as well as a comprehensive outline of the Island's history.

Whilst it makes no pretence at being the last word on the subjects covered, considering its slimness and wide scope, it is very comprehensive. There is certainly nothing as useful that I know of published in English. This book would certainly answer many inquirers' questions that take up much of my time. Perhaps the publishers would consider translations of this splendid little book.

Cristl Jerry.

The voice of Mann

Manx speakers are justifiably proud of their new playgroup, Moonjey Veggey (little people). But whilst we forge ahead, encouraging the children of English speaking parents to learn Manx, we must not forget that the quickest way to a child's vocabulary is through its parents and parents of pre-school children aren't learning Manx quickly enough.

Things are hard for many parents; often they have only recently grown up themselves, their parents spoke only English and they were taught very little, if any, Manx at school. With their education behind them their energy goes into making a life for themselves and other matters get delayed.

Time goes by and, despite the best of intentions, they have no Gaelic to teach their Children. This is not necessarily because there is no interest in learning the language, but once children have arrived only the very determined will learn Gaelic in time to teach their own children during the vital first years. Why?

Well, suppose the importance of Manx has seeped through the general ignorance and apathy and the parents are intrigued enough to want to learn. For obvious reasons very young children are not welcome at evening classes; they are far too disruptive, but arranging childcare can be a nightmare, not many parents find it easy to get free babysitting every week. Couples could take it in turn to stay at home but more often than not one of them would give up completely, and single parents of course don't have that option.

Parents are often harassed, frazzled creatures with a home, career and relationship to manage and uncertainties like this will lead to missed lessons and frustration, so one day they will just stop going. A rare few persevere of course, learning alongside their children and practising in the home that is what keeps a language alive. But surely, if it was easier for parents to learn more would. More parents, more children, a more secure language.

So what would attract parents to classes? A crèche is one idea, with children being looked after while parents learn, and the

timing of lessons is also important. Most lessons are held between 7 and 8 o'clock at night which is a time when children are tired and fractious and workers are just looking forward to an evening in; staying at home with a glass of wine and an open fire is an attractive option.

In an ideal world learning Manx would need little effort and be great fun. A class could work well on Saturday with occasional social events planned round it, a walk in the morning, a giense in the afternoon and a children's club to teach them whilst parents study.

Children can be used as an excuse for not learning but they should be the reason why you do and they need to be encouraged to take part too. Mew Manx speakers could be happier, younger and work closer together. A lesson does not have to be difficult to be worthwhile but at the moment it seems as if only the truly determined have a reasonable chance of success. At this rate, the time when Manx people will, as a matter of course, be brought up with knowledge of their language is several frustrating generations away.

Vince McCartney

Phil
Gawne



YN GREINNEYDER

Phil Gawne has been appointed Manx Language Development Officer by the Manx Heritage Foundation, with financial help for the first year coming from the Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust.

The official title is Yn Greinneyder - meaning facilitator. The post is part-time and has been created to promote the use of Manx within the community and to increase awareness of Manx off the Island. Part of his job will also be to develop the use of Manx at heritage sites and at the museum where the language has been sorely neglected.

One of the main goals is to help people and groups who are already working to preserve, promote and develop the Manx language. Mr. Gawne's work will complement and expand on the work already being done in Island schools by the Department of Education.



Clanship, Commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603-1788

by Allan I Macinnes, 1996, Tuckwell Press, ISBN 1 898410 43 7, paperback price £16.99.

Allan I Macinnes is Burnett-Fletcher Professor in History at the University of Aberdeen. He has challenged many sloppy assumptions about the development of Highland society to the present day. His work is in the generation which includes Murray Pittock and Tom Devine who have illuminated the complex interplay of clan society with the early modern development of increasing government intervention alongside commercial and capitalist business ethics.

When clanship, with its feudally organised family ties met commerce only one result seemed possible, the transformation of the old order but whether as unwilling slave or equal partner in the new order is the nub of this excellent study.

Macinnes has dipped into family archives, Gaelic poetry and often applied sociological, poetic and accountancy skills to paint the picture. His masterly essay on the traditional basis of clanship opens the account. With copious MacKenzie references the book is a mine of contextual facts for all to ponder. The structure of the clan hierarchies and relationships of the *fine*, or lead family members and the *tacks*men or clan gentry in their roles as protectors, leaders and leading businessmen is clearly explained.

Myths about perpetual Highland order are put to the sword. Careful analysis of hosting, ritual cattle raids and freelance rustling are set beside the growing trade in cattle with the wealthy South and the increasing use of money in economic life. Of course the intervention and rise of more intrusive central government had a chequered role in this process. While attempts to pacify the wild Hebrides, such as the Statue of Iona of 1609, have been mistaken by generations of historians, weaned on the Whig tradition, for an all-Highland policy from Edinburgh and latterly London, Macinnes has delved deeper and identified the intricate feudal relationships of all charter holding chiefs

with the full Scot's law process and those outwith the run of Edinburgh's writ.

The marriage patterns of chiefs and clan *fine* within and without Highland society is a useful new guide to intended family alliances, but clientism, manrent and other inter-clan relationships is shown to have built and sustained a remarkably strong regional and local stability in society through many troubled times. Not least through the strains of largely imposed polarisations due to Presbyterian versus Catholic and Parliamentary versus Royalist politics which dominate the centuries under scrutiny.

As so often in other societies the poets reflect an ancient warrior and propagandist role which bolsters morale and glosses over widely known reality, especially in the ebb and flow of warfare such as the Montrose/MacColla campaigns in the 1640s and later Jacobite period. As the old society succumbed to outside political and commercial pressures so the popular poets became detached from the patronage of great chiefs whom they had formerly eulogised. It is a fascinating period of which to make social and political as well as literary sense.

Macinnes's colleague Tom Devine has made clear the capacities of Highland families to adapt to new commercial ways. How the voluntary movements of tens of thousands of Highlanders in the later 18th century to Carolina and Georgia was well-organised, socially stable and well-financed. So Macinnes shows how the pitch of commercial farming and enclosure were well in train under the Campbell hegemony of the Duke of Argyll and through the agency of other leading families whose involvement with the legal and political establishment brought them to apply new methods e.g. the MacKenzie of Rosehaugh in the Black Isle were to the fore. Also families which straddled the Highland line pushed over a bridgehead for land improvements which led almost

inexorably to the landlord and surplus tenant crisis which the nineteenth century was to see played out as the age of the sheep and deer forest Clearance. The author convincingly traces roots of these changes to the period of his study.

Allan Macinnes has delivered a study which opens doors of understanding about the complicity of hierarchical clan and royalist society in an age of change which ushered in commercialism and state intervention. It is a basic work without which genuine students of real highland clanship will be immeasurably poorer.

Rob Gilson

Les Royaumes Brittoniques au Très Haut Moyen Age

by Christian Y.M. Kerboul. 256 pp.
Editions du Pontig, Les Tertreux, 44880
Sautron, Brittany. 135 FF.

This book deals with the establishment of the Bretons in Armorica during the 200 years following the fall of the Roman Empire in Britain but also, though to a smaller extent, with the emergence and the destiny of the eight "Brittonic" kingdoms which strove to resist the Anglo-Saxon invasion in the same period. It gives evidence for the continuation of close links between the latter and the new Breton principalities of Kernev (Cornwall), Domnonea and Bro-Wereg. His thesis is that the Celtic Britons who had Roman citizenship and took part in the attempts to stop the advance of the Germanic peoples in Northern and Central Gaul had been entrusted with the task of ensuring the safety of seafaring between Britain and the continent. Their possession of a considerable fleet played a major role in enabling them to colonize Brittany. In the original stages, the rulers of Demetia (Dyfed) and British Domnonea (later Devor) acted as protectors of the Breton settlements. The title of the book is thus justified by the strong sense of community which persisted between the two sides of the Channel.

A great deal of research in the past 50 years has made it possible to fill in many of the gaps in our knowledge of the history of the birth of the Breton nation. Leon Fleuriot made the most outstanding contribution to it with his "Origines de la Bretagne" (1980) but his early death prevented the realisation of his project of a

history of "the Breton kingdoms of Armorica".

Ch. Kerboul who has already published books about the crisis of the Western civilisation has decided to turn his attention to Early Brittany. He has done his own investigations, e.g. to identify in the field the possible locations of the Breton rulers' residences and fortifications. But he refers extensively to other historians, above all to L. Fleuriot, and to John Morris, (whose 550-page book, "The Age of Arthur", we intend to review soon), where the British kingdoms are concerned. His presentation is not strictly academic: he is addressing a wide public, this is reflected in his style. For some of his assertions one would have liked to have the sources but on the whole he is cautious. It is a delight to find more or less mythical figures like Ambrosius Aurelianus, Arthur, Conan Meriadec acquiring real features and Marc Conomor (the king Marc of the tale of Tristan and Isolde) being rehabilitated as the man (ruthless though he may have been) who was about to achieve the unity of Brittany, 300 years before Nomenoe, but was thwarted as it appears through the schemings of Saint Samson which led to his excommunication on false charges and his defeat by the anything but devout Franks (558-560). Kerboul reveals the existence of a rivalry between the lay rulers who had reverted to the aristocratic Celtic way of life and the monks who brought with them thousands of colonists, acquired vast domains and sought to create a system based on Christian principles – a kingdom of God on Earth. "De Excidio Britanniae" (reviewed in *Carn* 97 and recently given its second edition) can be considered as a manifesto for that project in which the best of the British youth, repelled by the excesses denounced by St. Gildas, took part in the 6th century. Their flight must of course have greatly weakened the power of the the British rulers to withstand the second great Anglo-Saxon onslaught. In Brittany too a congenital lay-religious duality of power was to adversely affect the country's ability to defend itself against its enemies.

It would be desirable to see this book, concerned as it is with events which lay at the origin of at least three of the Celtic nations, translated and published in English and Welsh.

A. Heusaff

How to Draw Celtic Key Patterns. A Practical Handbook

Andy Sloss, Blandford. ISBN 0-7137-2652-0, £10.99.

This is a thorough book with many applications. Its great virtue is; that because it shows, by gradual steps, a method for creating the key patterns; it allows plenty of individual choice. By applying the principles, a designer could create patterns personal to him or herself alone.

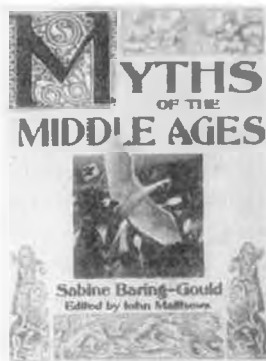
The section showing how the Celtic designers achieved balance pleasing to the eye, in the corners and edges of rectangular designs is very revealing. We are still needing to appreciate the genius of the original creators, and to emulate them and not just to slavishly copy.

Other sections cover key patterns in rings and circles, irregular shapes and curved key patterns. Also variations within panels such as flagging and spiralling the ends are described, and transitions from one pattern to another are touched upon.

Almost half the book is devoted to giving examples of elements of patterns in their simplest form, allowing the user to work out patterns to whatever size is required. These are supplied as a full page example followed by the elements themselves, including charted versions.

I have to admit that I could not follow all of the mathematical steps but I feel that I should be able to by applying them in practice by designing some patterns of my own.

Colin Jerry



Myths of the Middle Ages

by Sabine Baring-Gould, edited by John Matthews, pp153, Blandford, 1998
ISBN 0 7137 2735 7 PB price £10.99.

Twelve stories originating from the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould's classic 1869 collection, *Curios Myths*. Chosen by John Matthews for their merit and worth to the modern reader and brought up to date with his extensive knowledge of the subject.

The foreword by Cyril Tawney gives a brief introduction into the life and works of Baring-Gould; and incredibly prolific writer and preserver of songs and folklore. Introductory essays provide background, context and relevant historical or mythological origins, whilst Baring-Gould's comments within each tale provide a perceptive insight into a truly remarkable preserver of a rich heritage.

The book is a visual delight, with a good number of colour plates and some ornamental designs throughout.

A *Further Reading* section, divided by chapters, is most useful for those who find they would like to read more about a particular area.

John Matthews, in his introductory essays, shows how the themes of each story can be seen in many different traditions from both the West and East. This is the key to Sabine Baring-Gould's work, who used the widest possible range of sources, treating them with objectivity and it is this objectivity which gives Baring-Gould's work its real power.

The Unknown Arthur Forgotten Tales of the Round Table

by John Matthews, Blandford, 1998,
Price £10.99, PB, ISBN 0 7137 27349

Arthurian expert John Matthews retells a dozen stories from the world of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Using totally original sources, a whole new

perspective on the Arthurian myths and legends is uncovered. With specially created colour plates from artist Mark Robertson.

This book is not only for those who enjoy a good story but also for all who would like to know more about King Arthur and his times.

For further information contact: Victoria Mizen, Cassell Publicity, Wellington House, 125 Strand, London WC2R 0BB, England.

The Irish Ringfort by Mathew Stout, Four Courts
ISBN 1-85182-300-X, Hb.
Stg.£19.95.

The ringforts – known variously by the names, rath, lios, caiseal and dun – are not only the commonest Irish field monument but the commonest in western Europe. They probably outnumber all the other field monuments of the early period in western Europe put together – yet this is the first modern text devoted purely to them. Stout is a geographer so his approach to the subject reflects this, around half of the text being an analysis of their distribution. He points out that large tracts of early Ireland were either upland (19%), raised bog (21%) or part of the drumlin belt (15%), which, allowing for an overlap between these categories, rendered perhaps a third of the country ‘unusable’ – a regrettable phrase perhaps. We learn that ringforts tend to occupy sloping terrain, avoiding the lowland clays in preference for the lighter sands and gravels (p. 106). The relative scarcity of ringforts in Leinster becomes apparent from a distributional analysis. There is also a complementary distribution of ringforts and ecclesiastical sites – with the latter tending to occupy lowland sites. It would appear from this that advanced tillage agriculture of the clay lowlands and the mouldboard plough that made it possible, were a feature developed by the monasteries (pp. 108 and 132).

Stout looks closely at the chronology of the ringforts commenting that the ‘firm conclusion is that the majority of ringforts were constructed during a three hundred year period’ from around AD 600 to AD 900. This opens up important implications with regards to Irish population figures for this period – especially when we bear in mind that the ringfort economy was based on dairying, with all that implies in terms of the carrying capacity of the country (p. 132).

An interesting aspect of the work is Stout’s efforts to relate the field evidence to what is known of early Irish society as revealed by its legal texts such as *Crith Gablach*. He also makes the intriguing suggestion that the modern day townland boundaries represent the landowning units of the *bo-aíres* ‘the cow-freemen’ of early Ireland.

On a worrying level Stout informs us that 37% of these monuments have been destroyed since they were first mapped in the 1840s, ranging from 3% in Longford to 80% in Derry. Most of this has been as a result of modern farm improvements.

Fortunately, new legislation gives legal status to all archaeological features, ‘including all upstanding ringforts and the known sites of destroyed enclosures.’ The book comes with 33 figures, mostly maps, 16 plates, mostly aerial photographs, and five tables. The author and publishers are to be congratulated.

Kevin Collins

Breton Ballads by Mary-Ann Constantine, X + 269pp. CMCS Publications, ISBN 0 9527478 0 4, price £18 – available post free from the Dept. of Welsh, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AX.

This is a wonderful book, a study of the orally transmitted Breton *Gwerziou*. The first chapter is an overview of the work of earlier collectors – Villamarque, Luzel, Penguern, Kerambrun, de Saint Prix and Le Braz. It is all too easy to criticise these earlier explorers but this is something which Constantine scrupulously avoids; she comments: ‘many of the questions they raised and some of the answers they found are still very pertinent. There is also a discussion of language and identity, the influence of the written word and of The Church on the *Gwerziou*. One learns that Brittany’s archives are relatively well preserved compared to those of France. An interesting list, derived from Francis Gouvil, of the range of topics covered by the *Gwerz* is given on p. 59, although it is, as Constantine comments, far from satisfactory. The supernatural category of Gouvil, for example, amounting to around a quarter of the total, is in fact largely religious in content: ‘the elves, fairies, trolls or silkies of Anglo-Scandinavian ballads are conspicuous by the rarity.’ (p. 60)

There is an intriguing discussion of *Skolvan/Skolan* (pp. 66-70). Versions of this ballad collected by Donation Laurent in the 1960s were found to be similar to Villamarque’s mid 19th century version; this had hitherto been regarded as little more than a forgery, a deliberate attempt by him to link Breton story with medieval Welsh literature. The new evidence indicates that there is indeed a relationship between the Breton story collected in the 19th and 20th centuries and a Welsh story of the 13th (or even 10th) century.

The greater part of the book is devoted

to an in-depth analysis of two *Gwerz*: *Iannik Kokard* and *Mari Kelenn*. *Iannik Kokard* revolves around the relationship between the hero of that name and a certain Mari Tilly who comes from a *kakous* family, i.e. an outcast leper one. The hero becomes infected with leprosy. Place names in the various versions of *Iannik Kokard* anchor the events to a tightly defined area around Ploumilliau, east of Morlaix. Constantine investigates the parish registers of this area in an effort to track down the identities of the characters in the ballad. The name *Kokard* is comparatively rare in this area, coming originally from the south of Brittany, but can be shown to be present around Ploumilliau from at least the mid-sixteenth century until the beginning of the eighteenth. So too can the name Tilly – borne by the other leading protagonist in the ballad. This is important evidence, helping Constantine to conclude that ‘it would be extremely unusual for anyone to compose a *gwerz* of this degree of specificity and detail without some foundation in fact.’ (p. 127) The ballad tradition can thus be shown to have passed on a record of real events for over five hundred years. As with *Mari Kelenn*, the ballad of *Iannik Kokard*’s had a moral message and as Constantine points out much earlier ‘it was the moral drawn from the event rather than the detailed description of the event itself, that represented truth.’ (p. 34) This would explain the remaining historical obscurities and uncertainties in the ballad.

Kevin Collins

Pan-Celtic Conference

The 150th anniversary of the Irish uprising of 1848 and the 200th anniversary of the Irish Rebellion of 1798 were the themes of this year’s Pan-Celtic Conference at Hunter College, New York

Drawing the links between these crucial historic events and today, the speakers included Professor Ed O’Donnell on the Young Ireland Revolt of 1848, Stephen Paul DeVillo on the United Irishmen’s Rising of 1798, and Greg Douglas on ‘Alasdair McColla: A Gael Between Two Worlds.’ In addition there were workshops in some of the Celtic languages by Liam McNellis and others, plus a brief musical presentation by sean-nós singer Sandra Reid.

Stephen DeVillo

Celtic Literature and Culture in the Twentieth Century

Pub. The International Celtic Congress, 1997.
ISBN 0 9530793 0 9.

The International Celtic Congress meeting in Dublin in 1997 saw the launch of a collection of articles entitled '*Celtic Literature and Culture in the Twentieth Century*'. The contents consist of the lectures delivered in the 1996 Congress meeting in Bangor.

Cornwall is represented by two articles, one by Richard Jenkin, member of the Gorsedd of Bards of Cornwall, who gives an account of twentieth-century writing in the Cornish language. Alan Kent, of the Institute of Cornish Studies, gives a historicised account of Cornish writing in the three languages of Cornwall, Cornish, English and English dialect.

From Brittany, Ninnog Latimier - Kervella reviews the development of modern Breton literature, beginning with the seminal collection, *Barzaz Breizh*, at the end of the last century, and tracing its various stages in the twentieth century.

Wales is represented by the distinguished novelist, Marion Eames. Referring to writers in the two languages of Wales, she highlights the extraordinary achievements in Welsh writing in this century.

Stylish humour characterises the contribution of Tadhg Ó Dushlane, a lecture at Maynooth College. His title, 'The Hippieization of the Gael and vice versa', reveals that he chose to focus on the liberating effect of the revolutionary sixties on Irish writing in Gaelic.

Brian Stowell outlines the history of the decline and revival of Manx.

In view of some of the statistics he quotes, his account is witness to the tenacity of the Celtic tongues of Britain in their struggle to survive.

Joan MacDonald's article focuses on Scottish Gaelic publishing. She refers to two strands of Gaelic poetry, that written in the traditional modes, and what she calls the "high profile publications" of the modern school.

Price £5.00, overseas £6.50 (incl. p. and p.) from: Eurwen Price, Y Garn, Swansea Rd., Llewetha, Fforestfach, Swansea SA5 4RN. Tel: 01792/421315.

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Alba?

What do you Mean?

We regret that in the article about the *Meaning of Alba* (Carn No 101, pp22/23) odd errors occurred in the transcription into Roman type of Greek words which could not be printed in Greek type. We wish to make the following corrections with apologies to the author:

Page 22, col. 2, parag. 3: Ζ!8\$'Τ< (in 2 places should be Albion

AgDÂ 5'F:@L: Peri Kōsmou

parag. 4. The sentence from Pseudo-Aristoteles is given in translation in brackets P.22. col. 3 parag.2 (middle)

ῥῦ>4V:O : Ouzisamē

FJDL: <H : Oistrymnis

ÇFJD@4: Oistroi

ZSFJ :4@4: Ōstimioi

ZSFJ'Τ<gH : Ōstiōnes

Greatest Cornish Publisher dies

Cornish Bard and publisher Leonard Truran died on January 23, after a long illness, at the age of 70. A publisher to whom Cornwall owes an immeasurable debt. Len, a former school teacher founded his publishing house, Dyllansow Truran, in 1979 and by the time of his death was reputed to have published some 270 books. Certainly the figure was well in excess of 200, his own estimation in 1994, a time when he was already courageously battling against ill health.

Len was totally committed to the Cornish Nation – at home and worldwide – and it was this commitment that drove his publishing endeavours. Many of his books were in, or about Kernewek (the Cornish language). He was the first honorary life member of Agan Tavas the society for the promotion of Kernewek. A former chairman and secretary of the Cornish Party, Mebyon Kernow, Len was as true a son of Kernow. On one occasion he was the party's parliamentary candidate for the Falmouth/Camborne constituency.

Among his authors he could list such eminent figures as the historian Dr. A.L. Rowse while closer to home he published books for the late Mrs. Beryl James and St. Ives historian Cyril Noall. Among the Beryl James' books he published was 'The Life and Times of John Knill' and her 'Saints' and 'Tinner's Way' books.

Together with many early members of Mebyon Kernow, Len moderated a strong nationalist stance taken in the 1960s to one which saw the political party as the representative of Cornish interests. He saw the way forward as through the promotion of the Cornish language and culture and in this respect declared his single minded intention to get as many Cornish books into print as possible. In this he was spectacularly successful; although he still never made any secret of the fact that he did not like to see the Union Jack on Cornish soil!

Probably the first Cornish man to realise the importance of taking a cultural direction rather than a political one, Len proved to be an inspiration for a younger generation of Cornish publishers while his staggering output must surely rank him the greatest of all Cornish publishers.

Toni Carver

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Registration materials are now available by mail, the Internet or fax; write to CQI at Box 1384, Milwaukee WI 53201 for a registration packet, or visit our Web-site at www.cwilt.org. The fax number is: 414-257-3705.

Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership fee (including *Carn*) and subscription rates are IRE£10; Stg£10; 90FF or US\$20.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe Stg.£10 outside Europe Stg.£13.00 airmail.

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

ALBA Risnadh Mag Aoidh, 7/1 Newton Street, Gorgie, Edinburgh, EH11 1TG.

BREIZH

Correspondence: Viviane Le Menn, Kersiguenou 29160 Crozon/Kraon, Brittany.

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The General Secretary and P.R.O. of the Celtic League is Bernard Moffatt, 11 Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan, Mannin.
Tel - UK (0) 1624 627128

The Editor is Ms P. Bridson, 33 Céide na Grianoige, Rath Cuil, Co. Atha Cliath, Éire.

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Original photographs must be forwarded.

Our next deadline for material for *Carn* is 1st August 1998. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims, and should be typed. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor nor of the Celtic League.

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e-mail
General Secretary:
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No. 103

Autumn 1998

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- Welsh Language Challenge for Assembly
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Bi Eòrpach! Alba

Tha fios againn nach biodh sinn toilichte gu buileach neo sàsaichte gus am bi a' Ghàidhlig againn far a bheil a' Bheurla chruaidh Shasunnach an diugh agus sin tre Alba uile go lèir. Dìreach mar a tha Gearmailteis feadh na Gearmailt, no Pòlais feadh na Pòlainn no Portagailteis feadh na Portagail agus mar sin air adhart o cheann gu ceann na Roinn Eòrpa.

Ach, gidheadh, 's fheudar dhuinn sùil a thoirt thairis air cor na Gàidhlig an latha an diugh, agus chì sinn gum bheil turas fada againn ri thriall gus am bi ar cànan gnàthach air gach bile feadh Alba gu lèir.

Sa chiad dol a-mach, chaill sinn Caraid na Gàidhlig, Ministear na Gàidhlig san Oifis Albannach... Brian MacUilleim e-fhéin. Dh'fhuadaich Tony Blair e gu Lunnain!

Ach nuair a bha Brian coir cumhachdach an seo ann an Alba rinn e sar obair air son na Gàidhlig.

Air 4 Og-mhios 1998 chuir Brian an cèill gun robh an Riaghaltas a' dol a chur a h-ainm ri Clar na Comhairle Eorpach air son Cànanan air Roinneil mo Mionchanannan (European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages... European Treaty Series - No. 148) so-fhaotainn on European Commission, 9 Alva Street, DùnEideann/Edinburgh EH12).

Chuireadh an Clar (Charter) seo air chois ann an 1992 le Comhairle na h-Eòrpa agus a bhith a' brosnachadh agus ag adhartachadh mion-chananan dualchasach air feadh na Roinn Eòrpa.

Arsa Brian sa Ghàidhlig, "Dh'fhalbh na làithean far am biodh na mion-chananan air am faicinn mar chunnart do aonachd naiseanta. Tha na chaidh ainmeachadh an diugh a' toirt dhuinn an cothrom a' togail air na chaidh a steidheachadh as leth na Gàidhlig agus a' dèanamh cinnteach nach tèid dearmad a dheanamh air an carrann chudromach seo de ar dualchas a chaidh tuilleadh."

Gle maith, ach dè tha an Clar Eorpach seo a' nochdadh?

Sa chiad dol a-mach tha roimh-ràdh ann agus an deidh sin Pàirt I agus II. Taing don Pàirt II aithnichidh an Riaghaltas gum bheil Beurla Ghallda eadar-dhealaichte on Bheurla Shasunnach agus gum bheil cultur sa Bheurla Ghallda. Leis a sin, bithidh cuspair e an sna "Highers" agus sna oilthighean a thaobh na Beurla Ghallda.

A thaobh na Beurla Ghallda chì sinn gun do dh'fhoillsich The Saltire Society, 9 Fountain Close, 22 High Street,

DùnEideann/Edinburgh "A Scots Grammar" le David Purves.

Tha e feumail gum bi a h-uile cuspair air a theagasg tre na Gàidhlig feadh Alba gu lèir eadhon a' Bheurla Ghallda. Le sin bhiodh... "A didna richt ken whit A wis thinkin aboot!"... eadar-theangaichte mar... "Cha robh mi dìreach cinnteach mu na bha mi a' smuaineachadh" an àite... "I was not completely sure what I was thinking about", sa Bheurla Shasunnach a tha na Canain theagaisg gu ìre bhig anns gach sgoil, colaiste is oilthigh gu lèir an diugh. Agus le teagasg tre na Gàidhlig uile gu lèir cha bhiodh Alba roinnte mar a tha a' Bheilg (Belgium) eadar dà chànan.



Chaidh an dealbh seo a thogail anns an Ath-leathain, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach. Bithidh ar canain ri fhaicinn mar sin anns a h-uile sràid feadh Alba fhathast.

Gu cinnteach bhiodh cànanearan coimheach air an teagasg, mar Beurla Shasunnach, an Ihraingis, an Gearmailteis agus càch... tre na Gàidhlig cuideachd.

A nisd, a chuid a tha buntainn ri ar cànan ... Pàirt III. Tha trì taghaidhean ann:-

- (i) a dh'ullachadh rudeigin tre na cànan roineil no mion-chànaineach, agus dè na "rudan" ach croileagain, bun-sgoiltean, àrd-sgoiltean, colaistean, oilthighean agus clasachain-oidhche no lathail. Seo a dh'fheumadh sinn a' sireadh - se sin ri ràdh - teagasg tre na Gàidhlig - gabh no fàg. Dìreach mar a tha a' dèanamh a-nisd gu ìre bhig anns gach àite feadh Alba - tre na

Beurla - gabh no fàg!

- (ii) far a bheil a' mhór-chuid sa chànan.
- (iii) far nach bi cail sam bith ri thairsginn mur eil na parantan a' guidhe dhà mar gun robh a' chlann nan dèircich! Seo agaibh an suidheachadh an diugh!

Rud eile - Bithidh Pàirt III a' ceadachadh ar cànan sna cuirtean laghail agus air pàipearan laghail - rudan a tha toirmisgte an diugh.

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A bharrachd air sin bhiodh còirichean aig ar cànan a thaobh nan ùghdarrasan ionadail - bailtean is sgìrean.

Mata, sin agaibh e, tuilleadh dòchas ann air sgath na cànan againn ma bhios sinn daingean... is fheàrr a' feuchainn na bhi gun dùil...

Dèanamaid gairdeachas! Tha a h-uile cail a' dol am feobhais! Bha feisean anns gach ceàrn am bliadhna. Ged nach eil pàipear-naidheachd againn fhathast tha tuilleadh Gàidhlig ri fhaicinn sna pàipearan m.e. anns "An Albannach", Am Pàipear

Beag Sgitheanach 7c. Nach eil Radio nan Gàidheal againn agus Gàidhlig air TV?

Ma bhios sinn air lorg kabhar Gàidhlig a sgrìobhadh, bithidh an Dornhnallach, 22 Mansfield Street, Glaschu/Glasgow G11 5QP toilichte gar cuideachadh. Tha "Gairm" agus "Tocher" ri fhaotainn cuideachd.

Beagan is beagan tha croileagan ann agus sgoiltean far am bheil na tidsearan a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig. Tha Sabhail Mór Ostaig daonna a' dol nas fheàrr agus nas farsaing e, agus tha dà degrees ri fhaotainn san oilthigh far a bheil an teagasg agus, eadhon an deuchainn, uile gu lèir sa Ghàidhlig a nisd.

Ma bhios thu dùrachdach deagh obair a dheanamh air sgath na Gàidhlig, theagamh

Dr Allan MacArtney SNP MEP North East Scotland 1941-1998

Allan MacArtney's sudden death at the early age of 57 years robs the SNP of a practical patriot and internationalist. He was a most civilised man who sought the cooperation of his fellow Scots to achieve self-determination.

Born in Accra, Ghana, a son of the manse, he set out on his quest for a self respecting, self governing, Scotland from his student days onwards. His internationalism was a hallmark, he spoke several African languages, some French, German, and Dutch. His interest and knowledge of Gaelic and support for the formation of organisations like the Celtic League was one important strand in his work. His electoral success in 1994 in the NE Scotland European Parliament seat which he won from Labour against the British trend by a convincing 31,000 majority gave him the platform to press Scotland's European and World profile alongside his long serving European Parliament colleague, Winnie Ewing, madame Ecosse, the SNP member for the Highlands and Islands.

His early teaching career was in Eastern Nigeria and then in universities in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, before returning to lecture in political science in

the Open University, based in Edinburgh in 1970. Many publications followed including his doctorate in 1978. He was an expert in electoral systems and devised the new methods adopted by the SNP for proportional representation polls in the Scottish Parliament and Europe next year.

His book *The Referendum Experience* analysed the 1979 debacle which laid the foundations for the new cooperation that led to consensus over plans for a devolved Scottish parliament in the late 1980s. He was also a co-founder of the Edinburgh University Unit for the Study of Government which has done valuable work to establish a Scottish base for the craft of governance.

Within the SNP Allan's unceasing work was inclusive, humorous and wise. His eventual elevation to Senior Vice Convener – Deputy Leader was a testament to his organisational and representational efforts on behalf of the party. His was a strand of thinking which championed the Scots Independent paper, the St Andrews Society and embraced broad elements within the Scottish public in a decent, hard working and often humorous stance. His time in the European Parliamentary arena gave him the recognition that his academic and national standing more than deserved.

He was never happier than singing the older songs of Scotland and encouraging new members to delve into the depths of Scottish history and the democratic intellect which has guided this ancient nation onto the route to modern independence. That he will miss the earthly celebrations of his country on the march is a grave loss but his example will guide many and his memory will be strong in the hearts and minds of fellow Scots. To his family, his widow Anne, his father, children and grandchildren we all are indebted for the all too short influence of one of the truly great Scots of his days.

Rob Gibson



Dr Allan MacArtney
campaigning in
Inverness in the 1997
General Election



Independent Scots read the
'Scots Independent'

Contact

51 Cowane Street
Stirling FK8 1JW
Alba/Scotland

Telephone
Stirling 01786 473523

Information Leaflet Launched

The national Gaelic development agency Comunn na Gàidhlig have teamed up with the Scottish Office to produce an information leaflet and larger booklet explaining Gaelic medium education. Leaflets and booklets are available from: Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Caolshraid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis IV2 3HQ.
E-mail: Ailean@cnag.org.uk

Bi Eòrpach (contd...)

gum biodh An Iomairt Ionadail gad chuideachadh.

Tha cassettes is CDs Gàidhlig ri fhaotain sna bhùithtean.

A nisd, bithidh tuilleadh a' tighinn a-mach taing don Chlar Eòrpach (European Charter) seo.

Feumaidh sinn stri daonnan air son na cànan againn ach:-

"Bu chaomh leinn bhi mire..."

"Bu chaomh leinn bhi mire....."

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

Summary

There was great sorrow among all supporters of Scotland's oldest surviving indigenous language ... of Gaelic ... when Brian Wilson fell victim to a Tony Blair cabinet reshuffle which deprived Brian of his position as Minister of Gaelic. He had proved himself to be a true friend of our language and a hard working supporter of all Scottish linguistic traditions. Before he was removed from office he announced that the Government had agreed to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This can be regarded as a significant step forward.

BT Campaign

In the light of devolution, BT have renamed their Scottish operation "BT Scotland" and have announced that they intend to do more in future to build up a Scottish image for the company and to cater for distinctive Scottish needs. Gaelic groups are calling upon BT Scotland to use this opportunity to increase their use of Gaelic and to draw up a Gaelic policy. The lack of services provided by BT for Gaelic speakers has long been a bone of contention between the company and language activists.

At present, BT don't produce telephone bills or telephone books bilingually and digital instructions in phone boxes are not available in Gaelic even though they are in six other languages. All of these services are available in Welsh. Why not write to Doug Riley, the new director of BT Scotland asking him to draw up a Gaelic policy including the provision of Gaelic (or bilingual) phone bills, bilingual phone books and Gaelic instructions in phone boxes.

Write or send an e-mail to: Doug Riley, Director BT Scotland, Telephone House, 357 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 2RP.

E-mail: doug.riley@bt.com

Alasdair MacCaluim



Ostalerioù evit an iwerzhonegerien

Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (Kuzul Broadel an Iwerzhoneg) zo un aozadur a vod kevredigezhioù all hag a labour evit ar yezh. Met harpet eo – hep nemeur a c'hred – gant yalc'hadoù Stad hag evel-se e c'hall skoazellañ ar c'hevredigezhioù-se da seveniñ o c'hefridi. Emañ bremañ o tastum arc'hant evit digeriñ un ostaleri e kav an ti m'emañ e vurevioù, en niverenn 46 Sráid Cill Dara (Kildare Street), Dulenn. Prometet en deus an advaodier, Éamon Ó Cuív, evit aferioù ar yezh, reiñ £50,000 d'ar C'huzul ma c'hall kaout o c'hement all digant proferien pe engouestlerien. An hanter a oa kavet a-benn derou miz Eost ha krediñ a reer e vo kavet ar peurrest buan a-walc'h evit bezañ prest da servij boued ha died kerkent ha dibenn miz Here. Eno o devo tu an dud a oar mat iwerzhoneg koulz hag ar re o defe c'hoant da ziverglañ o fleustr anezhañ da gejañ e-kerzh an deiz. An douristed hag a garfe klevet ar yezh komzet en un doare diardoù e Dulenn a vo deuet-mat ivez. Straed Cill Dara zo tost da Skolaj an Dreinded ha d'ar Gurliorzh Sant Stevan, en tu kreisteiz eus kêr. Aes eo da dizhout gant ar c'harr-boutin.

Gael-Linn, un aozadur prevez diazezet gant Dónall Ó Móráin er bloavezhioù '50 ha kaset en-dro war-bouez arc'hant diwar glaoustreoù (korvoet e voe evel-se tech an Iwerzhoniz da "lakaat arc'hant war gezeg-red") en deus graet meur a arnod evit kreñvaat pouez an iwerzhoneg er vuhez armerzhel ha sevenadurel. Ganto e voe embannet ur rummad pladennoù sonerezh ha kan gwriziennet donoc'h eget betek neuze e hengoun gwirion ar Gouezelva, ha lakaat a rejont aozañ filmoù en iwerzhoneg evel Mise Éire a-zivout ar stourm evit dieubiñ Iwerzhon e-tro 1916-1921. E-se eo bet Gael-Linn un touller-hent. E derou ar bloavezhioù '60, pa voe divizet a-berzh Stad krouiñ ur servij skinwel iwerzhonat, e klaskas Ó Móráin kaout an emell anezhañ, met nac'het e voe an aotre outañ. Ur servij dindan mestroniezh ar Stad e felle d'ar gouarnamant e vije eus Telefís Éireann ha moarvat e pouezas politikerien'zo evit mirout na vije ket fiziet en emsaverien.

Bloaz'zo e prenas Gael-Linn un takadig tost d'ar Bank Kreiz, nepell diouzh Skolaj an Dreinded ivez, gant ar mennad diazezañ eno ur greizenn sevenadurel gouezelek ma vije un ostaleri enni. Ne zeuas ket a-benn koulskoude. Adwerzhet eo bet an takad d'un embregerezh sevel tiez, met n'en deus ket kroazet Gael-Linn war ar mennad. Goulennet o deus aotre evit un ostaleri da vout lec'hiet en ti a vo savet eno, hag e vefe stag outi salioù evit emvodoù hag abadennoù sonerezh.

An hevelep soñj zo deuet e pennoù all. Emañ Bord na Gaeilge (Burev an Iwerzhoneg), un aozadur karget gant ar gouarnamant d'e guzuliañ war dachenn ar yezh – ur c'hevezer d'ar Comhdháil Náisiúnta eo – o paouez embann e roio skoazell arc'hant d'ur gevredigezh prevez hag a zigorfe un ostaleri ouezelek e-kreiz ar gêr-benn. Ne lavarer ket pegen bras e vo ar sammad.

Abaoe 30 vloaz ez eus ur c'hlub iwerzhonek er c'hav dindan ti Conradh na Gaeilge en niv. 6, Straed Fearchair (Harcourt St.), e-kichen korn mervent ar Gurliorzh St. Stevan, pellik eta diouzh kreiz kêr. Eno e vez nebeut a ichou e-tal ar bar met frankoc'h eo en daou benn. Ret eo bezañ ezel eta evit mont di da gemer e vanne ha da varvailhat, ha ne vez ket digor a-raok 8 ur da noz. Pep ezel a c'hall avat degas ur mignon pe eur vignonez gantañ, met selloù du a vo graet ouzh an neb a safaro (kreñv) e saozneg! A-wezhioù e vez leun-tenn al lec'h, met e-kreiz ar sizhun na zeu ket kalz a dud, da vihanañ a-raok dek eur. Iwerzhoniz zo laboused noz...

An holl lec'hioù meneget a-us zo er c'hreisteiz d'ar stêr Life hag a red dre greiz Dulenn. Ken e c'hallfed krediñ n'eus nemet paloded e tu an hanternoz! Gwir eo ez eo dreist-holl tud eus ar renkad etre ha bet skolietañ-mat hag a zo troet gant an iwerzhoneg e Dulenn hag e tu an norzh eus al Life eo peurvuiañ tud vunut, kalz anezho paour pe dihourvez, hag a zo o chom.

A. Heusaff

Summary

Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge expects to open a café for Irish-speakers in its building in Kildare Street by the end of October: their effort to raise the money is progressing well with backing promised by the government. On the other hand the government-controlled Bord na Gaeilge is prepared to give support to a similar private undertaking. Gael-Linn have carried out several projects since the 50s which have promoted the Irish language and culture. They are seeking to create an Irish cultural centre in Temple Bar which would also include a café for Irish-speakers. A club where the latter can meet for a drink and a chat on any evening was opened almost 30 years ago in a basement of the Conradh na Gaeilge Headquarters. All the above-mentioned places are fairly central in Dublin but South of the Liffey.



Ar Bed Keltiek

on line books, records, Celtic art,
Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82
Brest: 02.98.44.05.38
<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>
e-bost: arfur@eurobretagne.fr
bernez.abk@eurobretagne.fr

Note: Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper), uses the term **e-bost** in preference to e-mail, like the Welsh. When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

GIOVENTURA PIEMONTEISA

Contacts with the Celtic League are sought by the association **Gioventura Piemontéisa** (Piemontese Youth). Turin. They are endeavouring to spread an interest in the Celtic past/traditions of their region. We have requested further information from them about the Celtic elements in their culture and how they envisage a development of the identity celtica del Piemonte.

A.H.

A Monument to Glenmor

Two years after Glenmor's death, a stele in granite was unveiled in his honour on June 27th last in the presence of more than 250 people in the Thabor Park in Rennes. Like a figure head emerging from a stone, surrounded by young broom plants, the monument, draped with two Breton flags, was unveiled by Edmond Herve, mayor of Rennes and Herve le Borgne, president of *Glenmor an Distro*. This association was founded with the aim of popularising the work of the famous 'bard' in its written and sung forms, and had commissioned the sculpture from Jean Freour, an artist from the Gwenrann peninsula. In 1996 Freour was awarded the Ermine Collar, which is bestowed every year by the Breton Cultural Institute on four people for their work on behalf of our country and culture. He was a member of the SEIZH BREUR association founded in 1923 with the aim of renewing Brittany's art.



On either side of the statue there is a plaque inscribed with the quotation from Glenmor, one in Breton, the other in French, meaning "If there is no longer anyone to lament over its past, who will break Brittany's chains?"

The assembled gathering was moved on hearing these lines recited by a Diwan schoolgirl. Glenmor's widow, Katell, gave a talented reading of some of his poems. She was followed by a Flemish poet who came to testify to the spirit which urged Glenmor to combat all forms of imperialism. H. Le Borgne also took on the French centralists and especially B. Poignant for their hypocritical attitude towards the Breton language. He compared Glenmor to the Kabyle singer, Luones Matoub, assassinated in Algeria, who denounced the arabisation of his country. In the words of Edmond Herve, Glenmor was one of those who gave back pride to the Bretons, but also other minorities; thus achieving universality.

Jakez Gaucher

Unveiling stele to Glenmor

Towards a Breton Television Channel

A project for the setting up of a Breton TV Channel was presented to the public in Breton, with translations in French and English, at a debate which took place during the Film Festival for Minorities in Douarnenez in July. The presentation in Breton was meant to show that what is intended is not a supposedly bilingual channel in which our language would have a minor place but an instrument for its promotion. Up to now it is restricted to one hour and a quarter a week on FR2 (which is controlled from Paris). This channel is contributing to the attempts to dilute Brittany's identity in a Grand Ouest region, the latest manifestation of which was a proposal by the Socialist Party to divide the French territory in 7 artificial regions, one of which would include Brittany and nine neighbouring departments, as constituencies for the European elections.

The decision to launch the project was taken in November 1997 by the Breton Cultural Council. Since then, Andre Lavanant, ex-president of DIWAN, is heading a group entrusted with the task of preparing the dossier, which could take 2 to 3 years to complete. It is hoped that the channel will be subsidised by the Brittany-4 regional council and the 5 Breton departments as well as by private groups, while retaining its editorial freedom. It will show Brittany's everyday life, history, culture and reflect its aspirations. It will also broadcast programmes to help those who are learning our languages, a good command of which will be required from all its staff.

As if by coincidence, FR3 Ouest announced, the day before the project was made publicly known, that they would start a new magazine, *Red an Amzer*, in September. Was this intended to take the wind out of the sails of the Breton channel? One may be sure there will be a strong opposition to the Cultural Council's proposals, but an indication that this essential demand of the Breton organisations is nearing realisation can be seen in the announcement by the president of the new Regional Council that it will have such a service on its agenda.

A private initiative: at the instigation of Patrick Le Lay of TFI and Charles Biétry, president of Eurosport-France, running commentaries were broadcast in Breton on the Europa-Sport channel on the matches of the Soccer World Championship. Le Lay has come out strongly in support of a Breton language service. Many viewers were amazed that 'brezhoneg' could be used in the context of the World Cup...

Same Status for Brittany as for New Caledonia

The indigenous peoples of New Caledonia, a French possession in the Western Pacific, legally (?) an integral part of France, have repeatedly asserted their claim to freedom by violent means. An agreement was recently reached between them, the European settlers and the French government which if ratified in Paris will allow them a considerable degree

Reinforcing their hold

A bill of law was adopted in June by the French National Assembly which will reform the mode of election to the Regional Councils in such a way that small parties will have their representation excluded. Lists will have to obtain at least 5% of the vote in the first round to have their candidates elected and at least 10% to be entitled to take part in the second round. The list with the largest vote will get a 25% bonus, which is undemocratic but advocated by the need to avoid instability, i.e. to prevent minor parties holding the balance of power, a situation which has presented itself in Brittany. But the law will preclude the Breton parties from being represented on the Rennes Council unless they can significantly increase their performance of the past 20 years. They must find a way to cooperate so as not to allow the French parties to reinforce their hold on our country.

of self-government. The UDB has published a plan which would give Brittany a similar status. This, they argue, is necessary if this country is to keep pace with the other European regions. It would include legislative and financial powers linked with those of the State, the officialisation of Breton throughout the territory of historic Brittany, a Breton citizenship complementary to that of the French Republic and of Europe; adoption of the project by the French parliament to be followed by a referendum in Brittany.

DIWAN blows out its 20 candles

An impressive festival took place in Montroulez/Morlaix during the 8th to 10th of May week-end. DIWAN was celebrating its 20th anniversary with the participation, free of charge, of some of the most outstanding players on the Breton musical scene such as Dan ar Bras, Denez Prigent and Yann Fanch Kemener. Scotland was also represented by Karen Matheson and her group Capercaillie. Children from ten DIWAN schools presented a play under the guidance of Goulc'han Kervella, the talented director of the professional theatre company, Ar Vro Bagan.

The festival was attended by more than 15,000 people who came from all over Brittany to show their support for an undertaking which was inspired by the example of the Basques and which, at first greeted by many as a curiosity, has become an object of pride and identification for the Breton community. Clear proof of how strongly people feel about DIWAN is that elected representatives make a point of being present at the head of demonstrations which are organised whenever difficulties arising from official ill will make them necessary. You then see J.Y. Cozan, the "Diwan MP", vice-president of the Regional Council in charge of Breton cultural matters, who has come out in favour of self-government, often being joined by mayors wearing their official (tricolour!) sashes, such as the socialist J.P. Thomlin of Landerne, the communist J.P. Jeudy of Karaez, the UDF Alphonse Arzel of Ploudalmezeu...

Several of these people were in Montroulez to testify to their backing, even if only by putting in a brief appearance as in the case of Mme Lebranchu, Minister for the Small and Medium Size Enterprises. Cozan stayed during the whole week-end, moving around from the bar to the theatre, to the radio panel set up (not by Radio France-Bretagne Occidentale...) for a debate on Brittany's linguistic future, etc... In the discussion, while expressing his satisfaction with the 20% annual rate of increase in the number of pupils and with the development of auxiliary services such as the opening last year of the KELENN teachers' training course in Kemper, Andrew Lincoln, president of DIWAN, did not conceal the difficulties facing the association.

Until the French state agrees to give legal status to the minority languages in its ambit, they will remain in a precarious condition in spite of all efforts on their behalf. Education in Brittany should be the responsibility of the Regional Council, following for instance the example of the German Länder.

Th. Jigourel



Diwan Festival, Montroulez

REPORT ON MINORITY LANGUAGES

A report about the place to be given to minority languages in Education was prepared at the request of the French Prime Minister by Bernard Poignant, mayor of Kemper and ex-professor in this town's training college for teachers; it was handed in to Mr Jospin, French Prime Minister, on June 30.

Mr Poignant was known for his opposition to the demands of the Breton movement, having once said that no substantial concession should be made to it. He created an uproar when on being interviewed by a Quest-France journalist on June 15 he stated that the slogan "One language, one territory" which he attributed to Breton language activists was "an Aryan theory". This is certainly not a motto used by the bulk of the language movement, but the mayor should have been aware of the harm he was doing to it among the public. It was pointed out that he could more appropriately be accused of subscribing to such a theory since he upheld Article 2 of the Constitution which makes French **THE** language of the Republic, to the exclusion of the "regional" languages.

It was therefore surprising that his report contained a number of proposals which, if adopted and implemented, would constitute a notable departure from a long-established policy.

He recommends that France sign and ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages; that the obstacle to

that, the notorious Article 2, be changed, that the regional councils in the areas concerned be enabled to advise on language and cultural policy matters; that the state contracts with the Regions include provisions relating to the regional languages. As for concrete measures he recommends that different teaching methods, ranging from simple lessons to bilingual classes (as at present in some state controlled schools) to immersion (as practised by DIWAN) be admitted; that ways be found to incorporate DIWAN in the state school system, so that its teachers could go on the Department of Education's payroll. The demand for teachers of the languages should be foreseen, so as to ensure continuity in filling posts. Greater weight should be given to the regional languages in trainee teachers competitions. The number of children needed for new classes or schools to be opened should be specified.

The enquiry, originally undertaken by a Basque deputy with a wider remit, mainly concerns itself with education, but it contains a few proposals relating to the media, e.g. fixing binding quotas for the time to be allowed for broadcasts in regional languages on state controlled stations.

Poignant states expressly that his recommendations are primarily motivated by a concern for the interests of the State and of the French language. France should

sign the European Charter so as to be in line with the other European countries in their respect for linguistic and cultural diversity. Over-centralisation was harmful. Linguistic differences and aspirations had to be accepted. France's attitude towards its regional languages was inconsistent with the struggle to uphold the place of French in the international field.

To overcome the opposition to change which is strongly entrenched in the higher ranks of the administration and of the parties, Poignant argues that these languages no longer pose a danger to the unity of the State: they can now be tolerated! But the "Republican" values must be respected: everybody must learn French well; sectional groups have no rights; the regional languages are a matter of individual choice; there must be no obligation on parents to have them taught to their children and there is no question of adopting a policy of reparation for the damage done to them. Let them be friends at home and allies abroad for the expansion of the national language, the language of liberty.

Another reason for acceding to the demands for the regional languages was that if the Republicans rejected them, others would exploit the refusal. He meant presumably the National Front or the separatists.

It remains now to be seen what the government will do with these proposals. On receipt of the report, an expert was asked to see if the declared incompatibility between the Constitution and signing of the European Charter can be got around. Some of the Breton language organisations have welcomed the proposals as a basis from which to progress. They have joined other minority groups (Basques, Catalans...) in setting up a Republican Committee – so named as a reassuring token to political correctness – with the aim of canvassing support from politicians.

The *Emgann* monthly "Combat Breton" warned of the danger to be guarded against by those in charge of associations and publications, of being tied down by such subsidies as might be given to them if Poignant's proposals are adopted. They are entitled to public financial help, since Bretons pay taxes. But it could inhibit their freedom. It could also lull their members and supporters into a sense that they no longer need to keep up their efforts. The signing and ratifying of the European Charter would be psychologically important, but its provisions fall very short of what is needed to put the recovery of our language on a sound basis. It leaves so much latitude to the state that a lot of energy could be detracted from other work in trying to get valuable results from it. Any gains made came from a constant effort. It will be well to keep the saying in

mind that "the leopard cannot change its spots", and to reject the notion that our language is just to be tolerated, or that it is a "local idiom" only good for private use. It

is our national language, to be transmitted to the present and future generations of the Breton people.

A.H.



*Breton National Festival in
Bains-sur-Oust*

BRETON PEOPLE: NATIONAL FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

In order to commemorate the victory won by Nomenoe in 845, which insured independence for Brittany for almost 7 centuries, a national festival has been celebrated in June for the past few years. On June 14th last, it took place in several towns, Rennes, Karaez, Lanester/Lorient, Gwengamp, Kemperle. But it was at Bains-sur-Oust near Redon, where Nomenoe won a decisive battle against the troops of Charles the Bald, that the most important commemoration took place. Following an appeal by the party POBL and the association Koun Breizh, several hundreds of Breton patriots gathered on that Sunday morning to honour the memory of the first king of all Brittany. In front of the statue of him carved by Raffig Tulloce (Koun Breizh), the POBL president P. Montauzier, regretted that some were trying to give this annual event a folkloric coloration. He reminded the listeners "that it had a highly political character. The struggle we are engaged in", he said. "is basically the same as Nomenoe's... Today, like yesterday, the struggle for political freedom is a priority".

Thierry Jigourel

HOW BEAUTIFUL IS MY BRITTANY!

What does a summer visitor do when (s)he arrives for the first time in Brittany? Probably (s)he has prepared a plan of his/her route in accordance with information from tourist offices, newspapers, festival posters, most of which being of folkloric interest. Practically nothing transpires in that sort of literature about the existence of a cultural and political struggle in the country. I had recently the experience of meeting a German tourist visiting a museum where indications were given bilingually. He was wondering: "Is this Dutch? Italian?" I told him it was Breton, that we had here a language of our own. He had never heard of it.

This incident exemplifies that you see of Brittany only those aspects which she is allowed to display. If you get behind the shop window you will soon become aware that the most important is less colourful. The Breton language is on display indeed, but not in any place or at any time you

might like. The bilingual Breton-French signposts seem too often to be intended by the authorities just for the tourists, to give local colour. Counterfeit is rife. Thus a report about the language situation required by Prime Minister Jospin was entrusted to B. Poignant, a politician known for his opposition to any serious step to improve it. It gives the impression that something is going to be done.

Our sense of hospitality is renowned, but nowadays it has catastrophic consequences: it can lead you straight to court in Paris, particularly if it is extended to Basques. You are then "a person suspected of having put up individuals suspected of links with ETA". Such a double suspicion leaves doubt about the validity of the accusation.

Examples could be multiplied. If the foreign visitors wanted really to know Brittany they would have to be told that behind the pageants, the pipers' displays, the lively festou-noz lies a less pleasant reality. But perhaps they prefer you did not spoil their recollections of magnificent landscapes and colourful folkloric events.

Viviane Le Menn

Lluoedd arfog Lloegr

Mae ystadegau'r llywodraeth yn dangos bod gan y llynges 1342 o longwyr yn Caradon a 2057 yn Kerrier a gan y Llu Awyr 41 o bobl yn Kerrier.

Cyngor Cernyw yn ddi-asgwrn cefn

Bu beirniadaeth fawr ar Gyngor "Sir" Cernyw am beidio â chefnogi hunaniaeth Cernyw. Cytunodd y cyngor uno gweinyddiaeth yr ynadon gyda Dyfnaint yng Nghaerwysg a chreu siambr ranbarthol hyd at Gaerloyw a Swindon. 'Roedd y cyngor hefyd yn erbyn cwestiwn am hunaniaeth Cernyw yng Nghyfrifiad 2001.

CJ

Siop Gernyweg

Mae Cowethas an Yeth Kernewek wedi agor eu siop gyntaf, yn Lyskerry/Liskeard. Gwynn ha Du ydi enw'r siop, a gwerthir yno llyfrau yn ac am yr iaith ac amrywiaeth o ddeunydd dysgu Cernyweg.

RapT

Pigion Celtaidd

YR ALBAN

Is-etholiadau

Mewn is-etholiadau llywodraeth leol mae'r Blaid Lafur yn colli seddau i bob cyfeiriad y dyddiau yma. Collasant sedd Hilton, cyngor yr Ucheldiroedd, i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a sedd Gorllewin Dûn Blàthain/Dunblane, cyngor Sruighlea/Stirling i'r Toriaid. Ond yn swy arwyddocaol oedd buddugoliaeth y Blaid Genedlaethol yn sedd Lafur Condorrat, cyngor Gogledd Lannrag/Lanark, a gipiwyd gan yr SNP gyda mwyafrif o 31% dros Lafur. Mae un cynghorydd annibynnol ar gyngor Earraghaidheal is Bod/Argyll & Bute wedi ymuno â'r SNP.

Ysgolion cynradd

Mae rhieni yn Glaschu a Chaeredin yn ceisio datblygu unedau cynradd Gaeleg yn y dinasoedd i fod yn ysgolion Gaeleg. Sefydlwyd ffrydiau newydd yn Sruighlea/Stirling a Gogledd Lannrag/Lanark ym mis Medi eleni.

Arolwg teledu

Dangoswyd gan arolwg ar draws yr Alban bod 80% o oedolion yn cytuno bod rhaglenni teledu Gaeleg yn bwysig ar gyfer diogelu'r iaith. Mae'r ffigwr yn codi i 90% o siaradwyr yr Aeleg. 'Roedd deuparth o'r farn fod y rhaglenni o gymorth i bawb ddeall y diwylliant Gaeleg.

Siartr Ewrop

Mae llywodraeth San Steffan wedi penderfynu llofnodi Siartr Ewrop am leithoedd Rhanbarthol neu Leiafrifol ar ran yr Aeleg. Bydd y weithred hon yn hwb mawr i'r ymgyrch i sicrhau 'statws sier' ar gyfer yr Aeleg.

CJ

LLYDAW

Addysg

Sefydlwyd ysgol Diwan newydd rhwng Sant Malo a Dinan.

B4 neu B5

Mewn pól piniwn 'roedd 62% o boblogaeth 'département' Liger Atlantel/Loire Atlantique o blaid ail-uno'r département gyda gweddill Llydaw hanesyddol a'r pedwar département arall.

MANAW

Newid cyfansoddiadol?

Mae senedd Ynys Manaw - Tynwald - wedi penderfynu apwyntio Llywydd i'r Ynys yn hytrach na'r hen Lywodraethwr Cyffredinol. Rhagwelir y bydd Manaw yn annibynnol o fewn ugain mlynedd.

Clive James

IWERDDON

Canlyniadau etholiad cynulliad y 6 sir

Plaid	Pleidleisiau	% pleidlais	Seddau	% seddau
SDLP	177,963	21.96	24	22.2
UUP	172,225	21.26	28	25.9
DUP	146,917	18.13	20	18.5
Sinn Féin	142,858	17.63	18	16.7
Alliance	52,630	6.50	6	5.6
UKUP	36,541	4.51	5	4.6
PUP	20,634	2.55	2	.9
Eraill	60,471	7.46	5	4.6
Cyfanswm	810,241	100	108	100

Dylid nodi fod 28 aelod yn erbyn y cytundeb: aelodau'r DUP (20), yr UKUP (5), a'r Unoliaethwyr Annibynnol (3).

Hybu twristiaeth ddiwylliannol

Mae Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (corff ymbarél y sector gwirfoddol Gwyddeleg) a Menter a Busnes yng Nghymru yn cydweithio i hybu defnyddio'r Wyddeleg a'r Gymraeg yn sector twristiaeth.

URDD YR ORENWYR - URDD SECTYDDOL

Dosbarthwyd copïau o daflen Gymraeg am Urdd yr Orenwyr a gynhyrchwyd gan Fudiad Milwyr Mâs gan gangen Cymru'r Undeb Celtaidd yn ein pabell ar faes Eisteddfod Bro Ogwr ym mis Awst. Dyma eiriau'r daflen:

" 'Wrth ymadael... dyma hwy'n ymroi'n llwyr i'r sêl wrth-Babyddol a oedd wedi'i hennyn ynddynt gan y gwasanaeth eglwysig a mynd ati i ymosod ar bob Pabydd ar eu ffordd, a'i guro a'i gleisio'n ddiwahân a malu drysau a ffenestri tai Pabyddion a hyd yn oed lofruddio dau werinwr cwbl ddiwed'. Gorymdaith eglwysig Drumcree, 1795. [dyfyniad wedi'i gyfieithu o 'A History of Ireland' gan Francis Plowden (1809)].

Sefydlwyd Urdd yr Orenwyr dros 200 mlynedd yn ôl mewn ymateb i fudiad y Gwyddelod Unedig a oedd wedi rhoi ei fryd ar ryddhau Iwerddon o afael yr ymerodraeth Brydeinig. Mudiad hollgynhwysol a unai Babyddion, Presbyteriaid, Protestaniaid ac anghydfurfwr oedd y Gwyddelod Unedig, ond mudiad caeedig, gwrth-Babyddol, sectyddol wedi'i gyfyngu i ddynion yn unig oedd Urdd yr Orenwyr o'r dechrau. Ni chaiff Pabyddion na neb sydd â chysylltiadau Pabyddol drwy briodas ymaelodi â'r Urdd hon. Fel y Seiri Rhyddion ym Mhrydain, bydd aelodau Urdd yr Orenwyr yn ymdrechu i sicrhau swyddi dylanwadol iddynt hwy eu hunain ym myd gwleidyddiaeth (mae llawer o wleidyddion unoliaethol hefyd yn aelodau Urdd yr Orenwyr), busnes, y gwasanaeth suful a'r mudiad undebau llafur. Mae gan Urdd yr Orenwyr gysylltiadau hefyd â'r Teyrngarwyr Paramilwrol.

Sefydlwyd Urdd yr Orenwyr ym 1795 yn dilyn ymosodiad sectyddol ym 'Mrwydr y Diamwnt' pan laddwyd 30 o Babyddion. Holl fwriad y mudiad yw cadw 'anfarwol a gogoneddus' gof am Gwilym o Orange a'i fuddugoliaeth dros y brenin Pabyddol James yr Ail ym Mrwydr Afon Boyne. Daeth yr holl wregysau a'r regalia a gysylltw'n â'r Urdd hon yn ddiweddarach. Ers eu dechrau yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, y mae gorymdeithiau Orenaidd wedi tyfu a mynd yn fwy ymosodol wrth i'r Urdd ymateb i her y cenedlaetholwyr drwy ddangos ei lliwiau sectyddol a gorchestaid. Pwy a all anghofio 'dawns fuddugoliaethus' Trimble a Paisley yn

Drumcree ym 1996 na gorymdeithwyr Ffordd Ormeau Isaf yn 'dathlu' oherwydd nifer y bobl a laddwyd gan garfanau llofruddio'r Teyrngarwyr yn siop fetio Sean Graham? Mae mwy na 300 gorymdaith debyg i'r rhain yng Ngogledd Iwerddon bob blwyddyn.

Er bod yr hawliau i orymdeithio, ymgynnull a gwleidyddia i gyd yn cael eu diogelu gan ddeddfwriaeth hawliau dynol, nid yw'r un cytundeb yn gwarantu'r hawliau hynny ar draul dinasyddion eraill. Traddodiad rhagfarn, sectyddiaeth a gorchestiaeth yw'r 'traddodiad' a fynir gan Urdd yr Orenwyr. O orymdaith gyntaf Drumcree ym 1795 hyd orymdaith Drumcree eleni, y mae caniatáu i Orenwyr orymdeithio drwy gymunedau'r cenedlaetholwyr yr un fath yn union â gadael i ffasgwyr y BNP orymdeithio drwy St Pauls, Brixton a Handsworth.

Mae cyswllt anorfd rhwng Urdd yr Orenwyr a'r holl weithred o greu gwladwriaeth fach y Chwe Sir. Mae anghydraddoldeb cynhenid y trefniant hwnnw a gefnogir gan y Teyrngarwyr ac Urdd yr Orenwyr yn un o'r rhesymau sylfaenol am y gwrthdaro a fu'n gyfrifol am ladd mwy na 3,000 o bobl ac anafu miloedd o bobl eraill yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Cytundeb Dydd Gwener y Groglieth a wrthwynebwyd gan 95% o Urdd yr Orenwyr yw'r cam cyntaf tuag at sicrhau trafodaeth ambleidiol er mwyn mynd i'r afael â materion sy'n trin a thrafod cydraddoldeb a chyfiawnder. Os nad yw Urdd yr Orenwyr yn barod i gymryd rhan yn y broses honno gan gynnwys siarad â grwpiau trigolion, bydd yn rhaid mynd ati i ailgyfeirio gorymdeithiau Orenaidd ac amddiffyn cymunedau'r cenedlaetholwyr rhag ymosodiadau sectyddol.

DYLAI GORYMDEITHIAU SECTYDDOL GAEL EU HAILGYFEIRIO

Mudiad Milwyr Mâs Bryste, Blwch Swyddfa Bost 5, 82 Colston Street, Bryste BS1 5BB. Lloegr"

Summary

A leaflet in Welsh summarising the case for the rerouting of provocative sectarian marches in the Six Counties, published by the Troops Out Movement, was distributed from the Celtic League stand at this year's National Eisteddfod

NEWS OF WALES

Need for Property Act Highlighted

The debate surrounding Cymdeithas yr Iaith's campaign for a Property Act to control the sale of land in Wales returned to the front pages with the news that England international footballer David Beckham and his girl-friend Victoria Adams, one of the group the Spice Girls, were intending to buy a second-home near Abersoch in Pen Lleyn, the westernmost part of the Lleyn Peninsula. The intention of these celebrities was condemned by Cymdeithas yr Iaith (our main language movement). Lleyn is one of the most important Welsh-speaking areas, but the communities where the language is otherwise thriving are threatened by the buying of houses by wealthy outsiders who have no intention of integrating, and this process creates an artificial housing shortage for locals. The predicted opposition to Cymdeithas in the Press from anti-Welsh commentators gave the language and housing debate a high profile over several weeks, but at the moment it seems that the English government is becoming less enthusiastic about the introduction of the legislation needed to alleviate the problem.

RapT

Plaid Cymru name change?

There is a movement within Plaid Cymru to change the name of the party to be officially bilingual viz. "Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales", supposedly to reflect the "two languages of Wales" and win more support from non-Welsh speakers. It seems to be part of a movement to denationalise the party. The proposed change is being opposed, and with a view of successful organisations in the other Celtic countries the Cymru branch of the Celtic League has expressed opposition to dilute the basic principles of the national party.

RapT

By-election results

Plaid have gained seats in Cockett ward, Abertawe/Swansea County Borough, and in Dyserth ward, Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council.

Bilingual education is better

A report by the independent Institute of Welsh Affairs confirms that the academic success of Welsh-medium secondary schools exceeds those through English. Examination results are higher and attendance rates greater. They offer better support and management and are run more efficiently. Teachers' enthusiasm and parents' 'positive choice' and the schools' 'clarity of mission' are all essential components of their success.

Digital TV company

S4C, United News and Media and NTL will each hold a one third share in Digital Multiplex A which will offer 6 television services across Britain, including the digital version of Channel 5, S4C in Wales and Gàidhlig programs in Scotland.

Language of birth

University of Wales, Bangor, is to offer a bilingual midwifery course from this autumn. Also the Welsh Language Board has funded the publication of a leaflet explaining the advantages of early bilingualism for young children to be included in the free 'bounty packs' which all mothers in Wales receive on the birth of a child. The aim is to reduce the number of Welsh-speaking parents who do not talk Welsh to their children (this trend is particularly worrying in S.E. Carmarthenshire/W. Glamorgan at the moment) and to encourage non-Welsh speaking parents to choose bilingual education.

Clive James

Everything in Welsh and the Welsh Language in Everything - the Challenge to the Assembly

Popeth yn Gymraeg, Y Gymraeg ym mhopeth! Everything to be available in Welsh and the Welsh language to be a factor in all aspects of government. This is the new slogan launched by Cymdeithas yr Iaith at this year's National Eisteddfod in August, summing up the expectations of Cymdeithas from the forthcoming National Assembly, which will be sitting by the time of the next National Eisteddfod, and it was also the subject of a historic public meeting held by Cymdeithas which was addressed by Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, who was the first ever Secretary of State to attend a public meeting with the language movement. Ron Davies is learning Welsh and gave part of his speech in the language, the first Secretary of State since the last Labour government to have a knowledge of Welsh. Siân Howys and Angharad Tomos spoke for Cymdeithas. The meeting focussed on the document about the place of the Welsh language in the National Assembly recently published by Cymdeithas. The main points in the document are:

- Normalization of the language should be the aim of the Assembly, and to achieve this there should be total and thorough bilingualism from the very start
 - The Secretary of State should set up a *task force* immediately to ensure that the bilingual policy is effective from the start
 - The language policy will need careful monitoring
 - Cymdeithas will urge all Assembly candidates to declare their support for the language
 - Candidates who do not speak Welsh will be urged to learn Welsh
 - Offices in the Assembly should have Welsh titles e.g. "Llefarydd", not "Speaker"
 - The language must be a factor in all aspects of the Assembly's work and must not be treated like a "jug on a mantelpiece"
 - The Assembly must work towards the establishment of an independent education system for Wales and a Property Act to protect Welsh-speaking communities
 - It is vital for the language to be made attractive to young people through the development of appropriate youth culture and radio and television
- Considerable agreement and sense of joint

purpose was expressed between the Secretary of State and the leaders of the language movement, in total contrast to the enmity which existed during the years of Tory rule. During the meeting Ron Davies urged Cymdeithas that it was no longer necessary for them to shake fists at the government, and suggested that they follow the Labour Party and transform into "New Cymdeithas" (!). However, while accepting the complete change of attitude which has taken place in the Welsh Office, Cymdeithas can see that the threats to Welsh as a community language are still great and the rights of Welsh speakers still limited and they are not going to relax completely yet.

Robat ap Tomos

Political Correctness

The Welsh Office has issued a directive to its officials to refer to North and South Wales in English as "the North" and "the South" rather than "North Wales" and "South Wales" in order to strengthen identity. This brings English usage in Wales in line with Welsh where "Y Gogledd" and "Y De" have always been used to mean the North and South of Wales (rather than England). This directive is in accordance with what should be nationalist use generally. If you are in Cornwall "the East", out of context, should refer to Liskeard/Launceston etc., not East

Anglia. In Wales the "South Coast" should mean Barri/Porthcawl etc., not Dorset! I have the impression that there is a peculiarly Scottish habit of referring to the whole of England as "the South" (which should mean Dumfries etc.). Someone from Manchester is said to be from the South, while in England Manchester is unquestionably (even if you are in Newcastle) part of the North. Such usage is part of a subconscious British mental orientation and as Celts we should avoid and challenge it.

Robat ap Tomos



Fellowship of Freedom

Kevin Whelan, Cork University Press 1998.

Comhleabhar é seo a foilsíodh mar chuid de Thaispeántas Chuimhneacháin ar imeachtaí na nÉireannach Aontaithe agus ar Éirí Amach 1798 a chuir an túdar le chéile agus atá ar siúl faoi láthair sa Mhusaem Náisiúnta i mBeairic Uí Choileáin. Is é an leabhar an chuid is fearr den chair, i dtuairim an scríbhneora seo. Léiríonn sé conas a chuaigh gluaiseacht na nÉireannach Aontaithe i bhfeidhm ar aigne na tire, i dtreo is nár éalaigh sé riamh amach as an bpolaitíocht isteach sa stair.

Bunaítear an téacs ar ábhar súl, ábhar a shoilseann tuiscintí stairiúla, agus a thugann an tréimse chun beochta. Léirítear tionchar Réabhlóide Mheiriceá ar na Preisbitéirigh, abair, agus luí na hPreisbitéarach le Meiriceá. Léirítear chomh maith, an uasal-aicme Éireannach a lean faoi thalamh in ainneoin plandálacha agus géirleanúna, agus an tionchar a bhí ag an aicme sin ar imeachtaí 1798. (Tá cuntas níos iomláine ar an aicme seo i leabhar eile de chuid an údair cheanna, *The Tree of Liberty*, Cork University Press 1996, ceann de na leabhair is fearr ar fad ar 1798 agus ar lean é.)

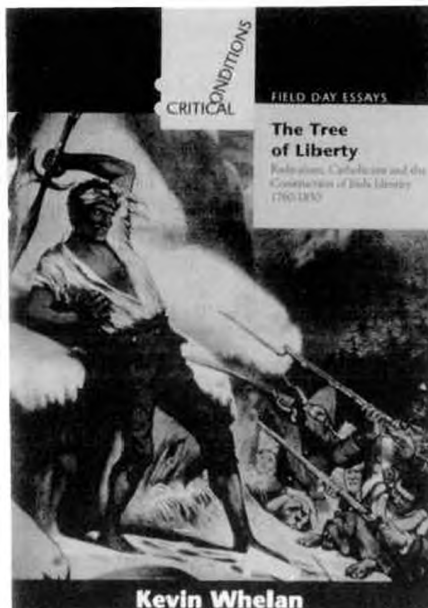
Minítear conas a rinne Cumann na nÉireannach Aontaithe comhghuaillithe as grúpaí chomh héagsúil leis na Gildeanna, na Whigeanna, an Coiste Caitliceach agus na hÓglaigh. Miníonn sé a leagan amach míleata, agus tugann sé cuntas agus foilsíonn sé pictiúir na bpríomhcheannairi. Bhrisfeadh óige agus dathúlacht leithéidí Henry Joy do chroí. Agus chuirfeadh misneach agus seasmhacht Mary Anne McCracken mórtas ort.

Soláthraíonn an leabhar seo sleachta as nuachtáin na linne, amhráin chomhaimsireacha, léaráidí as irisí ón dá thaobh, agus cuntais bheaga phearsanta a thugann an treimhse chun beochta. Tabhair faoi dear go háirithe Cailín an Iubhair ar leathanach 58 agus roinnt mhaith de léaráidí Cruikshank a leag síos steireaphláta an Éireannaigh ar feadh céad bliain d'fhoilseacháin ar nós Punch.

Minítear, chomh maith, pointí beaga spéisiúla ar nós cen rud go díreach "long-barrelled gun from the sea" (lth 80) agus focail an amhráin "Croppies Lie Down"

(lth 118), an chaidhp pice agus an leathchrochadh (lth. 124).

Taispeántar, chomh maith, pictiúr truaimehéileach de chuid Brocas, ina bhfuil, de réir dealraimh, fear óg a crochadh agus a dícheannadh. Dáiríre, áfach, níl anseo ach obair ealaíne - ní raibh an duine seo riamh ann, dá éifeachtaí a phictiúr.



'The Tree of Liberty', another work by the same author, which is one of the best covering the 1798 period.

Léirítear go h-an-soiléir, fiú amháin do dhallán mar mise, conas mar a bhain don Éirí Amach féin, agus an truaimehéil agus an tragóid a bhain leis an samhradh agus leis an bhfómhar úd dhá chéad bliain ó shoin nuair a shíl 28,000 óighear Éireannach a gcuid fola. Má chreideann sibh daoine áirithe a deireann gurb iad na hÉireannaigh a tharraing an t-ár. gheobhaidh sibh fírinne an scéil anseo ins na figiúirí báis ar an dá thaobh.

Criochnaíonn an leabhar le cuntas ar an slí inar láimhsigh na glúnta ó shoin imeachtaí na linne cinniúnai sin.

Molaim go mór an leabhar seo, agus go deimhin, *The Tree of Liberty* chomh maith leis. Leabhair oibiachtúla. Iannata is ea iad, agus leabhair a scríobhadh go neamhbalbh ó dhearcadh na nÉireannach.

Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin

A Chairde, Va Mignoned

Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh go léir anois. Táimse i mo chónaí i mBrest sa Bhriotáin agus tá ranganna Ghaeilge bunaithe agam anseo. Múinim an Ghaeilge anseo i mBriotáinis agus i mBéarla agus beidh orm ranganna a chur ar siúl i bhFraincis an bhliain seo. Tá fadhb beag agam anois mar ní raibh mórán ábhair teagasc agam ar dtús agus tá orm rudai nua a fháil chun ranganna spéisiúil a chur ar siúl. Níor cheap mé ar dtús go mbeadh an méid sin suim le haghaidh an Ghaeilge anseo agus tá sé deacair agam anois gach ceist a fhreagairt gan leabhair gramadach agus foclóir Gaeilge/Béarla. Níl ach mo nótaí ón choláiste agam anseo. Táimse ag déanamh obair deorach anseo le Cumann drámaíochta Briotáinse agus nilimse in ann aon rud a cheannach. Is iad na rudai atá ag teastáil go uaim: Leabhar gramadach: Foclóir Gaeilge/Béarla; Téascanna dátheangach Gaeilge/Français nó Français/Gaeilge; Comic-strips as Gaeilge. Is ranganna neamhshoirmeálta atá ar bun agam agus bíonn siad an-eifeachtach.

Cuirfidh mé aon rud ar iasacht ar ais chugat tar éis fótaicóp a dhéanamh. Is léidir dul i dteagmháil liom chun níos mó eolas a fháil ag na huimhreacha thíosluaite (Tá an faics níos fearr).

Go n-éirí,

Pádraig Óg Ó Raghallaigh
Ar Vro Bagan, An Heliex
F29550 Plougerme, An Bhriotáin.
Fon 0290045005
Faics 0298096084

Summary

The reviewer highly recommends this book which outlines the philosophy of the United Irishmen and external influences on it. 1798 is brought to life through contemporary newspaper articles, songs, personal accounts, drawings and cartoons illustrating clearly the pathos and tragedy of that summer and autumn

Sectarian Rule in Portadown

In 1997 Robert Hamill, a Catholic, was kicked to death by a loyalist mob in Portadown while RUC men looked on from an armoured jeep parked a short distance away.

Apparently he had unfortunately decided because of their presence that he could take the shorter route home. His killers have yet to be brought to justice and needless to say those who effectively sanctioned his death have also escaped any punishment. For his family to have suffered such an injustice is bad enough but worse again is the taunting from loyalist thugs his family have to suffer if they venture near the city centre as these thugs mimic the murders' dance on the dying man's head.

The clearly partisan behaviour of the RUC towards Catholic residents in the events surrounding Drumcree has led to hundreds of complaints against them and solicitors handling these say it is not uncommon for RUC men to threaten "You'll end up like Robert Hamill". Indeed many of those who claim to want to march to Drumcree for Orange and Protestant rights (to dominate their neighbours!) also shout taunts and mimic dances.

It seems the loyalist gangs want ethnic cleansing and they have caused



Robert Hamill, murdered by a Loyalist mob

disturbances regularly in the city centre since the banning of the Drumcree march. Hate leaflets are widely distributed and in early autumn the loyalist hate gangs turned their attention to the town shopping centre. One Saturday in September a group of some 200 loyalists, including a number of women, gathered in the centre of the town and made for Dunnes Stores in the shopping centre. They carried placards and handed out leaflets saying "No Taigs Up Our Town" and walked through the aisles of the store ordering people to leave, causing shoppers to flee in a panic. The mob made no attempt to hide their faces and when leaving the store were met by the

RUC who simply sent them away. No arrests were made. Three Catholic business premises in the town have been burnt out - despite threats they had been granted no police protection and no police statement was issued to the media on the incidents, which occurred during the Clinton visit. Regular attempts at forays into Catholic housing areas occur. RUC statements (even though one of their members was killed by a loyalist blast bomb) say "rival factions were involved", a deliberate distortion, while also hiding for example the fact that five milk crates of petrol bombs were seized from the Orange mob. Loyalists seemed determined to persist in nightly violence. A planned demonstration in the town centre another Saturday in September was only prevented when the authorities finally took action and saturated the town with security forces. However the hate gangs claim they will step up their actions and organisers of a rally for "Protestant Culture and Heritage" (at the end of September) called for support from throughout the North (and Scotland!) but only achieved an attendance of 2,000.

If the Belfast accord is to have meaning the naked racism in Portadown must be firmly faced down and Mr Patten (ex Hong Kong Governor now charged with examining police reform in the North) must ensure that the RUC successors abandon the blatant partiality shown by that force.

Keep to the Agreement!

The Northern Assembly commenced in September and Republicans, Nationalists and Unionists sat in the one chamber together, with Unionist leader David Trimble as First Minister and Seamus Mallon, Deputy Leader of the SDLP, as deputy First Minister. Nothing of great note happened (unless one counts Sinn Féin President's Gerry Adams statement that he wanted to make friends with Dr. Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party!) but a great deal of media hype was created in subsequent weeks over the timetable in the Agreement and the decommissioning issue. Essentially this related to Unionist manoeuvring to try to link a start on decommissioning of weapons with the setting up of the new Executive which will have representation

from all parties including Sinn Féin. Decommissioning was of course a crucial issue in the Good Friday Agreement but it was very clearly not linked to the setting up of the Executive. Indeed the requirement was for parties to support decommissioning and to try to use their influence to achieve it within two years. The fact that this was the reality of the Agreement was distorted by many Unionists in the election campaign for the Assembly when they stated they would never sit on an Executive with Sinn Féin unless decommissioning had begun. Paisley and other extreme unionists including some within Trimble's own UUP party hope to derail the whole Agreement using this issue. To listen to many media correspondents making suggestions that the IRA should give up some munitions now to assist Trimble seemed somewhat odd when the obvious suggestion should have been that, as a party to the Agreement and First Minister, he had an obligation to maintain its provisions (and face down his own extremists). The North/South Body, its

functions and relationships with the Northern Assembly and the Dáil should be agreed by October 31st. The Irish Government rightly considers the Executive should be in place to ensure this



Gen John de Chastelain.

On the Language Front

ARTS COUNCIL NEGLECT OF IRISH

In mid September a conference *Traditional Arts and Irish* was held under the auspices of the Arts Council, one of a series of meetings designed apparently to help the Council formulate its new action plan for the Arts.

While reasonable attempts at promoting traditional music and creative writing in Irish and goodwill towards the language was claimed by the Arts Council staff involved many present felt this fell far short of what is required. The Arts Council has a statutory obligation to promote arts in the Irish language.

However only a small part of its budget is devoted to Irish and traditional arts, only 2%, for example, goes towards supporting traditional music. Many areas which received no support were highlighted. Some of those attending suggested a separate council for Arts in Irish, as in Scotland, but this did not seem to be generally favoured by the attendance.

Keep to the Agreement (contd)

while Trimble may be hoping that in delaying the formation of an Executive he would have more control and be in a position to limit the range and proposed functions of the North-South bodies.

It is up to those who brokered the Northern Agreement to ensure that its provisions are maintained and that no underhand attempts at changing them are successful. Contrary also to the impression created by Unionists there has been progress made since the Agreement in the work of the Independent International Committee on Decommissioning chaired by Gen. John de Chastelain and many formalities associated with decommissioning have been agreed. Many hurdles had to be overcome to achieve the Northern Agreement and many more must undoubtedly be cleared to ensure the process continues but the key element must surely be to keep the Agreement!

SUBMISSION ON IRISH LANGUAGE ACT

The submission of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and Islands, Éamon Ó Cuív, on proposals for an Irish Language Act was made at the end of September. Comhdháil Náisiúnta is the co-ordinating body for Irish Language organisations including Conradh na Gaeilge, Gael Linn, Gaelscoileanna and others and it had been asked by the Minister to submit representations.

Amongst the recommendations made are the setting up of an office of Commissioner for Irish whose primary aim would be the monitoring of the implementation of the provision of the Act and the Irish language services provided by the State to Irish speakers and Gaeltacht areas. The Commission would be independent and be given sufficient powers to ensure adherence of bodies charged with promoting the Irish language to their responsibilities. A seven year term is proposed for the Commissioners.

Another proposal is to set up the office of Ombudsman for Irish who would have powers to deal with complaints from the public in relation to Irish language services. Proposals are also made to grant recognition to the Gaeltacht as a separate region which would have its own local authority with control over planning. In that context the language question would be central.

The Minister has promised to put a strong Act before the Dáil. Let us hope that this report and others representations ensure that such an Act is forthcoming soon.

Irish Phonics Aid

Abair é... the first-ever Irish language phonics programme, designed to address the lack of Irish language teaching materials for primary teachers, is now available from Muintearas, a Connemara-based education and training research project. The pack costs £36.90 plus £.75 for postage. Information from: Muintearas, Leitir Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe - phone (091) 551300

FURTHER GROWTH in Gaelscoileanna

More new Irish medium schools opened in September 1998. Four primary schools started in Port an Dunáin (Portadown), An Chreagan (Creggan, Derry), Caisleán Uidhlín and Downpatrick in the North. Six primary schools commenced in the Republic in Beal an Átha (Ballina, Co. Mayo), An tInbhear Mór (Arklow, Co. Wicklow), Port Laoise (Co. Laois), Longphort (Longford Town), and Carrick-on-Suir (Co. Waterford). An Irish unit opened in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. All the schools in the Republic have official recognition.

However while this is welcome news not so welcome is the attitude of the Department of Education and Science Commission on School Accommodation. Initial indications are that the soon to be published first report will contain conditions with regard to the recognition of new primary schools which will make matters more difficult for new Gaelscoileanna. Indeed as such schools were the most frequently established in the last ten years the suspicion must remain that the Commission was really set up to curb their growth.



New Irish language magazine

A new Irish language 'glossy' magazine was launched at the end of September - *Cuisle*. It is grant aided by Bord na Gaeilge and will have 40 pages. The magazine's editor is Uinseann Mac Dubhghaill, former *Irish Times* Irish Language editor. It has a staff of four and is produced in Casla, in the Conamara Gaeltacht. The initial print run will be 10,000 and the magazine will combine news, politics, features, gossip, competitions and current affairs. There will be a regular feature for parents raising their children through Irish and a learners section. Some well known names appear in the first issue. The magazine will cost £1.50 and will be distributed nationwide through Eason's.

HEYNES HA NEGEGATH AN MILVLUTHIANS

Alerh, Negegath an Milvluthians a orras avyzians en diffrans paperiow nowethis en creia dressa teeze hunt tha trygians bluth coath requiria ligan was omgomeras rag gwithres fitty mesk an kecowethians. Pothew rowler *Teere ha Tavaz* gelles pell dres an oozma (suas!). eve a vekias e govednack, hag aheaz e vee grauntes dotha an pegans rag dereval aman *Heynes*, avel bagas ew omres tha whelas teeze coath ha cuntel ago hovian rag gwetha rima ha go ystedna aleaz than kescowetha, en enwedgack than deez younk.

Ugge cowz adro than towle war Radio Kernow, ha provia screffow rag an paperiow nowethis, *Heynes* a thallathas tha gowas showre a armow thort teeze coath o wensis tha derevas ago hovian; hanter blethan ugge an dallathvas ther a nye stella a cowas garmow keffres thort kescreffers paperiow nowethis ha gonnaders TV, en whelas nawothow, ha en goofen thort nye fatel era nye a keel et agon veadge.

En deda, thea an dalla a Veez Whevral, *Heynes* a vee moaz aleaz en Kernow, en recordia covian an deez coath, ha pella ages hedna, en gweel leas cuthman noweth mesk rima. An deezma ew leal Kernowian ha Kernowaggow eze a quetha agye tha go colonnow kebmies tacklow ha geysiow thort cotheneb lev vee scoan nekeves, ea, kelles, na vee agye.

Kerras andro en pow a Pensans tha Porthleven, a Keynwen tha Porthpera, a Seynt Colombe Vean tha Taphouse, a Seynt Niot tha Liscarret, ha pella, ma cuntles warbar kens lebmen leas owre a levow Kernuack a cowz adro than pow ew kear tha angye; ha whathe, nagew an veadge scantlower dallethes, ha ma thene ruster heer a deez eze quachas dressa nye omwellas warnothans. Buz nagew en ednack an covian an deez worthyma ew thene tha leas, rag et ago cowz tythiack ma res gongans drizlebm al gerriow ew devethes athor an tavas Kernuack, ha mesk rima radn na vee beska recordes kens; ha moye arta, ther a nye a tesky thor ago ganow fatla lavaral sertayn gerriow Kernuack a leb an sone ew gothvethes thene kenzenna en ednack thort an tibias nongy; en thiougel, mowns tesky tha nye polta.

End charge ew comeres aman gen *Heynes* ethew tha ystedna than deez younk an dewa a gon veadge, ha ort cumpas dalla a vee gwres kens lebmen en omwellas war scollow, hag en darbar peath nag en ednack tha rima buz tha leas hunyth enwedgack.

Dallethes drizlebm al, ogastye, nangew *Heynes* a lenal gwage en deziria teeze Kernow tha gavas ha tha adgan o hunnen arta; car dre hevol, ema an deez coath parres tha gutheffia ago skeans ha go heynes, ha mallew than ri younk o howas. Ethew an junkers anurma leb vedn boaz an deez coath hogan. Besy dothans cowas treeth o doola pegans lowre tha ystedna than llehas angye et ago turn.

En mene termen, nawothow an gwreans a *Heynes* reeg hethas tereba Institucion an Skeans Kernuack, ha Dr Garry Tregidga, is-Rowler an corfma, a theath alerh tha spenga edn journa barha nye, en considra fatel alga an theaw gowethians kesobery a niel gen e gila. Dr Tregidga a vee towla towlow poran adro tha provia than scollow Kernuack advisement an veary matters ez igges a cuntel warbar gen *Heynes*, ha andella eth ell gotheffia dotha keffres dasscreffow an recordians a vee gwres han exposicions a vee parres. Ez igges a towla dressa wheal *Heynes* furnia radn an Cuntellians an Heynes Cowzes an Record Sone Kenezlack.

Richard Gendall

Heynes and the Millenium Commission

Summary

Recently Teere ha Tavaz has been able to set up Heynes (Traditions) with funding from the Millenium Commission. Since February a team has been collecting valuable information about our past, including our language, that would otherwise soon be lost. The new archives are being used in school visits, and it is proposed that they will form part of the Oral History Collection of the National Sound Archive.

Gorsav Radio Kenwerthek Kernewek a Dhallesh Newodhow yn Kernewek

Marnas nebes seythun wosa dalleth 24 eur servyans newodhow "Pirate FM102" a wrug kemmer kamm aral yn rak gans y servyans newodhow. Dyworth de Sadorn 5ves mis Gwynngala, a wra "Pirate FM102" dylo newodhow yn kernewek pub pennseythun pris li. (12.30) An newodhow yn kernewek a yw hynwys "Gonisogeth Lemmyn", hag yw dyskwedhys gans Matthew Clarke.

Pennrewler "Pirate FM", Joseph Swain, a levery's "An tra ma a dhyskwedha an vrasheans a les a gonisogeth kernewek aji hag yn mes an Ducheth hag yw gorthyb dh'agan goslowor."

An kynsa dyllyans newodhow yn kernewek der "Pirate FM102" a veu dhe'n keth jydh ages an 70ves Gorsedh Kernow synsys dhe Lanyust yn Pennwyth hag ytho ynno esa leverans arbennek dyworth an Barth Meur a'n Orsedh, Anne Trevenen Jenkin.

Cornish Commercial Radio Station to have News in Kernewek

Just a few weeks after beginning a 24 hour a day news facility, Pirate FM102 has taken another step forward in its news service. From Saturday 5th September Pirate FM102 will be broadcasting weekend lunch time (12.30) news bulletins in the Cornish language.

The Cornish news bulletins are called "Gonisogeth Lemmyn" or "Culture Now" and are presented by Matthew Clarke. Pirate FM's Managing Director, Joseph Swain, explained "This reflects the growing interest in the Cornish culture within the Duchy and outside and is a response to our listener".

The first bulletin was on the same day as the 70th Cornish Gorsedd held at St Just in Penwith. The first ever scheduled news broadcast in Cornish on Pirate FM102 therefore also incorporated a special message from the Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, Anne Trevenen Jenkin.

Martyn Miller
Secretary Cornish Branch

Tamar(a), the origin and history of the name

From the year 936 AD (Athelstan) the river *Tamar* has formed the larger part of the border between *Devon* and *Cornwall* and still continues to do so.

It appears to be a most imaginative stream in the minds of many Cornish people so it seems.

A Cornishman abroad, singing songs of home, will often sing about the *Tamar*, as a symbol of his homeland.

Crossing the river at the end of his journey, he will realise that he is finally back on native soil. The *Tamar* has proven its value for Cornwall and Devon through the ages.

Commerce, tourism, water and food supply are just a few examples.

Thanks to the West Country Rivers Trust and their *Tamar 2000* programme, the salmon may just find its way back upstream in the same amount as it did some fifty years ago.

The Legend of Tamara

(brief version)

Tamara was a lovely nymph, who was born in a cavern as the daughter of Spirits of the Earth who lived in the underworld. Her parents forbid her to visit the upperworld although she simply loved the light of day. They tried to protect her from the giants of the moors who were to be feared.

Tamara however went up and had a look at the sun as often as she could.

Tavy and Towrage were sons of Dartmoor giants who had noticed the young and beautiful Tamara, and they both desired her. Many times they followed her over moor and mountain trying to win her for themselves.

One day in Morewinstow the boys came upon her and tried to persuade her to choose either one of them, but she had a hard time doing so. Meanwhile her parents had missed her, and went looking in the upperworld.

Finally they found her under a bush, sitting between Tavy and Towrage. Her father who was very angry, made the boys fall asleep and told his daughter to return to their home in the underworld. As she refused to leave her lovers, he cursed her in a rage, and changed her into a river. Tamara cried and cried and as a beautiful crystal stream, the waters would flow forever to the sea, she had dissolved in tears.

Tavy was the first to awake and found his loved one gone, then he went to his father

on the moor. Knowing what had happened the giant transformed his son into a stream as well, in order to ease his pain. From that day on Tamara and Tavy run side by side till they finally mingle, to proceed together to the eternal ocean.

Towrage awoke much later, but he also learned what happened. He fled into the hills and prayed for an enchanter and was changed into a stream as well like Tamara and Tavy before him. Having taken the wrong way back however, he still flows far away from his beloved Tamara in everlasting sorrow.

Meaning of the Legend

There are many stories in Celtic Folklore explaining names of places, rivers, mountains, events from the past and whatsoever. Most of these stories seem to have an historical background, and so does the legend of Tamara.

It was told in order to explain the nature of the river and the meaning of the name. It is by no means a story which teaches us the facts in a direct manner, but by way of symbolic speech — *Tamara*, being the child of Spirits of the Earth living in the Underworld, while she loved the daylight.

Now, this can only be symbolic for a river, who's source is an underground spring or well or something of the kind. And so it is, at grid reference 55 271 166 (landranger igo) the source of the Tamar is to be found as an accumulation of water, wandering off into the bushes near Youlstone.

Tamara was referred to as a lovely nymph and this can only indicate a gently, smoothly flowing river, for the greater part anyway. And so she is, anyone knowing the Tamar will confirm this fact.

River or Nymph?

It is of course the question whether the river was named after the nymph, or the nymph after the river? Now it is a fact that

in most cases waternames are likely to be the oldest names on Earth that we know of. The largest and best navigable rivers carry the oldest names, followed by the smaller rivers, tributaries, brooks and lakes.

Sometimes however it is hard to tell whether a name was given upstream, downstream, somewhere in between or was meant as a general definition.

In the old days for instance the main river *Camel* was referred to as *Alan* from Roughton to Wadebridge and was called *Camel* only upstream. Waternames gave their names to regions, settlements and tribes.

In France the river *Sequana* (=modern Seine) gave its name to the tribe of the *Sequani* and to the water goddess *Sequana*.

In the UK rivers gave their name to towns such as Cambridge, Colchester, Tamerton, Tavistock, Plymouth, Yarmouth, Axmouth, Weymouth etc.

The Celtic legend used a personification to keep the memory of the river's nature and namesake alive, and to hold the attention of the listeners.

*Ta, *Te

Many placenames, waternames, tribalnames etc. are formed by a basic word and a persuasive element.

In this case the name Tamar (a) may best be divided into *Tam* (persuasive element) and *Ara* (basic word) In its origin *Ara* is an Indo-European suffix signifying *flowing water*. In many cases this suffix is still recognisable in waternames throughout Europe and even further on. It also proves the ancientness and continuity of waternames.

The Indo-European root *Ta or *Te, which could be followed by several different suffixes means *to stretch* or *to draw*. Because of the diversity of suffixes, modern words derived from this root may

(contd overleaf)



Tamara, drawn by Yvonne

have a different appearance, but all seem to have a mutual ancestor, and are still more or less recognisable in use all over Europe.

The English word *Taul* is a fine example, so is the German *Ziehen* < *Teohan* (to draw), the Dutch *touw* (=cord), the Latin *tennis* < *tenu* from the root *ten* meaning to stretch, and the Greek *Tavu..* "The root *Ta or *Te may even be expanded by the forms *ti and *tu, but the meaning to stretch remains metaphorically unaffected. In our case an *M* suffix was used signifying water in general.

In general terms the stretched flowing water = *Tamara* is synonymous for a gently, smoothly flowing river, just like the legend told us.

Ptolemy (+200 AD) was the first one to record the name of the river Tamar as *Tamaros*.

Being derived from an Indo-European root it is still hard to tell whether the name *Tamar(a)* is Celtic or pre-Celtic. Some Celts must have recognised the meaning of the name, hence the legend. It certainly does not mean *dark river* or *black water* and at the same time be of Celtic origin because then the Celtic element, *Dubo*, *Dubh* or *Du* should have been used, which is not the case. It was also not derived from a (proto) Indo-European root *Ta or *Te meaning to melt hence flowing.

There are of course a few rivers in Europe of that nature, but they are dependable on melting water coming from mountains covered with eternal snow, which rules out the river *Tamar*.

All facts considered we may conclude that the name *Tamar(a)* means: "gently, smoothly flowing water." Therefore the legend is not just another legend but a very important piece of information from the past.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr James CA Whetter BA PhD of the Roseland Institute of Gorran, Cornwall who kindly supplied very useful background information. Also thanks to Yvonne for drawing the picture of the nymph Tamara.

AJM van der Gust



Is this a Private Party?

This is neither the time or place to catalogue the particular details of Galician national history. However, I believe that this history is undeniably not an isolated moment of mass delusion on the part of Galician people.

Rather Galice's historical trajectory is firmly rooted in its Celtic past. This Celtic origin of Galice has produced the historical and cultural relationship which results in the Galician - Celtic identity.

In the c. 19th Galician intellectuals such as Pondal or Murguía, participated in the Osianic Romanticism movement. Celtica (the identification of ourself as Celtic) was sometimes a small part, sometimes a large part in the Galician national identity but from this moment was always a constant claim.

The period of Franco's dictatorship in the Spanish state, and thus Galice, was a watershed for Galician nationalism. Its leaders were exiled or silenced (often permanently) and our language was denied to us.

The repercussions of this setback still resound today.

Today in Galice we speak a romantic language, *O galego*. Our language is involved in a socio-political-linguistic conflict with Spanish (the dominant language of the Spanish state). This conflict is a barrier to the natural normalization of our culture and history into our society. *O galego* contains words that are "Gaelic Galician" (i.e. Celtic) in origin, for instance the folk tales told to us by our grandmothers are rich in the references and words of our Celtic past and include sentences in Gaelic Galician.

One of the authorities on language can deduct the moment of the disappearance of this Gaelic Galician, but it would appear this language survived in part through the Roman period. (It is possible that in Galice both Gaelic and Britonic languages were spoken). However, today Galicians express themselves, through *O galego*, but when one scratches the surface (of our language, history and culture) it becomes obvious to the beholder what we are not "Latins".

Today the political fight for our self-determination appears to be bearing fruit. For example, the debate about decentralization of the Portuguese state and the so called "Fenitian-Celt War" allows us to see the emerging, although embryonic, Galicians in both states now campaigning for the reunification of Galician territory. The ignorance of our country, its past and its origin, is perpetuated (at home and abroad) by the people in power now, the same people who were in power under Franco's reign. These people through their

own lack of nationalist sentiment, their ignorance and their personal and collective, vested interests would deny the undeniable.

They would deny us our history and origins (which can be linked to the Irish mythological cycles to name but one source).

They would deny us our cultural and linguistic uniqueness (which they subjugate for Spanish). It is my opinion that this denied knowledge about our history and our present could actually facilitate the search for solutions to our problems. Furthermore, I believe it complements the future Galice in a search for an ethnico-cultural community and in turn benefits Celtic culture itself and these other Celtic nations.

Today Galice still suffers at the hands of political, cultural and economic colonization, but the struggle gains strength as our nationalist movement gets stronger and stronger.

Day after day Galician people recognise more and more where our land and our world begins.

Irmandade Celtiga Galaica

Contact e-mail:

UEI0071016600@eurociber.es

LIGA CELTIGA GALAICA

It is now almost two years since thirty young people came together in Santiago de Compostela to form this association. Its aims include: a) disseminating and creating an interest in the cultures of the Celtic nations in which they include Galicia; representing this country in international Celtic gatherings; promoting and financing investigations of the common elements of the cultures of these nations as well as the specific characteristics of the Galician one. On the occasion of the Ortigueira Celtic World festival (of which an excellent cassette was produced) they organised a day dedicated to Brittany as well as a projection of audio-visuals about the Celtic countries. They are seeking to formalise relations with Wales on account of the immigration from Britain to Galicia in the 6th century. The Liga Celtiga in a letter written in the Spring renewed the plea for an association with the Celtic League and would welcome personal contacts. The address is: Secretariat, Caixa de Correos 1364, A Coruña, Galiza.

mannin

Caggaghyn Chellveeish



Ayns yn aigney jeh peiagh erbee ta resoonagh, ta Teilifis na Gaeilge (TnaG) speeideilagh dy liooar. Shoh yn shirveish-chellveeish ayns Yernish va currit er bun ec y reilys Yernagh er y gherid. Agh, myr veagh oo smooïnaghtyn, ta sleih ennagh ayns Nerin noi'n stashoon noa. 'T'eh costal rouyr as cha nel monney sleih jeeaghyn er', t'ad gaccan. Son y chooid smoo, myr veagh oo smooïnaghtyn reesh, y sleih ta gaccan nish, cha row ad laccal y stashoon er chor erbee. Kuse jeu, shen sleih ta coontey Yernish dy ve marroo as by vie lhieu ve 'eddyrashoonagh', ta shen dy ghra, Baarlagh ny lomarcan.

S'mirrillagh dy vel TnaG ayn. Begin caggey liauyr 'yannoo dy chur eh er bun. Goll rish ny partany Manninagh, va Gaeilgeoiri ennagh slane noi cur stashoon Yernish er bun. Ren reilysyn Yernagh girree seose as tuittym sheese kyndagh rish scammyltylty anchasley as oddagh y trealtys dy chur TnaG fo raad er ve caillit ec traa erbee. Agh, bwooise da Jee, cha row y trealtys marrooit as haink TnaG rish.

Tra va TnaG fo raad, v'eh cur yn olk er paart jeh'n lught-jeeaghyn liorish ymskeaylley recortysyn jeh gammanyn Gaelagh classicagh. Va shoh tayrn ram sleih elley dy yeeaghyn er y stashoon, agh va Yernisheyryn ennagh gaccan nagh row y lheid cooie da stashoon Yernish. Shoh cooish va'n *Irish Times* glackey dy hoie er TnaG, gaccan dy vel y stashoon noa 'costal ass towse as failleil dy cosney lught-jeeaghyn ta mooar dy liooar' - er-lhimmeys jesusyn ta jeeaghyn er ny gammanyn classicagh ('red neu-chooie').

Myr t'eh cginit jannoo mennick dy liooar, ren Cathal Goan, fer-toshee TnaG, fendeil y stashoon dy mie. Hoilshceh ch dy dooar TnaG mysh jeh millioon punt dy jeeragh veih'n reilys Yernagh son 1998. Chammah as shen, ta TnaG geddyn mysh shey ny shiaght millioon punt voish Raidio Teilifis Eireann. Va ny earroyn shoh reaghit kuse dy vleantyn er dy henney as, ec traa shen, cha row TnaG kiarail ymskeaylley agh son daa oor gagh laa. Ta TnaG er nyannoo cho

mie lesh yn argid oc as dy vel ad gymскеaylley ayns Yernish son kiare oor dy lieh gagh laa nish, lesh kiare gys shey oor ny smoo gagh laa ayns Baarle, gyn geddyn tooilley argid veih'n reilys.

Skimmee undinagh TnaG, shen jehi persoonyn as feed ta goaill ymmyd jeh chagnoaylleaght ta thalk-noa. As, feiy Nerin, ta tree cheead kiartey er nyn groo, ta sleih aeg lesh schleighyn leaghar er ngeddyn caa dy ghoail ymmyd jeh ny schleighyn shen as ta TnaG er chosney aundyrn eddyrashonnagh son ny clareyn t'eh eh nyannoo. Ta Cathal Goan gra dy vel eh stiurey'n stashoon-chellveeish smoo fondagh ayns cooishyn-argidys sy teihl. As t'eh gyindys vel 'costal ass towse' aght sleetchagh dy ghra 'ny jean ceau veg er chellveeish ayns Yernish'?

Ayns Poblaght Nerin, ta nane sy cheead jeh'n lught-jeeaghyn chellveeish jeeaghyn er TnaG ec traa-mulle. Shoh mysh yn earroo cheddin as adsyn ta jeeaghyn er Sky News as t'eh ny smoo na adsyn ta jeeaghyn er MTV ny Eurosport.

Shoh stashoonyn nagh vel cooney monney lesh bea sheshoil (social), bea chultooroil ny bea-argidys ayns Nerin er chor erbee. As cha nod jehi as feed sy cheead jeh ny cummaltee fakin TnaG noadyr. Son shickrys, ta Cathal Goan gra, yn earroo jesusyn ta jeeaghyn er TnaG, t'eh injil carsey lesh ny earroyn ta jeeaghyn er clareyn veih stashoonyn mooarey va currit er bun bleantyn er dy henney. Agh shegin da gagh stashoon noa jannoo caggey dy chosney lughtyn-jeeaghyn. Ayns y Vretin Vooar, ta Ammyr Queig (Channel 5) er roshtyn 3.5 sy cheead lesh doilleid mooar. Shoh stashoon ta gymскеaylley ayns Baarle rish sleih Baarlagh.

Ta caaryn elley ec TnaG, y politickeyr Maire Geoghegan-Quinn ny mast'oc. T'ee goaill moyrn dy ghra dy row ish y chied shirveishagh-reilys dy reaghey (ayns 1992) cur er bun stashoon Yernish. Ta sleih dy liooar ayn, t'ee gra, ta gra dy vel TnaG costal argid mooar as, ansherbee, cha nel Yernish ec monney sleih. Ta'n daa red shoh

aggairagh - ta Sianel Pedwar (yn chirveish-chellveeish ayns Bretnish) costal mysh £80 millioon gagh blein cosoyllit rish £16 millioon son TnaG. As, coardail rish towse va jeant ayns 1996, ta 41 persoon sy cheead ayns Poblaght Nerin gra dy vel Yernish oc. Cha nel clareyn TnaG goll er jannoo nyn lomarcan son sleih ta flaaail ayns Yernish. Va TnaG currit er bun dy vooadaghey'n earroo jesusyn ta loayrt Yernish: ta fo-heidyllyn ec y chooid smoo jeh ny clareyn.

Ta Geoghegan-Quinn smooïnaghtyn nagh vel eh ny red olk dy vel clareyn ennagh veih TnaG ayns Baarle. Ta shoh tayrn sleih gys y stashoon. t'ee gra. Ta Geoghegan-Quinn guee er colughtyn-chellveeish, colughtyn-caabyt as sleih ta clou fys mychione clareyn-chellveeish dy chooney lesh TnaG sy traa ry-hcet. Bec dussany dy h-ammyryn-chellveeish ry-gheddyn kyndagh rish chagnoaylleaght bun-earrooagh (digital technology). Ta'n gaue ayn dy bee ny chied crammanyn kinjagh currit da stashoonyn RTE as BBC as bec TnaG kiart heese y list, dyn monney geill currit da. Ta Geoghegan-Quinn shirrey er sleih dy chur TnaG faggys da mullagh y list dy chur fys da'n lught-jeeaghyn dy vel eh ayn, as dy chur fys daue mychione ny clareyn ayns Yernish.

Erskyn ooilley, ta Geoghegan-Quinn gra dy vel TnaG son y sheeloghe shoh cheet ayns Nerin. Reddyn ta boirey orryms, shen y faghtys (campaign) ta gra dy nhegin da TnaG 'sauail yn cheney Yernagh' as yn cab dy chosney lught-jeeaghyn smoo dy ghra dy vel TnaG 'speeideilagh'. Lesh y lheid jeh Rupert Murdoch prowal dy reill harrish y seihl, bec ny noidyn jeh TnaG kinjagh gobbal dy vel e lught-jeeaghyn mooar dy liooar. As cuin vees ny noidyn jeh Yernish dy bragh arryltagh dy ghra dy vel ee 'er ny sauail'? Tra vees elephantyn getlagh, foddee.

Orree Crennell

On any reasonable terms, the Irish language television station, Teilifis na Gaeilge, has made an excellent start. By definition, it will be impossible to silence all its critics, especially those who want the language dead and buried.





Appeal

Phil Gawne, the Greinneyder (Development Officer for Manx Gaelic), would like to hear from anyone with information, reports, development plans, letters and the like which outline the ways in which the other Celtic languages are being regenerated, as well as give an understanding of how the various Governments and language groups work together. He would be grateful for any information, even a few names he could contact would be of great help.

Anyone wishing to contact Phil Gawne can write to him at Thie Vaddrell, Cregneash, Mannin. IM9 5PT. e-mail: greinney@enterprise.net.

Phillie Beg

Much Inclin'd to Music. Manx Music up till 1918. Fenella Crowe Bazin £11.99, Manx National Heritage Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LY.

Although this survey is apparently aimed at a school audience it draws together in one place what knowledge has previously been scattered in many books, publications and archive material. It also adds much and expands what has already been known. It takes an inclusive view of all forms of music known to have been practised on the island, largely by amateurs.

Although the Manx people are by no means unique in their love of music, this book illustrates the uniquely Manx way in which this love was manifested. It shows how choral and vocal music played a large part in the past, as indeed it does today. It brings out also the way in which the musicians adopted tunes and instruments and shaped them to their own taste.

The text is supported by a wealth of photographs and reproductions of archive evidence. There are also line drawings, sometimes comical, illustrating scenes about which much is known though, unfortunately no pictorial evidence exists.

This book will serve us well if it confirms and expands that growing confidence of the nation in its own worth. It is important also in informing this generation about the large part music has always played in the social life of the Island.

Colin Jerry

FEAILLEY GHAELGAGH

Feailley Gaelgagh will be held this year from 21st-28th, November, and it is envisaged that this year's festival will be run on similar lines to last year's. There will be concerts, ceilis, lectures, workshops and music sessions, as well as exhibitions and competitions.

This will be the fourth year we've had such a 'Feailley', and the general idea of it is to promote an awareness of the significance of Manx Gaelic to our culture and nation and to increase the number of people learning and speaking Manx. By having a week of events we are able to attract the interest of most people living in the Isle of Man, many of whom have little or no knowledge of Manx. The 'Feailley' also gives those of us who are working to promote and develop Manx a chance to celebrate our achievements.

For a community of only a few hundred speakers it is good to know that there is a greater Gaelic speaking world. It is important, therefore, for Manx speakers to establish links with Gaelic speakers in Ireland and Scotland; indeed many of the recent initiatives for Manx have come from ideas gathered from our Gaelic neighbours. So as with previous years musicians and singers from Scotland and Ireland will be supplementing the considerable Manx musical talent.

This year more than ever I believe that visitors will be enthralled by the music, singing and dance as the standards in Manx traditional music are currently extremely high and a number of acclaimed singers and musicians will join us from Scotland and Ireland. The arts will be more involved with this year's Feailley as competitions and exhibitions with a Gaelic theme have been organised.

More information from Philip Gawne at the address shown in *Appeal* (this page)

Philip Gawne

new Manx Language Video

This summer saw the launch of the first professionally produced video shot entirely in the Manx language. Though by no means the first film of this nature (Foillan Films produced several short cine films in Manx during the 70s and 80s), it represents a step forward in that a professionally produced video in Manx is now generally available.

Entitled *Yn Turrys Taggloo* (The Talking Tour), it is hosted and narrated by Dr. Brian Stowell. The theme is that he is supposed to walk from *Kione ny h'Ayrey* (the northern tip of the island) to *Yn Cheylllys* (the southern extremity overlooking the Calf of Man) meeting and talking to other *Gaelgeyrn* (Manx speakers) on the way.

The film includes a little historical

information and interesting bits and pieces of general information about the Island and its history from each person spoken to.

The film is not intended for beginners, nor is it an educational video in respect of the language. It is a video in Manx for Manx speakers, though students will find listening to it very useful. There is a continuity problem on a couple of occasions when the best shots have been taken from different takes and put together, but it doesn't unduly spoil the video and at £14.99 a copy for the 55 minute film, I would say that it is reasonably priced.

The film was commissioned by *Caarjyn ny Gaelgey* (a Manx language support charity) and produced by Duke Video Ltd. with financial assistance from the Manx Heritage Foundation.

Copies may be obtained by writing to: Duke Marketing Ltd., PO Box 46, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Gaelic Group for Tiny Tots

A second Manx Gaelic play-group may be established in Ramsey.

Mooijer Veggey, the Bradden-based play-group, is hoping that a parents and tots group will be established in the northern town later this year.

A spokesman said: 'A number of people from Ramsey and the north have

expressed an interest in sending their children to a Manx Gaelic play-group, but find the distance to our group at Bradden school house too far.

'Establishing a parent and tots group will be the first step towards a Manx Gaelic play-group for the north'.

Tax Clampdown?

Not While the Culture of Secrecy Prevails

Despite the revelations of the level of deposits concealed in British off-shore centres it seems likely that British government action to control the centres will be limited.

The sections of the Edwards report leaked in the UK Guardian in late September seem to indicate that if the British proceed at all it will be with caution. Many of the areas that Edwards identifies as presently open to abuse are already being addressed by the authorities in Channel Isles and Isle of Man in a desperate attempt to stave off outside intervention. It appears, that in one of the areas, off-shore companies, already notorious for abuse Edwards will stop short of recommending that they be forced to publicly identify their directors. Edwards is reported as concluding "Some customers of the islands would move their business elsewhere if they felt their affairs would not remain confidential". Indeed!

Edwards seems to have completely missed the point that it is the very secrecy surrounding many of the activities in the off-shore territories that encourages the "dirty money" and money laundering that tarnishes legitimate business.

The Celtic League has long been a critic of the operation and regulation of off-shore centres and the finance centres in London and Dublin.

In correspondence to the British and Irish governments over recent years we have criticised the failure of the authorities in the territories to name banks which have been found to have handled suspect funds. Earlier this month the Garda Síochána criticised financial institutions in Ireland and questioned if they "were serious about assisting" (the Garda) in combating the problem. The main difficulty for enforcement agencies is the confidentiality surrounding most transactions which can traverse several jurisdictions in a matter of minutes.

Now, even "post Edwards" it seems that culture of secrecy will be allowed to prevail.

J B Moffatt

Jack Irving Nationalist - an Obituary

Jack Irving, who died on the 30th September, was a modest, retiring man whose quiet demeanour belied the charismatic role he played in the Manx national cultural and political movement from the late 1920s.

Jack, with many others, was initiated into the national movement through the Manx youth organisation, Aeglagh Vannin and was strongly influenced by the late Mona Douglas.

He was involved in both the cultural and political side of the movement at a time when it was not politic to expressly identify with the Nationalist cause

When the Manx Nationalist Party was founded in 1964 Jack soon joined as an active committee member and subsequently chaired public meetings of the embryonic political party.

In those days Mec Vannin attracted almost vitriolic opposition which Jack shrugged to one side and in order to establish the credibility of the fledgling party he initiated talks with the Island's Governor, then still an anarchic figure, which took place on the morning of 14th July 1967. He also unsuccessfully contested a House of Keys by-election in Peel for the party in its formative years.

Jack's involvement in nationalist politics extended to support for the more radical Fo Halloo in the seventies where his experience and supportive influence were important. He weathered many splits and schisms in Mec Vannin that saw others fall away and at the time of his death was life President of the Party.



Jack Irving, R.I.P.

His contribution was not however narrow nor parochial as he also played a significant role in the Inter Celtic movement, being an active member of both the Celtic Congress and the Celtic League serving as an official in the national branches of each organisation. He was the first Manx Celtic League Secretary and served in this position until the mid seventies. He was especially heartened by the recent moves in Wales and Scotland and the new freedom in Ireland. The moves towards devolution in these countries were a vindication of his lifetime commitment, which he was fortunate to live and see.

Behind the public role Jack Irving was a warm and considerate man. Many now involved in the Manx language and cultural or political scene received active encouragement from him and a small band of other Manx men and women who were driven by an overriding national pride in both the Manx nation and the Celtic race.

Jack Irving Manninagh dooie (A true Manxman) died 30th September 1998.

Manx Gaelic Summer School

The eighth annual Manx Gaelic summer school was held in the Manx Museum, Douglas, under the auspices of *Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh* (Manx Gaelic Society) from 27 July to 7 August. Students from Sweden, Italy, Ireland, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man attended the course, which catered for those with a fairly extensive knowledge of Manx as well as for beginners.

The course this year was based on material used in teaching for the General Certificate in Manx (*Tsht Chadjin*

Ghaelgagh), a qualification which a significant number of those attending the summer school will be taking in the autumn.

As well as enabling students to learn Manx, the summer schools raise the profile of Manx generally and strengthen much needed links with the other Celtic countries.

Information on the 1999 summer school can be obtained from Brian Stowell, 16 Hilary Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles (e-mail: bstowell@mch.net)



North Americans for the Breton Language

The ICDBL was first established in 1975 in Brussels, Belgium, to support the repeated demands of Bretons that their native language be given the recognition and place in the schools, media, and public life of Brittany that it needs to survive. The ICDBL was founded by and continues to count on the support of non-Bretons who show through their membership that, while the future of the Breton language does not directly concern them, it is a matter of world importance.

The **US Branch of the ICDBL** was founded in 1981 and publishes a quarterly 35-page newsletter called **Bro Nevez** (primarily in English with some Breton and French). Membership includes a subscription to **Bro Nevez** (\$18 for voting membership; \$17 for non-voting membership). Or one can subscribe without being a member (\$15 for US/Canada; other destinations: \$20 surface mail; \$25 airmail). The US ICDBL also publishes a

number of "working papers" and guides on the Breton language, music, and history. Contact: Louis Kuter, US ICDBL, 169 Greenwood Ave., R-4, Jenkintown, PA 19046, USA. Telephone: (215) 886-6361.

In January 1998, a **Canadian Branch of the ICDBL** was relaunched. This branch of the ICDBL publishes a newsletter called **Brittany** (trilingual in English, Breton, French). Canadian Membership including **Brittany** is \$15 (Canadian dollars). A Canadian Membership which includes both **Brittany** and **Bro Nevez** is \$30. A subscription to **Brittany** without membership is \$10 for the US and Canada and \$20 by surface mail elsewhere. Contact: Jeffrey D. O'Neill, 58 Century Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, M1K 4J6 Canada (e-mail: jdkoneill@sympatico.ca). Telephone: (416) 264-0475.

Show your support for the Breton language by becoming a member of the US or Canadian Branch.

Liga Celta de Argentina

This association has for the past few years organised three Celtic festivals in Buenos Aires, called Póitín after the strong illegal Irish brew (the name has now changed to Potim). They have issued a cassette in which Scottish pipeband music plays a prominent part. They have sent me a copy of an *Ensayo de Gramática del Celtico Antiguo Común* (Grammar of Old Celtic) by Higinio Martínez Estévez. This book of 143 pp. consists of 50 chapters (11 devoted to declensions), clearly set out, including also a prologue explaining how these lessons arose from comments and observations relating to the Celtic languages which the author felt impelled to make in his course of Galician-Portuguese lectures given at the Argentine Institute of Galician Culture over a period of 20 years.

It should be extremely interesting for all those who read Spanish and are keen to know the background of the Celtic languages to see how much they have evolved over 2000 years or more. There is a 5 page index of the words used in the lessons. The work refers to prominent Celtologists such as A. Holder, R. Thurneysen, J. Pokorny, A. Tovar, Vendryes, H. Lewis and H. Pedersen, etc... No indication is given as to price or availability from retail dealers.

The Liga Celta is also anxious to cooperate with the Celtic League as well as with people of Celtic origin in Argentina. The address given is that of its president, Manuel Castro, Saenz 2279, CP. 1832, Lomas de Zamora, Prov. of Buenos-Aires.

A.H.

FOR 'BRITISH' READ 'CELTIC' ?

For some time I have found the geographical description 'British Isles' to be both irritating and inaccurate. Its inaccuracy is at least two-fold - firstly, because over three-quarters of the island of Ireland is officially not 'British', with a further substantial number of those living in the North of Ireland choosing to formally reject the term 'British' in describing themselves. Secondly in the fact that independently-run Mannin, another of the so-called 'British Isles', is also not part of 'Great Britain'. Irritation with the term lies primarily in its implicit assumption of a homogeneity of culture and identity across this region, as indeed does the phrase 'British' itself. This assumption is clearly inaccurate - we all know that the culture, language, history, shared experience and indeed 'mind-set' of the population of the South-East of England is totally incomparable to that of the people of Gwynedd or the Western Isles, for example. There is no single identity and culture across 'Britain', as the term unfortunately implies.

Every one of the countries/self-governing units within the 'British Isles' (Éire north and south, Alba, Cymru, Mannin and England) has an indigenous Celtic history, culture and identity (in the case of England, limited to Kernow in modern times), yet at the same time not all are 'British'. Therefore - a more accurate, respectful and indeed suitable phrase to describe this collection of islands would be the term 'The Celtic Isles'. In fact, when one considers that even the word 'Britain' originates from the name of a Celtic chief, the phrase 'Celtic Isles' appears even more apt.

Any break-up of the 'UK' as a political unit could necessitate the formal adoption of a new term for these islands. Rather than wait for some anglo-centric academic to devise the formal title for our collective nations in the wake of that eventuality, the Celtic League should seize the initiative now and campaign for the adoption of the title 'The Celtic Isles' (or another such name) as a more politically, culturally and historically accurate description of these islands.

Steve Bradley

BROAD AGENDA AT CELTIC LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Those who died at Omagh on the 15 August were remembered as delegates stood in silence at the conclusion of the Celtic League AGM held in Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, Éire.

Delegates from the Celtic countries debated a range of resolutions and proposals which will be given effect over the next twelve months.



During the day the General Secretary, B. Moffatt, laid a wreath at the monument erected in Rath Cúil by the local 1798 Committee this year.

Resolutions

- Recognising the importance of Radio nan Gaidheal to Gaelic and to the Gaelic community, this AGM calls upon the BBC to:

- (a) Increase the funding of Radio nan Gaidheal to enable it to become a full time radio station, and

- (b) To ensure that Gaelic radio becomes available in all parts of Scotland as soon as possible.

- In view of the importance of broadcasting to the well-being of Gaelic, this AGM calls upon the Minister for Gaelic to:

- (a) Restore the £500,000 taken from the Gaelic broadcasting fund, and

- (b) To protect the level of the Gaelic broadcasting fund against inflation.

- This AGM calls upon Border Television to broadcast Gaelic (Gàidhlig and Gaelg) Television programmes.

- This AGM, contrasting the fairly enlightened attitude of most member states of the EU with that of France towards the demand for official recognition by their minority peoples:

- Views with grave concern the recent adoption by the French National Assembly of a reform of the system of election to the Regional Councils which (a) practically rules out the possibility for the Breton parties (among other small political groups) to get any candidate elected to the regional Councils in the foreseeable future.

- Denounces this reform as the latest step to prevent the political expression of a growing sense of Breton identity.

- Expresses, in a spirit of interceltic solidarity, the hope that the Breton parties taking part in regional elections will consider more seriously the need, at least at election times, to agree a common programme likely to win the widest support possible and so obtain the minimum percentage of the vote to achieve representation on the regional councils.

- This AGM, knowing well how reasonable the demands of the Bretons are for measures to enable their Celtic language to live:

- Wishes to express its utter reprobation of the attempt by the Mayor of Kemper to cast discredit on the Breton language movement by alleging that some of its members subscribe to an "Aryan theory of one language, one territory".

- Finds it amazing that he approves the article of the French Constitution which declares that French is the (only) language of the Republic, precisely an illustration of the theory he referred to.

- Acknowledges that the report which he has recently submitted to the French Prime Minister about the place to be given to Breton and the other minority languages within the State contains several positive recommendations but fails to form the basis of a policy for the restoration of these languages.

- This AGM draws attention to the fact that Brittany in its historic limits constitutes a region of average size and population among the EU regions.

- Views it as being in the Breton interest to have it recognised as a constituency in European elections.

- Opposes any proposal to incorporate it in a Grand Ouest region devoid of identity.

- In the light of the experiences of movements in the other Celtic countries, the Ard-Fheis advises Plaid Cymru against changing the name of the party to be bilingual viz. "Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales".

- This AGM of the Celtic League calls on the Irish and Manx governments and the forthcoming Scottish and Welsh assemblies to use their contacts in the new British-Irish Council to work towards the inter-Celtic Confederation envisaged by the Celtic League.

Similarly we would call on all public representatives from the Celtic countries to avail of contacts within other forums such as the EU to promote inter-Celtic cooperation and an inter-Celtic federation.

- This AGM calls on the Irish government to honour and supplement its financial commitment to the Co. Louth residents opposing the Thorp project through the courts.

- This AGM draws attention to the attempts of the British government to dilute as much as possible the commitment given in the Northern Ireland Agreement to development of the Irish language in the North. It calls on the British government to honour its commitments and on the Irish government to ensure these are implemented to the maximum.

- That the Manx Government should take immediate and active action to recognise the important central position of the Isle of Man within the three Gaelic and six Celtic speaking countries, and commence a programme promoting the linguistic, cultural and intellectual links between such countries.

That the Manx Government should take the initiative and provide funding for a permanent centre to be constructed in the geographical focus of the Isle of Man.

That an administrative body should be created to oversee such a centre and to foster even closer cultural and linguistic ties between the Gaelic and Celtic speaking communities with particular regard to their language, heritage, education, broadcasting and cultural aspects – culminating in the foundation of a "Celtic College in Mann." That the funding of such a project should begin as part of the "Millennium Initiative."

- That the Manx Government should incorporate "Mannin" on all future coinage, paper money and postage stamps issued in the Isle of Man.

- This AGM calls upon the UK government to ensure that Cornwall is given equal treatment with Scotland and

(contd overleaf)



Part of the Irish delegation

Wales with regard to constitutional and Cultural matters. (In particular we oppose the trend towards "Devonwallisation" of Cornish institutions and emergency services).

- This AGM calls on the UK government to ensure that Cornwall, along with the other Celtic Nations, is included and covered fully under the provisions of the "Framework convention for the Protection of National Minorities" which came into force of law 1st May 1998.

- This AGM calls on the UK Office of Statistics to include Cornish as an ethnic classification along with Scottish, Welsh and Irish on the 2001 UK census and to ignore the misguided decision of Cornwall Council not to press for Cornish as an ethnic classification.

- This AGM of the Celtic League calls upon her Majesty's Government to hold a referendum in Britain to decide whether the British people wish to continue Britain's claim to Northern Ireland.

- This AGM of the Celtic League calls upon Her Majesty's Government to institute equal rights for the Irish and English languages throughout the United Kingdom while Northern Ireland remains part of the UK.

- This AGM of the Celtic League condemns the sickening atrocity at Omagh.

The answer is to convict, by due process of the law, those actually responsible for the atrocity and not to punish innocent people by innuendo, slander, libel, imprisonment, internment or loss of the right to travel.

- This AGM welcomes the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's statement of his intention to develop political, commercial and cultural links between Ireland and Scotland within the framework of the Council of the Isles due to be set up under the terms of the Belfast Peace Agreement!

- Urges the Irish Government to give attention to the development of similar links with the Isle of Man and Wales via their own institutions.

- Expresses the wish that Ireland, Mannin, Scotland and Wales would jointly look for ways to give all the support possible to Brittany and Cornwall in their efforts to maintain their identities and their languages.

- Applauds the decision of the Irish Government to establish Consulates General in Alba and Cymru and urges the establishment of similar consular representation in the other Celtic countries (Kernow, Mannin).

- This AGM views with concern the activities of the paramilitary police force of Spain in the area of the southern Basque country and in particular condemn the murder of Inaxi Zeberio who was shot dead by police in suspicious circumstances during a police raid on her apartment in Gernika on June 5 1998.

- This AGM expresses its concern that intimidation and abuse of prisoners is routinely undertaken by Spanish security forces against those remanded in custody as a result of the on-going war between Spain

and nationalists from the area of the Southern Basque country and in particular calls for an enquiry by the European Parliament into allegations that two female prisoners Maite Pedrosa and Cristina Gete were subjected to horrendous abuse of both a physical and sexual nature whilst held incommunicado at the Civil Guard headquarters (Madrid) in June 1998.

(Note Civil liberties groups in the Basque country documented 83 cases of alleged abuse and ill treatment of detainees in the first half of 1998).

- This AGM

- (a) condemns the Spanish government for breaching **Article 19 of the Int. Covenant of Civil and Political Rights** and **Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights** by its closure of the Basque language newspaper *Egin* and the Basque radio station *Egin Irratia* and the subsequent imprisonment of staff who worked for the two media outlets.

- (b) instructs the Celtic League Secretary General to protest this extreme censorship of the legitimate aspirations of Basque language and culture to both the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

- Recognising the importance of academic links between the Celtic Countries and European Universities this AGM expresses its concern at plans by the authorities at the Humboldt University, Berlin to delete the Chair of Celtic Studies.

Aware that this is the only such Chair in the whole of Germany and being conscious of the long tradition and connections of Celtic Studies at Humboldt University instructs the Celtic League Secretary General to mount a sustained campaign to ensure the retention of the Chair of Celtic studies at Humboldt.

- This AGM supports the efforts being made by residents organisations in the S. Armagh area to combat the social and environmental problems caused by the large number of military installations in that area.

Calls on the Irish Government to use the facility of the Inter Governmental Conference to ensure the British Ministry of Defence responds positively to the residents concerns.

ETA - A Bold Initiative

It is not enough to welcome the decision of Basque nationalist group ETA to declare a ceasefire. The unique opportunity the decision affords to resolve permanently the Basque peoples' legitimate right to self-determination should be vigorously supported.

Predictably the Spanish government's reaction has been disappointingly negative and it will require the pressure of all Spain's EU partners to ensure that the opportunity for a lasting peace settlement is not missed.

In this context the Celtic League will be continuing the campaign we began, some years ago, of lobbying EU governments to assist the process.

The historic step taken by ETA is understandably being linked to developments in N. Ireland and it is without question the example of that process and the close links between Basque and Irish nationalists that have assisted in creating the initiative.

Both conflicts have been bitter and protracted and both have illustrated the failure of superior military and financial resources deployed by the British in Ireland and the Spanish in the Basque country to defeat the independence movements led by the IRA and ETA. Realisation in Ireland that a dangerous stalemate was developing led the IRA to announce its first cease-fire. The Celtic League immediately praised that decision and attracted immediate condemnation from those whose agenda is continued conflict and the denial of self-determination for Europe's minority peoples.

We have no hesitation in giving equal endorsement to ETA's decision to that which we gave in 1994 when the IRA generated the political initiative to end the spiral of violence in Ireland, but undoubtedly there will be interests that wish to frustrate the Basque peace movement. Spain's obduracy is to be expected but more ominous is the silence of the French government. The French know that their ability to hold back the aspirations of national groups in Brittany and Corsica will be seriously comprised by moves to achieve Basque independence. Independence for the provinces in the southern (Spanish) Basque country is inconceivable if it does not take with it the French-dominated provinces in the north. France will bitterly oppose any such moves and it, as much as Spain, should be the focus of pressure at this time.

Developments to promote peace and security in Europe are ushering in an era of unprecedented opportunity for a wide

range of national minorities across the continent. The old agenda of the repressive "nation States" i.e. Spain, France and the United Kingdom should not be allowed to obstruct the road to freedom.

J B Moffatt

General Secretary, Celtic League
(Editors note: see AGM resolutions on Basque struggle)

Celtic League

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts

Green with gold Celtic League motive in corner.

T-shirts £8, Sweatshirts £12.50

* 10% p & p

Bi seascaidh, bi san fhasan

Faigh an Léine T/S againn!

Uaine le snaidhm ór a' Chomainn

Chaitich 's an aisean.

For further information contact

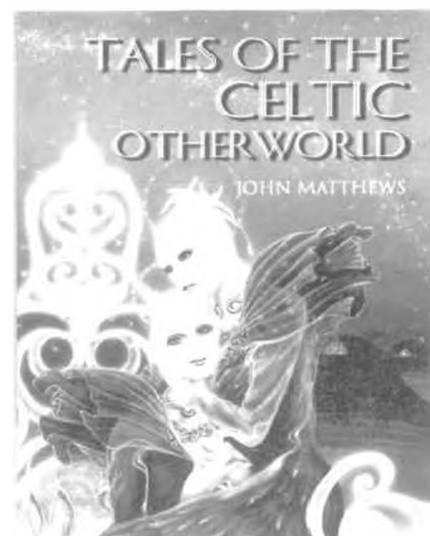
the Alba Branch Secretary

(addr: Pg 24)

Yann Fouéré Foundation

A foundation named after Yann Fouéré was set up in 1991 in Jersey, in accordance with the local Anglo-Norman legislation, with the aim of a) conserving historical documents which are or will be entrusted to it by Breton individuals, cultural organisation or political movements; b) creating of a font of documentation and of a library relating to the history of Brittany which may be accessible to research workers; c) awarding prizes to the authors of works published in French or in English or translated in either of these languages from any Celtic language, provided they concern the history of Brittany, past or present and its future place in Europe.

The foundation is constituted as a civil building society, based in the offices of Me. P. Le Person, notary, Yffiniac, Côtes-d'Armor, who will administer its premises at Nr 21 Place Duguesclin, Saint-Brieuc. It has already a collection of books, publications and diverse documents, most of which come from Yann Fouéré's library.



Tales of the Celtic

Otherworld by John

Matthews, illustrated by Ian
Daniels. Blandford. ISBN 0
7137 2656 3. Price £18.99

The traditional Celtic 'Otherworld' or after-life is as rich, detailed and powerful as any in world mythology. The added dimension of spirituality and of the traditional journey also explains the current revival of interest in and the modern popularity of Celtic myth. This new collection of stories is selected by world-recognised authority John Matthews and includes both classics and lesser known, newly researched dazzling folk tales and myths. Together with new original colour paintings by Ian Daniels, these stories convey a powerful account of the Celtic Otherworld and its many aspects.

Information from Cassell Publicity UK

Tel: 0171 4205594.

Celtic Connections

The Ancient Celts, their Traditions and
Legacy by David James and Simant
Bostok, Blandford. ISBN 0 7137 2750 0.
PB £9.99.

An ideal introduction to Celtic origins, history and legacy, this book brings together the story of the Celtic peoples in Europe in a delightful and informative blend of text, illustration and photographs. Packed with historical, spiritual and aesthetic facts *Celtic Connections* tells of their origins, expansion across the continent and into the British Isles, their achievements and monuments to their ongoing legacy.

Further information:

Tel: UK 0171 420 5561

Bratrstvo Keltů, meaning 'Brotherhood of Celts', is an association whose members are interested in studying the part played by the Celts in the history of the Czech nation and in the culture (music, arts, etc.) of the present Celtic nations (they include Galicia and the Asturias).

The address is Prokopská 3, 11000 Prag. Membership numbers 500 in the Czech Republic. Activities are relayed to them via a quarterly journal, Zpravodaj. This provides information on Czech and World Celtic events, on music and books.

Every year since 1995, the Bratrstvo has organised on April 30/May 1 a big festival of Celtic culture called Beltine, lasting all night and the following morning. Three of the members are studying Cornish with the Kernowek Dre Lyther correspondence school which is run by Ray Edwards with exemplary dedication.

A.B.

GWENN HA DU, bimonthly in French. 28 pp. Subs. to J. Le Maho, 190 bis, Ave. de Clichy, 75017 Paris. 150 F but outside State 170 F

In this nationalist periodical, the articles of historic interest are frequently the most important. In the July-Aug. issue an extract of the memoirs of the historian Abbé Poisson, relating his detention in a camp near Rennes in 1945 is particularly interesting. Th. Jigourel gives a different view of the Padanian movement for self-government from that generally expressed in the French papers. The text of a talk given by Yann Plunier at Toronto in 1978 tells us of the extent of the Breton immigration to Canada over the past 450 years. M. Janvresse proposes a Celtic vision for the future of the world rejecting capitalism and communism. He does not find much to inspire him in the willingness of the Celtic nations to submit to the influence of their (ex-) colonial masters.

CELTIC LEAGUE INTERNET SITE

<http://www.manxman.co.im/cleague/>
e-mail General Secretary:
b.moffatt@advsys.co.im
e-mail Assistant G.S.
mkermode@mcb.net

AL LANV, quarterly magazine in Breton, 50 pages. 59 Hent Kerdontou Vihan, 29000 Kemper. Subscription 180 F but outside State 220 F

This periodical is a good deal younger than **AL LIAMM** having been launched in 1997. It deals with politics, literature, history, economics but it often carries also travel accounts.

AL LANV, in its editorial, expresses satisfaction at the progress of our language in its written form (including road signs) but concern at the frequent failure to use it in public life, even at festivals organised in its favour. This must be remedied if it is not to become a matter of folklore!

Comann an Luchd-lonnsachaidh

'for Gaelic learners and supporters'

Guth, Fiosrachadh, Leasachadh,
Compàirt tro

Ballrachd Eadar- nàiseanta	International Membership
Ràitheachan	Quarterly
Coiteachadh	Mag
Comhairle	Lobbying
Féiltean	Support
Buidhnean	Events
Teip Karaoke	Groups
Inbhe Carthannais	Karaoke Tape
Teipichean	Charitable Status
lonnsachaidh	Learner Tape/Booklets



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For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

ALBA Risnidh Mag Aoidh, 16/1 McCleod Street Gorgie, EH11 2NQ.
e-mail: risnidh@cableinet.co.uk

BREIZH

Correspondence: Viviane Le Menn, Kersiguenou 29160 Crozon/Kraon, Brittany.

Subscriptions: Jakez Derouet, 14 Hent Kemper, 29000 Pluguen/Pluguffan, Brittany.

CYMRU Robat ap Tomos, 'Dyffryn', Gretton Fields, Gretton, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5HH, England.

EIRE Subscriptions: c/o 33 Céide na Grianoige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath.

KERNOW Martyn Miller, 10 Trewartha Court, Pound Street, Liskeard.

MANNIN Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel.

ENGLAND BRANCH Florence Kenna, 72 Compton Street, London, EC1V 0BN.

USA Stephen Paul de Villo, 313 East 201 Street, Bronx, New York 10458.

INTERNATIONAL BRANCH Alan Heusaff, Seana Gharráin, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, Eire.

The General Secretary and P.R.O. of the Celtic League is **Bernard Moffatt**, 11 Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan, Mannin. Tel - UK (0) 1624 627128

The Editor is **Ms P. Bridson**, 33 Céide na Grianoige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath, Eire.

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Original photographs must be forwarded.

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CELTIC LEAGUE





Teagasc Tre na Gàidhlig ...no gheibh i bàs.....

C iamar a tha sinn cinnteach gum bheil dùthaich neo-eisimeileach?

Seo agad an fhreagairt... rioghachd no stàit far a bheil a h-uile cuspair air a theagasg tre na cànan aca... agus leis a sin bithidh a' mhuinntir aca comasach air a bruidhinn 's air a sgrìobhadh fhads a tha iad a' mairsinn beò.

Gun teagamh, bhiodh iomadach duine air fàs fileanta a thaobh cànanan eile ach dh'ionnsaich siad iad tre na teanga aca fhèin. Seall ris an Roinn Eòrpa, far a bheil a' mhòr chuid de nan dùthchannan a' teagasg tre na cànan aca fhèin... agus an sin ga cur gu feum fhad's a tha iad a' mairsinn beò... A' Phòlainn, A' Ghrèig, A' Phortagail, An Eadailt, Suòmi (Finland), An Ungair, Rumania, An t-Suain agus mar sin air adhart... feadh an Roinn Eòrpa.

Seall ris air na sia nàiseanan Ceilteach – chan eil neo-eisimeileachd idir bhon nach eil aonan dhiu far a bheil teagasg tre na cànan aca fhèin ann feadh na dùthcha uile gu leir. Air an taobh seo de Chaolas na Frainge, air a' mhòr chuid, chan eile ach aon cànan far a bheil iad a' teagasg... a' Bheurla... cànan nach eil Ceilteach idir!

Arsa an riaghaltas ann an Lunnain, ris a h-uile pàrtaidh poileataiceach... "na h-abair facal a thaobh na Gàidhlig... ni sinne na tha feumail, earbaibh annainn."

Ach de dha a tachairt nuair a thig Ministear na Stàite a tha dealasach air sgàth na Gàidhlig? ... 'S sin ri ràdh Brian MacUilleim. Dé rinn Tony Blair ach dh'fhuadaich e Brian coir gu Lunnain! Agus mar sin, fad air falbh on Ghàidhlig.

Ach mur eil atharrachadh ann, bithidh ar cànan cho marbh ri sgadan far a bheil i beò an diugh. Mar a tha fios againn ann an pàirtean de'n Eilean Sgitheanach, air Colasaigh, Gigha agus sna h-Eileanan an Iar. Chan eil a h-uile sgoil a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig agus tha teagasg tre na Beurla an cumantas.

Far a bheil sgoil a' teagasg tre na Beurla 's ann a tha ar cànan a' dol bhuidhe. An suid's an seo chi sinn sgoil far a bheil iad teagasg tre na Gàidhlig ach tha iad sin tearc tearc.

Bha sgoiltean Ghàidhlig ann gus. Achd an Fhoghlaim 1872. Ach mharbh an Achd seo na sgoiltean Ghàidhlig uile gu leir agus

bha teagasg tre na cànan Shasannaich a-mhàin an deidh sin. Ach chionn fichead bliadhna neo rudeigin mar sin, fhuair sinn stèidheachadh nan croileagan agus na sgoiltean Ghàidhlig. Is e an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach!

Ach, tha cnuimh nan cridhean ... Sa chiad dol a-mach ... Tha uallach air na parantan ... mur eil iad neo-dhaingeann mùchaidh iad an croileagan agus an sgoil Ghàidhlig, mar a thachair an Eilean Liosmòr. Carson nach eil an riaghaltas deònach sgoiltean fhosgaladh far a bheil iad a' teagasg a h-uile cuspair tre na Gàidhlig far am biodh a h-uile sgoilear a' dol agus bhiodh an t-uallach air na parantan a bha nàimhdeil.

Feumaidh sinn brosnachadh Gàidheil is Goill air son sgoiltean Ghàidhlig on a tha a' Ghàidhlig 'na cànan naiseanta Alba.

Rud eile, stiùireadh sgìrean (*local authorities*) na sgoiltean Ghàidhlig sin mar Dun Eideann, far nach eil iad cairdeil don chànan idir, ged a tha Dun Eideann prìomh bhaile Alba! Chan eil e ceadichte ach an aon bunsgoil Ghàidhlig, sgoil Tollcross, a mheudachadh agus bithidh Comhairle an Fhoghlaim aca a' taghadh cò bhiodh a' dol don sgoil sin!

Rud eile, chan eil mòran teagasg idir tre na Gàidhlig sna h-ard-sgoiltean air a' mhòr-chuid, ged a tha na bun-sgoiltean aca far a bheil teagasg tre na Gàidhlig.

Seo agad dearg gheur-leanmhainn... a' teagasg tre na Beurla.

Ach, bitheamaid spòrsail... leigeamaid oirnn nach do stad am prìonnsa aig Derby, ach lean e air gu Lunnain agus, taing do dh'Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, bhiodh gur iad bhig gach sgoil. colaisde is oilthigh feadh Shasainn a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig! Bhiodh fheadhainn ann an Sasainn nach biodh toilichte idir!

Am biodh iad uile gu leir toilichte nan robh ar Runaire na Stàite air son Sasainn a' cur an cèill gum biodh sgoileadh-cumhachd (devolution) air son Sasainn agus gum biodh Pàrlamaid nuadh (nach robh uile-cumhachdach) an ceann ceudan de bhliadhnan gu bhith ann an Westminster ach gum biodh na Buill-Pàrlamaid gu ìre bhig a' bruidhinn na Gàidhlig an àite na Beurla fad an latha agus gach latha.

Am biodh na Sasainn cho toilichte nan robh e cho doirbh teagasg tre na Beurla fhaighinn mar a tha e a thaobh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba an diugh! Bhiodh iad ag iarraidh na Beurla feadh gach sgoil, colaisde agus feadh Shasainn gu leir!

Mata, cha robh iad sona idir nuair a bha an Fhraingeis na h-aon chànan anns an robh iad a' teagasg feadh Shasainn uile gu leir on Cheannsachadh sa bhliadhna 1066 gus an do thòisich Cogadh nan Ceud Bliadhna an aghaigh na Frainge (1338-1453) nuair a dh'fhàs teagasg tre na Fraingeis suarach, ann an Sasainn. An sin, thill iad gu teagasg tre na Beurla a risd feadh Shasainn.

Co dhiù, dh'ionnsaich sinn mòran a thaobh aiseirigh na Gàidhlig fad na fichead bliadhna a dh'aom.

Thuir Mairi Morley, ball den Gaelic Pre-school Council a thaobh teagasg uile gu leir tre na Gàidhlig sa chiad clas san bhunsgoil... "An ceann cola-deug tha a' chlann ga bruidhinn fad an latha agus nuair a thig An Giblean cho dàna a bhi bruidhinn na Gàidhlig don neach-teagaisg agus nuair a thig an Samhradh tha iad a' bruidhinn ri chèile sa Ghàidhlig."

Tha fios againn a-nis na tha feumail... de dh'fheumas sinn a dhèanamh... brosnachadh a h-uile duine... Gall is Gàidheal feadh Alba gus am bi a h-uile teagasg tre na Gàidhlig anns a h-uile sgoil, colaisde is oilthigh feadh Alba uile gu leir.

Feumaidh sinn brosnachadh air son teagaisg tre na Gàidhlig an àite na Beurla mar a tha an diugh.

Am fear nach cuir a chuid 'an cunnart, cha dèan e call no buinnig!

Archy Macpherson
(Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich)

.....



**Independent Scots read the
'Scots Independent'**

Contact
**51 Cowane Street
Stirling FK8 1JW
Alba/Scotland**
**Telephone
Stirling 01786 473523**

Gaelic Teletext Campaign

Gaelic activists are currently campaigning for a Gaelic teletext service. Such a service would be able to provide local, national and international news in Gaelic, available at the touch of a button to the vast majority of Gaelic speakers in Scotland. It would also be able to provide details of community events, of competitions, of Gaelic organisations and of Gaelic broadcasting. At present, all five UK terrestrial channels provide teletext services, Ceefax on BBC 1 & 2, Teletext on ITV & Channel 4 and 5 Text on Channel 5. No Gaelic is carried on any of these teletext services at present.

Teletext services are already available through the national languages in Ireland and Wales: Sbectel on S4C and Gaeltext on RTE. In addition to the usual teletext services, S4C also operates a page for Welsh learners (p333) and an innovative subtitling service. Viewers can have Welsh language programmes subtitled into

English using page 888 or into simplified Welsh for learners through page 889. There can be no doubt that such a service would be useful for Gaelic. The Irish language Gaeltext is available on the internet at <http://realaudio.digex.net/rte/mirror/aertel/aertelplus/p480.htm>.

If you care about the future of Gaelic broadcasting then please write to or e-mail the following addresses asking for the introduction of a Gaelic teletext service.

Ceefax, BBC Scotland, Broadcasting House, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow G12 8DG. Ceefax@BBC.co.uk.

Teletext: Teletext Editor, PO Box 297, London, England SW6 1XT.

E-mail: DennisW@teletext.co.uk (Scottish Editor) and Editor@teletext.co.uk (UK Editor).

5 Text: 5 Text Letters, Welby House, 96 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1DW.

Alasdair MacCaluim

Scottish General Election Campaign already started!

A series of opinion polls have placed New Labour and SNP neck and neck with the LibDems and Tories trailing badly with the prospects for a long and dirty election campaign leading to May 6th 1999. This has sprung a series of smears and red herrings from the closely orchestrated New Labour machine that is as London controlled as ever. The SNP is targeted with charges of separatism, of planning to wreck the devolved Scottish Parliament and use it to create a battering ram against the Union.

Charges of wrecking tactics by Messrs Blair and Brown against the SNP have to be seen in context of a Scottish economy hit hardest by multi-national company closures due to high pound, Far East financial chaos and government determination to slim down spending ahead of entry to the Euro. Scots are hit hard by policies designed for SE England, a familiar tale which strongly echoes the Tory arguments deployed against devolution.

Meanwhile various groups of prominent business people are lining up for and against Independence. Business for Scotland is the SNP inspired pro-independence lobby. As yet talks between Scottish Office Nat Basher, Helen Liddell, formerly a treasury minister and now parachuted into the Scottish Office team to sort out education and the SNP, and some hard to pin down business contacts opposed to the break up of the Union have failed to gel. The mood of Scottish voters is one of confidence that in twenty years Scotland will be independent and that far being separatist the SNP message takes Scotland into a more natural, historic partnership with our European trading partners. Scots see Independence, built on successful devolution as a means of improving their lives.

A recent speech in Belgium to a colloquium of bishops caused a flurry in Labour doocots. Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow, a well known Old Labour supporter described Scottish nationhood and political nationalism as mature, respectful of democracy and international in outlook. This was seen as most definitely off message by Blair's control freaks. Also troubles with rebel Labour MPs in Scotland, Wales and London who seek positions of power against the leadership's wishes has struck a dissonant chord. This shows alongside

Gaelic Political Party to be founded?

Preparations are currently underway for the formation of a Gaelic political party. Fionnlagh MacLeòid, founder and director of the Gaelic playgroups movement CNSA announced during the national Mod that a series of meetings were to be held in the Autumn with a view to the setting up of a Gaelic National Party - Pàrtaidh Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig. Such a party would stand in seats throughout Scotland and not merely in the Gàidhealtachd. According to Mr MacLeòid, "Gaelic must be raised to a new level in Scottish politics". Plans for a Gaelic political party have met with

scepticism from most Gaelic activists who feel that such a party would gather few votes and might serve to marginalise the language. More importantly, it is feared that the time and resources required to sustain a Gaelic party would be better employed in the foundation of a Gaelic civil rights pressure group along the lines of Cymdeithas yr Iaith, CEFN, Conradh na Gaeilge or the defunct Gaelic lobbying groups Comunn na Cànan Albannaich, Strì and Ceartas. No such group exists in Scotland at present.

Alasdair MacCaluim

Euro Charter

Gaelic groups have welcomed the news that the UK government is to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with reference to Gaelic, Irish, Welsh and Scots. Exactly which of the charter's clauses are to be adopted for Gaelic remains to be seen. While warmly welcoming the government's decision to support the charter, Comunn na Gàidhlig and other Gaelic development agencies have stated that they see the ratification of the European Charter as being a step towards the implementation of a stronger official status package for Gaelic as laid out in the "Secure Status for Gaelic" report.

Celtic League

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Cheiltich 's an oisean.

For further information contact

the Alba Branch Secretary

(addr. Pg 24)

Labour's continuing local government difficulties and a string of lost by-elections for council seats that the battle for hearts and minds in Scotland is wide open.

A unique by-election in NE Scotland for the European Parliament seat was called on 26th November. Caused by the sudden death of highly popular SNP MEP Allan Macartney. His former election agent and council leader of SNP Angus Council, Ian Hudgton is being challenged by New Labour, Tories, Lib Dems fielding a former Westh Tory MP Keith Raffan, Scottish Green Party and Scottish Socialist Party candidates. The independence / separatist issue continues to receive wall to wall coverage. It has set the tone for the next six month's campaigning for Holyrood.

The shape of Scottish democracy is being fashioned as we speak. A local government commission has proposed fair voting, cabinet style councils and a reduced better paid number of councillors while a Catalan architect S Morales has presented the winning modern design for the new parliament complex at the foot of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. A series of Peoples' Parliaments organised by the SNP in the Old Royal High School building in Edinburgh are highlighting health, the arts, education and housing as major platforms for change in Scotland. They herald the most direct access by citizens to the new parliament that will have open select committees and internet access as standard.

A whole series of conferences about aspects of government have been launched by every conceivable group which ensures that the political life of Scotland has never been so alive. Debates include the place of Gaelic and Scots tongues in public life. The parties are honing their manifestos and the government is completing a major series of public consultations on policies for the new parliament. One important example is the six major consultations on land reform related issues. Rural Development. Land Reform. Countryside Access. National Parks proposals. Environmental Designations. Crofting Law Reform and Feudal Burdens Abolition will all have a high priority in the new parliament's programme according the new Labour, the SNP, Greens and LibDems.

Carn readers will be aware of the long years which have elapsed since the rise of Scottish self-determination. It is a real opportunity to encourage complementary progress amongst all the Celtic countries. Both the proposed Council of the Isles and the demonstration effect will encourage democratic, cultural, social, environmental, economic and linguistic progress among the Atlantic peoples.

Rob Gibson

New Minister for Gaelic

Calum MacDonald, MP for the Western Isles, has been appointed as the new Minister for Gaelic. MacDonald, a Lewisman and native Gaelic speaker,

replaces the first ever Gaelic minister Brian Wilson who has moved to Whitehall following a cabinet reshuffle.

Don't Shoot the Pianist, He's Doing His Best!

I don't know if this is true in all the Celtic countries, I suspect it is, but there is a curious attitude here towards musicians. Put simply, they might as well not be there. This is especially true when they are playing under informal session conditions. They can be playing for say half an hour whilst all present are chattering away paying almost no attention, but let one singer or dancer perform and they can be sure of attention and applause. When the musicians resume, so too does the chatter and inattention.

I am not writing this out of resentment or envy, I can also sing and dance. This is just something I have observed. I am sure other musicians will be nodding their heads. I hope that by pointing this out I may raise perception amongst audiences. Here are some facts which may help.

I recently heard that no matter how frequently or infrequently a musician practises, it will take the same length of time to master an instrument by any individual person. To put it another way, practising once a day or once a week, or even less frequently, it takes the same number of hours to gain the skill. Whichever way, it takes dedication. Ask any musician how long it took. Talent does enter into it. There are a few who will not take to it and give up, but it is mostly persistence that pays off.

I am not saying that singing or dancing does not also take dedication and persistence, I know that it does. However, one dance or one song, in the eyes of the audience has a higher value which deserves applause. A dance makes a bigger visual impact, a song may demand attention for better understanding of the story in the words - you could say that if you know half a dozen songs or dances you can be sure of appreciation. A musician will have to know up to one hundred tunes to sustain a session, many know far more.

Last of all think of the equipment. I took a random sample of our Friday session some weeks ago and asked five present to write down anonymously how much it would cost to replace their instruments.

The total was £3,600.00. Most people don't know the value of instruments. This is shown by the reluctance of most musicians to let a stranger 'have a go'. Nine times out of ten the stranger will abuse the instrument in some way, however minor. They won't even know they are doing it.

Bearing this in mind, do you not think that musicians deserve a bit of attention? Without their support there would be no dancing and a lot less singing. They provide the circumstances under which both skills can find a location and an ambience where they can thrive. Where we play on Fridays, the audience varies greatly, especially at times of the year when tourists begin to arrive. Very often we have been playing for some time without recognition, then a new party will arrive in the middle of a tune and applaud at the end. This has the effect of startling the whole of those present into paying more attention. It takes only one or two to get them all going.

Let me just say that musicians as a rule don't crave applause in spite of appearances to the contrary. Mostly they selfishly play for their own pleasure, satisfaction and enjoyment. All that on one side, it is nice to be appreciated, even in silence. I don't mean stop chattering, it doesn't matter so long as the musicians can hear each other; just to acknowledge that they are there.

Colin Jerry

CELTIC LEAGUE INTERNET SITE

<http://www.manxman.co.im/cleague/>
e-mail General Secretary:
b.moffatt@advsys.co.im
e-mail Assistant G.S.
mkermode@mcb.net



Iwerzhon: ha rannvroelaet e vo?

Armerzh Republik Iwerzhon zo oc'h ober kement a verzh abaoe dek vloaz bennak ma komzer eus "an Tigr Kelt" diouzh skouer ar berzh a rae armerzh broioù "gwrinnenn ar Meurvor Habask" ergentaou. Gant na c'hoarvezo ket amañ a-daol-trumm an dismantr a c'houzañv ar re-se bremañ! Diazezet eo ar burzhud armerzel iwerzhonat evit un darn vat war ar c'hompagnunezhioù bras dreistbroadel dedennet gant distaolioù tailhoù hag o deus engouestlet o arc'hant e kenderc'hadur ardivinkoù pe kevrennoù elektronek, danvezioù apotikerezh ha me'oar. Evit ar mare ez eus labour evit an neb a glask ha ne gav ket al labouradegoù a-walc'h a vicherouren hag a ijinourien zoken.

Met ar c'hresk-se n'eo ket bet astennet d'an holl rannvroioù-se. Dre vras eo reter ha gevred ar vro, troet war-du Breizh-Veur hag ar c'hevandir europat, o deus tennet korvo eus an diorroadur. Dulenn dreist-holl en deus dedennet tud yaouank diwar ar maez eus kornog Iwerzhon. En em ledet he deus ar ger-benn a-dreuz hag a-hed douaroù strujus Cill Dara hag en arvor etre Wicklow ha kontelezh Meath kement ma'z a rannvroioù ec'hon en arvor atlantel, pe a-hed an harzoù ouzh ar 6-Kontelezh ha zoken e-kreiz ar vro, war zidudañ. En un nebeut bloavezhioù ez eo kresket ar C'henderc'had Kriz Diabarzh a 40% er Reter tra ma ne oa nemet a 10% er rannvroioù isdiorroet-se. Koulskoude ez eus bet roet d'ar Stad, sellet outi en he fezh evel un tiriad isdiorroet, skoazell vras eus ar "Fontoù-Frammañ" Europat krouet a-ratozh evit barrekaat broioù-izili isdiorroet nevez ar Gumuniezh da dizhout live-bevañ keitat ar re all. Bremañ emeur degouezhet er par-se en Iwerzhon, well-wazh. An diforc'h n'emañ ket mui etre ar vro-mañ hag an diavaez met en diabarzh.

Etre 2000 ha 2006 e vo digresket tamm-ha-tamm skoazelioù ar Gumuniezh. Ur reoliadur zo koulskoude hag a aotre ar Stadoù da c'houlenn arc'hant eus ar Fontoù-Frammañ evit ar re eus o rannvroioù, ma'z int bras a-walc'h, hag a zo izeloc'h o C'henderc'had Kriz Diabarzh (KKD) eget 75% eus an hini europat. Met ret eo e vije ar rannvroioù-se kenstag, en ur pezh eta. Evel-se emañ kont gant 13 kontelezh e Republik Iwerzhon, e darn

anezho ez eo an dregantad ken izel ha 66%. En em astenn a reont eus Donegal betek kontelezh Galway, koulz hag a-hed an harzoù ha war un nebeut kontelezhioù eus kreiz ar vro.

Goulennet en deus ar gouarnamant d'ar 17/11/- ouzh Komision an Unaniezh Europat reiñ fontoù-frammañ evit ar bloavezhioù 2000-2006 evit ur rannvro o kentoueziañ an 13 kontelezh-se ha div all. Kerry ha Clare, daoust ma'z eo uheloc'h ar c'h-KKD eget 75% en div-mañ. (O folitikerien zo deut a-benn da "wec'h brec'h" an Tevezeg B. Ahern... Ezhomm en deus eus unan anezho, ur c'hannad dizalc'h, evit delc'her ar gouarnamant en e sav. Se n'eo ket graet evit magañ bolontez vat e Brussel). Roet eo bet sifroù ar c'h-KKD evit ar bloavezhioù 1994-98 da Vurev ar Stadoù Europat (Eurostat). Eno e vint gwiriek hag e vo erbedet pe distalet ar goulenn. Ar Gomision a raio diouzh an ali. Ma vez asantet, e vo gouest Iwerzhon da gaout ar muiañ skoazell evit ar bloavezhioù-se digant ar Fontoù-Frammañ. Hag e vo aotreet ouzhpenn-se da reiñ kalz muioù eget ahendall eus kef ar Stad ivez evit alizañ ar greanterezh er rannvro isdiorroet, lakaet dezhi an dere "Objective 1" (Amkan 1). Met ret e vo reiñ d'ar rannvro-se, ha n'eo ket unan istorel, un diazez lezennel moarvat, ha galloudoù gwirion. N'eo ket evit kaout ar muiañ ma c'haller a arc'hant digant Europa e tlefe Iwerzhon bezañ rannvroelaet. Dister eo an digreizennadur er Stad-mañ. Ma vije bet engouestlet un tamm mat muioù e diorroadur ar C'hornog e vije kalz yac'husoc'h ar gevredigezh: buhezec'hoc'h ha gwelloc'h servijet ar rannvro isdiorroet, gwelloc'h marc'had an tiez e Dulenn, nebeutoc'h a dorfedoù da heul an dilabour er c'harterioù dibourvez. Emic'hañs e vo ret d'ar bolitikerien leuskel un darn vat eus ar galloud o deus e Dulenn da vont diouto. Komisionerez Europat ar Rannvroioù a seblant bezañ mennet da bouezañ war ar Stadoù evit ma roint holl muioù a frankiz d'ar rannvroioù da zivizout pezh zo mat evito o-unan. Ret e vefe da Greiz Breizh goulenn an dere Amkan 1.

A.H.

Initiative of Sked

On the initiative of Sked, a federation of associations in the Brest area, 6 other similar federations got together for a campaign to publicize the evening classes in Breton which they organise for adult learners. Large attractive posters were put up, free of charge, thanks to the publicity agency Decaux and with help from the B-4 Regional council in a dozen of the major Breton towns.

Ar Bed Keltiek

on line books, records, Celtic art,
Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82
Brest: 02.98.44.05.38
<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>
e-bost: arfur@eurobretagne.fr
bernez.abk@eurobretagne.fr

Note: Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper), uses the term e-bost in preference to e-mail, like the Welsh. When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

*Gerioù ha n'emaint ket e
Nouveau Dictionnaire Br.Fr.R.
Hemon 1970*

Kenderc'had Kriz Diabarzh: *Gross Domestic Product*; Fontou-Frammañ: *structural funds*; keitat: *mean*; o kentoueziañ: *including*; Tevezeg: *Kentan Minister*; Taoiseach.

Summary

The economic boom presently enjoyed by the Irish Republic resulted largely from the granting by the European Union of very substantial structural funds to the country (26 counties) as a unit. But it has left the West, the Border areas and much of the Midlands underdeveloped. The government has now decided to apply for the status of Objective 1 for a region of 15 counties which would allow it to obtain maximum structural funding for them over the period from 2000 to 2006, as well as to grant large State aid for their industrial development. The answer from Brussels will be known early in the New Year. Regional decentralisation with real powers of decision should have taken place for social reasons.

Ar Brezhoneg er Sportoù Poblek

Kib Ar Bed (World Cup) er Stade de France zo bet ur c'hañs vras evit ar brezhoneg er Skinwel peogir en deus graet Loeiz Bocquet hag e skipailh gant Euro-Sports-Breizh e-pad ur miz muioch eget chadenn ar Stad France-3. Evel evit ar vell-droad ez eus ur sport poblek all ma vez graet gant ar brezhoneg evit displegañ an traoù: ar redadegoù marc'h-houarn. Dreist-holl evit Tro Bro-Leon. Ul levrig zo diwar he fenn. "Tro Bro-Leon zo koulz ha Paris-Roubaix, eme an dud. Koulz? Kalz gwelloc'h eo. Ni n'hon eus ket ezhomm da vont da foetañ bro evit kaout poultronn, pri, mein kalet, pe grouan", a lavar Goulc'han Kervella ar c'hentskrid. Ar pennad zo displeget gantañ war ar c'hasedig video savet gant J. Luc Roudaut. Ar bloaz-mañ eo Yann-Youenn Fichoux, speaker ar gevredigezh, en deus enrollet komzoù brezhonek war video. Plijout a ra dezhañ yezh ar vro. Ur ger en deus evit maer Lanniliz, ur ger all evit paotred ar marc'h-houarn, Jean Le Iñir (Lannarvili) pe Louis Bihannig (Hanter-Eost). Ouzhpenn-se Patrick ar Gouarnig en deus kizellet an Triskell ha zo bet roet da briz. Dav eo deomp trugarekaat rener an Dro.



Gant gounezer Tro Bro-Leon Yann-Youenn Fichoux, Fred Delalande (Skipailh Jean Floc'h) o telc'her ar priz ha J. Lallouet (Ouest-France).

Yann-Baol Mellouet, evit bountañ ar brezhoneg war an hent mat... O vezañ m'en deus roet Patrick Le Lay eus TF1 lañs d'un TV-Breizh poblek e voe tro e Lokarn, (22), da selaou c'hoazh sportoù poblek displeget en hor yezh.

Gi Keltik

Summary

The Breton language is gradually getting its due place in coverage of popular sporting events. The Tro Bro Leon bicycle race provided last Summer an excellent example of this.

A Further Step Towards a Breton TV

The realization of a Breton television service moved a further step forward on November 7 when Patrick Le Lay, president of the oldest and prestigious French television channel TF1 – privatised in 1981 – presented the project briefly alluded to in *Carn* 103. He spoke to a gathering of enthusiastic "decision-makers" in Lokarn (near Karaez, Central Brittany) where an institute for the training of Breton business managers was set up a few years ago.

Le Lay, who has become passionately interested in his native country and its language, created a sensation last Spring when he announced his determination to establish a Breton, independent and bilingual television service. "In the era of satellite broadcasting", he said at a press conference, "no political power will any longer be able to control television".

Encouraged by the great success encountered by the broadcasting in Breton of comments on the Soccer World Championship matches he announced in Lokarn that the channel he has in mind will be privately owned with up to 30 or 40% of the programmes in our language. This would change radically from the 75 minutes a week, hardly 1% of the time, on

France 3 Ouest (this name is a programme in itself!) What a wretched shame compared to the dozens of hours a week allocated in democratic states like Switzerland, Belgium, or even Spain and the "UK" to the minority languages!

In order to finance this Breton channel which for a start could give employment to 60 or 80 people, Le Lay hopes to find economic partners willing to join him in investing 300 to 400,000 million francs in it, i.e. about 50 million ecus.

We have already reported that a group headed by the ex-president of DIWAN, A. Lavanant is working under the aegis of the Breton Cultural Council on a different project which will depend on financial backing from the Breton elected councils. Could the two be combined? In a matter of such importance the union of all the people who want a proper Breton channel and who know they will never get it from the French State is absolutely necessary. It would be an unprecedented example of success arising from a conjunction of our country's economic and cultural forces.

Th. Jigourel
(transl. by A.H.)

Bilingual Education: 20.5% increase

The Union of Breton Teachers, UGB, published very encouraging figures in the October issue of its quarterly, *Kannadig* for the number of schoolgoers getting their education this year through the medium of Breton and French. The total for the 3 types of bilingual schools is 4,535, an increase of 772 or +20.5% compared to 1997.

DIWAN schools (all levels):

1996, i.e. +243 or +14%

State bilingual classes:

1398, i.e. +306 or +28%

Catholic schools:

1141, i.e. +223 or +24.6%

40 new bilingual teachers are needed every year. Only 5 qualified last Summer from the IUFM (State training college) in St. Brie. 7 new auxiliary teachers had to be taken on in State schools to meet the demand. The number of such teachers in those schools is increasing. Is it part of a sabotage plan to leave them with insufficiently trained staff?

Only one new (pre-primary) DIWAN school opened in 1998, the first since 1995. The obstacles placed to the development of DIWAN by State imposed financial conditions and the shortage of teachers explain the relatively low % increase above. DIWAN opened an institute, KELENN, in Kemper in 1997, to train new teachers and provide refresher courses to those occupying posts. 15 qualified last Summer. Others are trained in Beziers, Languedoc, together with teachers for other "regional" languages. The campaign goes to to get DIWAN recognised as a public service, and for a special competition organised for bilingual teachers.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who contribute material to *Carn* on a regular basis.

I would also remind readers and members that the magazine is open to contributions from you as long as they are in line with our aims. It is important that we cover all aspects of news, views, events etc of interest - if you feel there is a gap, fill it. Any suggestions for changes to *Carn* are welcome as long as they are followed by action.

POBL National Council: grassroots increasingly for independence

POBL, the Party for the organisation of a free Brittany, held its National Council meeting on November 7. Unlike its Congress which takes place every second year and is open to internal and external friends, the Council is strictly reserved to members. POBL stems directly from the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany founded in 1957 by several veterans of the pre-war "Emsav" who survived the French repression in 1945. They included Yann Fouere and Per Lemoine. They were joined by young post-war militants. POBL is thus the oldest and most traditional branch of the Breton political movement. Its present president Patrick Montauzier was prominent in the FLB-ARB which in the 60s and 70s thought it worth engaging in armed actions against police stations and military training camps.

Strictly speaking, POBL was set up in 1982 when following an amnesty decreed by President Mitterand the ARB prisoners including Montauzier who was serving a 30 year sentence were finally released.

The last National Council meeting gave rise to an overall review of the party policy.

The leadership, apart from P. Montauzier, has always declared itself for federalism but the rank and file, rather young and free from the post-war complexes, leans more and more for independence. However the two tendencies were reconciled by the adoption of a resolution in favour of independence – in the party they rather use the term "national sovereignty", as in Quebec – in relation to the French State and integral federalism at the internal Breton level as well as at the European level.

This resolution which was proposed by Yann Fouere, the author of the best-seller "L'Europe aux Cent Drapeaux" stated textually that the POBL stood firmly for a federal and federalist organisation of Europe in which the Breton nation will recover its rightful place beside the other nations. It also expressed the view that the French State had become a useless and costly intermediary between Brittany and and Europe. It was adopted unanimously.

There was also complete agreement for the decision to boycott the forthcoming European elections on the grounds that in spite of promises made by L. Jospin last Spring the French territory will again be a single constituency. "The regionalism of these elections which most neighbour countries practise as the most natural thing in the world i

here once more put off indefinitely, in particular because of the communists' opposition.



At the POBL National Council Meeting, first from left, P. Montauzier, third Yann Fouere

The POBL re-affirmed that its struggle cannot be defined as being rightist or leftist in accordance with the French

terminology. It rejected any alliance with parties which are controlled from Paris.

Thierry Jigourel

AL LIAMM, literary magazine in Breton, bimonthly. Subscription 180 F but 200/250 F airmail outside State, to Alan Dipode, Ti Nevez Kervenal, 29510 Brieg.

With 200 pages, Nr 310 (Sept-Oct) is a good deal bigger than usual. The most important contribution is Fañch Kerrain's which is not about literature but the political theory of the French State. Its title is 'Stad-Broad had Ideologiezh' (State-Nation and Ideology). Starting with B. Poignant's offensive remark referred to in *Carn* 103, p.6, Kerrain shows how ideologists distort the meaning of words in order to mislead the people. The hybrid term State-Nation is used by the French centralists to describe their polity. The completely different meanings of its two components are

sharply distinguished here. Pointing out that the human rights include the rights of nations, Kerrain quotes from Pope John Paul's address to the UN General Assembly which denounced eloquently as violence against the dignity of their people, individually and collectively, as a crime which is called ethnocide the denial of the right of small nations to maintain their languages and cultures. In order to isolate those who stand up for that right, to intimidate those who would support them, they are labelled as fascists or Nazis, as enemies of the people... Was that not what Poignant wanted to do when he alleged that Breton language activists subscribed to the "Aryan" theory of "One language, one territory", as if he did not realise that it just applied to those who have ruled France since 1789.

Annual Congress of UDB

The annual congress of the UDB held in Brest on Nov. 14/15 was attended by a hundred delegates from all over Brittany. It was decided to give priority to better explain to the people how important **autonomy** is in a global technological society. The word is often misunderstood. Yet, the weekly *Bretagne Info* point out that on a banner the party proclaimed its aim as a "Bretagne Majeure" (an adult Brittany) but in Breton it was "Breizh Emren" (Br. selfgoverning). It has also alienated many sympathisers with its practice of pacts with centralist French leftist parties at election times. It appears now to recognise (but does it?) the need for

credibility to go out independently of those. No decision was taken whether or not to put forward candidates for the European elections. It would be a very costly and fairly useless exercise when France, the Unique, is only one constituency. Ah! what a democracy!

Farmers Unions

The two Finistère federations of farmers unions, FDSEA and CDJA, have organised this year week-end courses in cooperation with the **Roudour** teachers to make their members more proficient in Breton. Many of them speak or understand it but not well enough to discuss their affairs on the radio.

Herve Kerrain – A Grievous Loss



Herve Kerrain, a courageous Breton activist, died on September 14 aged 43, deeply regretted by his young family and numerous companions in the fight for the freedom of Brittany. He was born in Pontrev near Gwengamp at a time when the great majority of parents, believing they had no choice but to yield to the tyranny that excluded the Breton language from any place in public life ceased transmitting to their children. However like his brother Mark he learned it very well by attending various courses. When called for military service he refused: he would not serve a country that negated his real nationality. He had then to take refuge in Ireland. In 1981 Mitterand said that France owed amends to Brittany. He then together with another refugee returned and was arrested. He got a particularly severe sentence for speaking Breton in court (a motive confirmed in a letter from the Minister of Defense to a député). On his release he took up a teaching post with DIWAN and was afterwards appointed to head their pedagogy section. With several others he set up the semi-clandestine organisation, **Stourm Ar Brezhoneg** which carried out a campaign of daubing sign posts to oblige the administration, on account of the cost of replacing them, to include the proper Breton forms of the place-names. This proved fairly effective, though much remains to be done. He was again sentenced for these activities. In the early nineties he left DIWAN to devote himself to teaching the language to adults, for him as important as teaching it to children. After a while with **Stumdi** he went on to form with three others the Roudour Cooperative in An Uhelgoad for courses also for adults. He was for years a regular contributor to the monthly **Bremañ** which provides news not only of the Breton movement but of the whole world in our language.

Herve lived fully in accordance with his convictions. He placed the language at the centre of his family life as of his activities. He rejected the idea that bilingualism could save a language so endangered. He will long be remembered in every part of Brittany, but also by those who met him in Ireland and in Wales.

He leaves behind a wife and three young children. **Skoazell Vreizh**, a committee which supports families in need as a result of their breadwinner being prosecuted for Breton reasons, have set up a special fund to help them. It is a most deserving case, given that Herve's service to Brittany was for them no easy way of life. Contributions should be sent to **Skoazell Vreizh**, Feunteun Wenn, 3 str. Aristide Briand, 44350 Gwenrann/Guérande, Brittany – specifying, e.g. on the back of cheques "Évit Herve Kerrain".



(In front of the France 3 Offices, Rennes)

From left to right, Anna, Ivi, Tual with their parents Herve Kerrain and Joelle Barzhig. Behind Anna: Enora Kerrain, Klaod an Duigou.

(Courtesy of Bremañ).

KEAV for Practice of Breton

Every year in July since 1948, **Kamp Etrekeltiek ar Vrezhonegerien** welcomes people who have made a good start in the study of Breton. It offers them the opportunity to practise it in the company of competent teachers and fluent speakers. No other language is allowed. The "camp" is held in the Joliot-Curie school, Skaer (N. of Kemperle, S.-E. Finistère). It used to be open only for a fortnight but in 1997 many applications had to be refused, so it was decided to have it henceforth for 3 weeks. Last Summer there were 85 participants in the first two and 77 in the third week. Next Summer it will open on July 11 and close on 31st. Further information from the secretary Anna ar Beg, 5 Ale Gasset, 35000 Roazhon or (during holidays) 22 Hent Moulouen, 29000 Kemper.



Brittany Shops

A group of young businessmen have opened an internet site labelled **Brittany Shops** for the sale world-wide of high quality Breton products representing "a strong image of identity". The text is in Breton as well as in French. It may be soon also in Japanese!

EMGANN AGM

EMGANN, the leftist independence party, held its AGM, attended by about 80 delegates, on November 7/8 in An Oriant. It had in the past year recruited many young members and staged several demonstrations, especially in favour of the Breton language, e.g. at the offices of France 3 TV, and of three main French parties in An Oriant and St. Brieg, at tax offices in Gwengamp and Naoned, at the Kemper townhall in front of which 3 men stood naked (behind a large poster...) to underline how devoid the language is of any protection. **EMGANN** (meaning 'fight') only occasionally puts forward candidates for elections (local councils) but has then got up to 10% of the vote. It has decided to widen its platform and cooperate with other people. Does that mean also the UDB?



GWENN HA DU, nationalist bimonthly in French. 28 pp. Subs. to J. Le Maho, 190 bis, Ave. de Clichy, 75017 Paris. 150 F but outside State 170 F.

In the Oct-Nov issue, six pages are devoted to the continuation of Henri Poisson's memoirs. He gives an account of the problems he had in the years for the publication of his "Histoire de Bretagne" and of the obstacles put in the way of the sale of his biography of Yann Vari Perrot. Of many other contributions, the book reviews are particularly interesting, e.g. of J.Ch. Perazzi's history of the first 20 years of DIWAN's and of "Envorennoù Roparz Hemon" (R.H.'s memoirs, which concern only part of his life).

Goulc'han Kervella

Awarded

Ermin Collar

In 1381 the duke Yann IV created a military and honorary order, the Ermin Collar, with a view to strengthen the bonds of fidelity between him and the people as he strove to maintain Brittany's independence against the French pretensions. The originality of the order was that women could also become members as knights.

In 1973 it was founded again by the Breton Cultural Institute with the aim of giving recognition every year to people who have distinguished themselves in the service of Brittany. This year in September, the honour was bestowed in the castle of Josselin on the poet Naïg Rozmor well-known for a collection of her love poems in Breton, on Henri Maho, one of the founders of the association "Breizh Santel" (for the preservation of our architectural heritage), on Per Loquet for his dedicated work with "Skoazell Vreizh", which collects funds to help those jailed for their Breton activities and their families, and on Goulc'han Kervella, the manager of the theatre group "Strollad ar Vro Bagan". The latter's dynamic career is particularly worthy of our attention.

G. Kervella was born in 1951, the son of a seaweed gatherer in the district of Leon in N. Finistère known as "Ar Vro Bagan", the Pagan Country (nobody knows for sure why). He went on to study medicine and specialise in psychiatry. On account of his traditional upbringing he came to the attention of the cultural association "Ar Vro Bagan" then based near his home place in Plouneour-Traezh north of Lesneven and was invited to join it (1973). AVB was then an active catholic-oriented body.

However the post-1968 period was geared towards protest and upheaval against the consumer society and its values. Two plays produced by G. Kervella, "Kernevez City" about agricultural productivism and Roue ar Moc'h (The Pigs' King) already foreshadowed the present pig production crisis. He decided to devote himself full time to the staging of Breton or bilingual plays at the head of Strollad ar Vro Bagan. His research in the religious history of Brittany resulted in the production of "Buhez Mikael an Nobletz" which is about the life of a 17th century missionary. After that he started work on "Yann-Vari Perrot" which concerns a priest who dedicated himself as fervently to Brittany and her language as to his religious vocation and was assassinated by Resistants in December 1943. This event was still fresh in people's minds, dividing them, when the play was staged first in 1985. Confronted with that problem, Kervella

tried to help them to understand the different attitudes during the Second World War. But ten years later he had the most resounding success when he wrote "Brezel e Bro-Leon" (War in Leon). The future belongs to creation...

After a summer spent on stage and in the Keryann castle, SaVB is busy with stagings of "Ar Mestr" (The Master), which deals with the eviction of a tenant farmer in the 30s, and of "Avanturio ar citoien Yann Konan" which is adapted from an autobiographic account in verse of adventurers at the time of the French Revolution. The group is also preparing a great show for the year 2000. In the meantime you will have the opportunity to see a few plays by Roparz Hemon...

Apart from his artistic activities, Goulc'han Kervella is involved in the Seaweed Gatherers Museum and in the Missions Museum, a true symbol which deserves our full acknowledgement and support.

Gi Keltik



Vieilles Charrues

The association "Vieilles Charrues" which organises every year a big festival in Karaez bestowed in October one million francs on DIWAN to help its schools develop. The two associations have agreed to set up a "cultural pool" with a view to create a "technopole" around the DIWAN lycée which is due to be transferred in September 1999 from Ar Releg-Kerhoun near Brest to Kerampuilh near Karaez.

The technopole will bring together complementary activities serving to promote the Breton culture and to create jobs in this area of Central-West Brittany which suffers from economic underdevelopment. 2 Million francs are earmarked by "Vieilles Charrues" for it. It is hoped that it will be the nucleus of a DIWAN university.

Keleier

For detailed information in French about all that is being done to promote the Breton language in public life, the media, publishing, cultural life, teaching in schools and evening classes, read **Keleier**, quarterly 160-200 pages. Subscription 100 Francs to Servij ar Brezhoneg, Skol Uhel ar Vro, 1 straed Raoul Ponchon, 35069 Roazhon Cedex.

Charter:
to sign or not to
sign...

The proposals contained in the Poignant Report to Prime Minister Jospin about the place to be given to the "Regional" languages were referred to the jurist Guy Carcassonne for advice regarding the compatibility with the French Constitution. In his view 52 of the 98 provisions of the European Charter (for the protection of such languages) – which B. Poignant said, should be signed by France – would present no problem. It was even sufficient to adopt the 35 most innocuous of them and the State could claim as liberal an attitude towards those troublesome languages as required for a good image in the European Union. However, the seemingly favourable advice is tempered by recommendations which if adopted would leave the Charter empty of any real substance. It could mean for instance that the 69 DIWAN teachers who get paid by the State would be struck off its payroll.

Demonstrations are to take place on December 5 in all the areas where the "regional" languages are spoken to maintain the pressure to change the Article 2 of the Constitution which by proclaiming French as the only language of the Republic is used, in spite of assurances given at the time of its adoption (in 1992) against granting any official recognition to them.

No sooner had Mr Jospin announced, at the beginning of October, that the government would sign the European Charter that the fascistic National Front and the Freemasons of the "Grand Orient de France" lodge joined in an unholy alliance to denounce such a decision as dangerous for the unity of their "State-Nation". The Masons see themselves as the truest guardians of the principles of the 1798 Revolution. Their influence permeates the whole French system.

After signing, the Charter would yet have to get approval by the Constitutional Council and win a majority vote in the National Assembly. Not to mention all the obstacles which a powerful administration could place to its implementation. But the media will help in accrediting the notion that France is engaged in saving "this previous part of our national heritage".



Pigeon Celtaidd

YR ALBAN

Buddugoliaeth

Enillodd yr SNP yr is-etholiad i Senedd Ewrop yn etholaeth Gogledd-Ddwyrain yr Alban a achoswyd gan farwolaeth is-lywydd yr SNP, y Dr. Allan Macartney. Ian Hudghton oedd yr ymgeisydd buddugol a gadwodd y sedd i'r blaidd genedlaethol gyda mwy o fwyafwr nac oedd o'r blaen, er gwaethaf i ganran llai bleidleisio. Y Torfaid ddaeth yn ail, a Llafur, y prif elyn y dyddiau yma, yn drydydd. Mae dwy sedd yn dal gan yr SNP yn Senedd Ewrop felly - Winnie Ewing yn sedd Yr Ucheldiroedd a'r Ynysoedd ydyw'r aelod arall.

Milwyr Lloegr

Pobl yr Alban yw 14% o weithlu'r Llu Awyr, 13% o'r Fyddin a 10% o'r Llynges Frenhinol - canrannau uwch o lawer na'r canran o boblogaeth y wladwriaeth sy'n byw yn yr Alban.

Siartr Ewrop

Mae'r llywodraeth yn San Steffan wedi penderfynu llofnodi'r Siartr i leithoedd Lleiafrifol neu Ranbarthol. Bydd y llofnodi yn hwb i'r nod o 'statws sic' i'r Aelg. Bydd rhaid i'r llywodraeth ddarparu ar gyfer defnyddio'r Aelg yn y llysoedd.

Canolfannau Gaeleg

Trwy gydweithrediad asiantaethau fel Ysgol Astudiaethau'r Alban, Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol yr Alban, y BBC, a Phrifysgol Caeredin sefydlwyd archif genedlaethol ar gyfer cofnodion llafar. Bydd canolfan ar gyfer cerddoriaeth a diwylliant Gaeleg yn cael ei sefydlu yn hen ysgol Loch Baghasdail. Uibhist a Deas, Gobeithir, hefyd, sefydlu canolfan Aelg ar Ynys Ile/Islay, efallai yn yr hen yshyty.

Ardaloedd ymylol a bregus

Mae lomaire an Oir - Menter yr Ymylon - yn fenter newydd sy'n anelu at leihau'r diboblogi yn yr ardaloedd mwyaf anghysbell fel Uig a Bernera (Leodhas).

Colbhasa/Colonsay, Eirisgeigh, Loch Baghasdail, Gogledd Cattaibh/Sutherland ac Aird nam murchan.

IWERDDON

Diwedd Adolygiaeth

'Mae adolygiaeth hanesyddol Wyddelig wedi marw'. Dywedwyd hyn gan y Dr. Brendan Bradshaw yn ystod Ysgol Haf Desmond Greaves yn Nulyn eleni. Adolygiaeth (revisionism) ydyw'r ffordd 'wrthrychol' o ysgrifennu hanes Iwerddon sydd yn mynegi cydymdeimlad cudd ag ymdrechion y Saeson ac yn bychanu pob agwedd adeiladol o genedl y Gwyddelod, ac felly yn gweithio fel propaganda gwleidyddol i wrth-genedlaetholwyr. Mae adolygiaeth wedi bod yn ffasiynol ers degawdau, ond erbyn hyn mae wedi colli parch ysgolheigion, diolch i weithiau'r Dr. Bradshaw ymysg eraill.

Gwyddeleg yn Lloegr

O fis Medi 1999 bydd y Wyddeleg yn bwne gwirfoddol yn y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol yn Lloegr. Bydd £120,000 y flwyddyn ar gael i ysgolion ddysgu Gwyddeleg. Mae pob un o ieithoedd swyddogol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ar restr ieithoedd y cwricwlwm yn barod. Mae amheuaeth a fydd yr Eglwys Gatholig yn Lloegr, y mae cyfran helaeth o ddisgyblion Gwyddelig Lloegr yn mynychu ysgolion dan ei rheolaeth, yn gefnogol i awydd rhai o'r Gwyddelod i ddysgu eu hiaith.

CERNYW

Ffyrdd allweddol

Mae gan Gernyw 262 km o gefnffyrdd, 490 km o briffyrdd a 6604 km o ffyrdd eraill. Hefyd, mae 4209 km o lwybrau cyhoeddus a llwybrau celfylau. Arnynt ceir dros 40 mil o oleuadau stryd a 1747 o bontydd. Bu dros 2500 o bobl mewn damweiniau dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Felly, paham mae rheilffyrdd Cernyw mewn cyflwr mor wael?

Mudiadau'r Llydaweg

Mae Skol-Uhel ar Vro (1, straed Raoul Ponchou, 35069 Roazhon) yn gwneud gwaith amrywiol gan gynnwys rhoi grantiau i gyhoeddwr llyfrau Llydaweg, cyhoeddi 'Keleier Servij ar Brezhoneg' (casgliad rheolaidd o doriadau o'r papurau newydd sy'n ymwneud ag iaith a diwylliant Llydaw) a chyfieithu arwyddion ffordd ayb. Mae Olier ar Mogn, sy'n gweithio i Skol-Uhel ar Vro, yn rhugl yn y Gymracg. Prif swyddfa'r mudiad ysgolion Llydaweg - Diwan Breizh: B.P. 156, TA Sant Ernel, 29411 Landerne, Llydaw

Siartr Ewrop

Mae llywodraeth Ffrainc wedi cytuno arwyddo Siartr Ewrop ar gyfer ieithoedd Lleiafrifol a Rhanbarthol ar ran y Llydaweg. Er mwyn cwrdd, 'r isafswm o ddisgwyliadau bydd yn rhaid dyrchafu statws y Llydaweg yn sylweddol.

CJ/RapT

Gweithgareddau Gwirfoddol I Hyrwyddo'r Iaith Gernyweg

Nid yw'r gweithgareddau i hyrwyddo'r iaith Gernyweg yn cael yn rhyw gefnogaeth ariannol swyddogol. Oherwydd hynny y mae sefyllfa'r iaith yn ddigon bregus. Eto i gyd y mae hi yn magu nerth trwy weithgareddau gwirfoddol.

Y mae dobarth nos ym Menheniot yn awyrain Cernyw. Y mae sawl dobarth nos yng nghyffiniau Camburn, Redruth a Falmouth. Y mae dau eleni ym Menwith, un i ddechreuwr a'r Hall i fyfyrwr y drydedd flwyddyn. Cynhelir y rhai hyn yn Tawarn an Venton (Tafarn y Ffynnon) yn Hallentacken ym mhlwyf Eglossanres (Sancreed). Mae Eglossanres yn enwog yn hanes yr iaith Gernyweg oherwydd yno y bu fyw ysgrifennwr enwog, Wella Rowe oedd ei enw. amaethwr dwy ffarm, Hendra a Bojewan, yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg.

Un o'r pethau sy'n angorchuddiol i ddysgwyr iaith yw geiriaduron. Y geiriadur pennaf yn yr iaith Gernyweg yw *A Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish*. Daeth ail argraffiad y rhan Gernyweg-Saesneg mas ym 1997. Daeth y rhan Saesneg-Cernyweg mas ym mis Hydref 1998. Gwaith swmpus yw'r geiriadur i gyd, yr ateb i ddyheadau'r dysgwyr a'r hyfforddwyr. Daeth a daw rhagor o eiriau i'r amlwg gyda'r ymchwil barhaol yn y llewyddiaeth. Daw trydydd argraffiad mas cyn bo hir i'r rhan Gernyweg-Saesneg. Bydd honno'n fwy yn sgil y gwaith a wnaed ar ochr arall y geiriadur.

Digital T.V. In Welsh

S4C has launched the first digital Celtic channel. In November it started to broadcast 12 hours of Welsh language programmes every day from midday to midnight. It carries all S4C's current Welsh programmes from 6 to 9 pm and a whole range of new programmes. There are new daytime shows, classical music, arts scene, overseas links, nature and best of the best repeats. For information, phone 0800-389-336 or surf to HYPERLINK <http://www.s4c.co.uk>

£6 million has been spent on digital programming and £1 million to re-equip technical programmes.

Clive James

Gweithgareddau (contd)

Paratoir llawlyfr newydd i ddysgwyr. Erbyn cyflawnu hwnnw bydd adnoddau cynhwysfawr i'r myfyrwyr yn yr iaith. Yn y cyfamser carreg filltir bwysig yw'r geiriadur sydd hefyd yn cynnwys cryn dipyn o ramadeg.

Un o'r pethau mwyaf calonogol yw'r rhieni sy'n magu eu plant yng Nghernyweg. Y mae modd erbyn hyn i siarad a phlant gyda'r Gernyweg yn iaith gyntaf iddyn nhw. Mae hynny am y tro cyntaf oddi ar y ganrif ddiwethaf. Gwaetha'r modd ni ddysgodd y siaradwyr Cernyweg ymblith y Cernywyr sut i ddarllen a sgrifennu eu hiaith. Daeth y Gernyweg yn iaith lalar yn unig yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Yn Saesneg oedd addysg y pryd hynny.

Y cam nesaf yw cael addysg Gernyweg. Mae ffordd hŷr i fynd. Soniwyd am hynny mewn crthygl Saesneg yn y cylchgrawn hwn.

Merfyn Phillips

Summary

There is no official public backing for Cornish at all. Progress is being made to promote Cornish but through individual initiative only. There is an evening class being held in Menheniot in the eastern end of Cornwall. There are others in the western hundreds of Kerrier and Penwith. A highlight of the revival is the recent publication of the complete Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish. Cornish students and tutors now have the most comprehensive Cornish dictionary ever printed.

Language Developments

Cymdeithas yr Iaith held a rally in Cardiff in November as the next step of their campaign for full status for Welsh in the National Assembly, following the successful meeting with the Secretary of State in August and the publication of the document *Agenda for the National Assembly* outlining the language requirements. The Assembly has great potential for transforming the position of the language in Wales. A necessary step towards this is the adoption of a firm bilingual policy by the Assembly itself. Cymdeithas's document *Dwyieithrwydd Gweithredol* (Active bilingualism) is one of the most detailed papers on bilingualism ever written in Wales. As the first in a series of documents about the language and the Assembly it has attracted a positive response and has been the subject of debate in the Press. The rally in Cardiff was an expression of support for the principles in the document. Chaired by the new leader of Cymdeithas, Branwen Niclas from the Dolgellau area, it was supported by a range of other

organisations supportive of Welsh and received widespread press coverage.

Recent legislation will enable children whose parents live in Wales but who are born in England to receive bilingual birth certificates.

Of people with a Welsh-speaking mother but a non-Welsh-speaking father, 35% can speak Welsh. However, of children with only their father Welsh-speaking only 28% can speak the language.

At the European Summit in Cardiff in June it was announced that Tony Blair would sign the Council of Europe's charter for minorized languages. The charter calls for action to safeguard languages, facilitate their use in public life and promote mutual understanding between all linguistic groups in member states. However, it is not expected that any major changes will occur to the status of Welsh in Wales.

CJ/RapT

Plaid Move Towards The Assembly

Plaid Cymru will continue to be known by their traditional name. Following a debate about the name of the party at their Annual Conference Plaid will, for technical reasons, be registering for the European elections with their name translated into English, but will continue to be known by their Welsh name in any language.

A recent opinion poll gave Plaid Cymru 20% of the first vote section of National Assembly voting for individual candidates and 24% for the party list section. At the last General Election they obtained 10% support. With Plaid running second to Labour a recent poll gave Labour 36 seats, Plaid Cymru 11, Tories 7 and Liberal Democrats 6.

Plaid have gained a seat from Labour in a bye-election for Caerffili county council. Between June 1997 and August 1998 the cumulative situation has been:

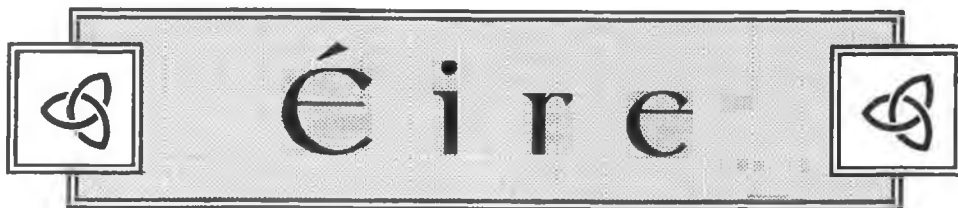
	Plaid	Labour	Tory	Lib.Dem.
Gains	6	2	3	4
Holds	0	4	4	2
Losses	0	12	0	4
Net	+6	-10	+3	0

Cymru Branch Campaigns

Cymru branch of the League is promoting the national petition to de-anglicise the Welsh language media. Recently there has been a sharp increase in the amount of English included in Welsh language programs, radio and television. Interviews in English on the news are no longer translated into Welsh and documentaries do not hesitate to carry extensive untranslated interviews in English. The amount of English pop music broadcast is having a detrimental effect on the status of Welsh popular music. There are also officially bilingual programs but their time and budget is taken out of that allocated for Welsh broadcasting.

The branch has also started a campaign for bank statements in Welsh. Even though banks make increased use of Welsh, they are refusing to issue monthly statements to customers in Welsh. As far as we know bank statements have never been available in any Celtic language.

Robat ap Tomos



SÍNEOIDH AN FHRAINIC AN CHAIRT EORPACH?

Is cosúil anois go bhfuil sé beartaithe ag an Fhrainc an Chairt Eorpach do Teangacha Mionlaigh a shíniú agus a dhaingniú. Deirfeá gur dea-scéal é sin do na mionlaigh teanga i Stáit na Fraince atá le fada an lá ag éilimh go ndéanfai amhlaidh, ach ní hé deireadh an scéil é. Le blianta fada tá feachtas ar bun ag gluaiseacht na teanga sa mBriotáin ag iarraidh stádas oifigiúil a bhaint amach don Bhriotáinis, agus le tamall anuas bhí an t-éileamh céanna a dhéanamh ag na mionlaigh teanga eile ba bhFrainc, an Alsáis, an Chorsaic, Tuaisceart Tír na mBascach, Occitania agus an Chatalóin (gan trácht ar na pobail i dtailte na Fraince thar lear a labhrann Créole, Tahitien, Kanak agus r.l.). Bhí an brú ar Rialtas na Fraince ag dul i dtreise le tamall, go háirithe ón uair gur fhógair Sasana go síneofai an Chairt go luath le haitheantas a thabhairt don Ghàidhlig in Albain, an Bhreatnais agus an Ghaeilge ins na Sé Contae. D'fhág seo nach raibh fágtha de na tiortha san Eoraip le mionlaigh teanga ach an Fhrainc agus an Ghréig ag diúltú an Chairt a shíniú. Bhí doicheall ar an Fhrainc roimh aon aitheantas a thabhairt do na teangacha réigiúnda agus go gcuirfeadh síniú na Cairte dualgas dá leithéid orthu, go deimhin dhearbhaigh an Chomhairle Stáit go raibh forálacha na Cairte ag teacht salach ar Bhunreacht na Fraince, go speisialta ar Airteagal 2 a dheimhníonn gurb í an Fhrainc amháin teanga na Fraince.

Nuair a d'eisigh B. Poignant, maor Kemper, a thuarascáil féin ar na teangacha réigiúnda i mí Iúil na bliana seo, ba chuis iontais do ghluaiseacht na teanga sa mBriotáin gur mhol sé go mba chóir don Fhrainc Cairt na dTeangacha Mhionlaigh a shíniú agus aitheantas teoranta a thabhairt do na teangacha réigiúnda i Stáit na Fraince. Mar sin féin ní raibh aon mholadh dearfa aige leis an fhadhb bhunreachtúil a shárú, gan an Bunreacht a athrú nó dli ar leith a reachtáil a aithneoidh go bhfuil teangacha eile na bhFrainc chomh maith leis an Fhrainc. Is ansin a d'iarr Lionel Jospin ar Ollamh le dli bunreachtúil, Guy Carcassonne, scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an gCairt i bhfraincise na moltaí i dtuarascáil Poignant, agus a bhreithiúnas féin a chur

faoi bhráid na Parlaiminte faoi dheireadh an tSamhraidh.

Foilsíodh an breithiúnas sin ar 6/10/98, agus ní amháin go molann sé do Rialtas na Fraince an Chairt a shíniú, ach gur féidir sin a dhéanamh gan athrú ar bith a dhéanamh ar Bhunreacht na Fraince. Faoiseamh mór do Rialtas na Fraince agus bua do na teangacha réigiúnda más ea? Is cinnte nach bhfuil aon gháir mholta ag teacht ó mhuintir na Briotáine tar éis dóibh siúd cáipéis Carcassonne a scrúdú. Dar leis nach gcuirfeadh síniú agus daingniú na Cairte dualgas dá laghad ar an Stáit aitheantas ar leith a thabhairt do na teangacha réigiúnda nó aon foráil speisialta a dhéanamh dóibh sa choras oideachais nó sa tseirbhís phoiblí. De réir léimh Carcassonne níl d'aidhm ag an gCairt Eorpach ach cosaint a thabhairt do na teangacha réigiúnda ar fud na hEorpa, ní thugann sé cearta ar bith do lucht labhartha na dteangacha mhionlaigh seo go n-aithneofai iad mar mhionlaigh chultúrtha nó teanga, aitheantas a bheadh go h-iomlán i gcoinne bhunphrionsabal aontachta Phoblacht na Fraince agus a phobal.

Luaitear an coincheap de 'grúpa teanga' sa Chairt, ach tá a chiall fhéin a baint ag Carcassonne as an focal 'grúpa' (ciall nach bhfuil ag teacht fiú leis an 'Petit Robert', foclóir bunúsach na Fraincise). Níl sa 'ghrúpa' ach daoine aonarach, ní sheasann sé mar aonad ann féin agus níl aon cearta ar leith nó aitheantas dlíte dó. Molann sé go mbeadh ráiteas minithe dá leithéid le cur leis an síniú.

Gan amhras tá laigi sa Chairt a thugann deis éalaithe don Fhrainc agus tá moltaí Carcassonne ag teacht i dtír ar na laigi seo sa chaoi go bhfágfar an Chairt gan téagar, gan tairbhe. Mar shampla, tá 98 forálacha san iomlán sa Chairt, ach ní dá d'aon Stát glacadh le níos mó ná 38 díobh. Measann Carcassonne go bhfuil 50 de na forálacha seo inghlactha agus nach mbeadh ag trasnail ar bhunreacht na Fraince. Dá réir sin d'fhéadfadh an Fhrainc glacadh leis an gCairt 'à minima' agus a chuid ráitisí faichilleacha féin a chur leis ar eagla na heagla.

Ní h-aon ionadh mar sin nach bhfuil gluaiseacht na teanga sa mBriotáin ag cur fáilte ar bith roimh na moltaí thuas. A

mhalairt ar fad mar tá siad cáinte go láidir ag na h-eagrais éagsúla agus ag na páirtithe polaitíochta Briotáineacha.

Deir POBL gur Cairt fholamh atá á thairiscint agus nach féidir muinín a chur i bPáras. Ní mór do na Briotáinigh féin smacht polaitiúil a fháil chun an teanga a chosaint agus a fhorbairt.

I ráiteas an UDB deirtear go bhfuil tuarascáil Carcassonne 'jésuitique' – athbhríoch agus cam – maireann an Bhriotáinis ina theanga bheo ach ní ann don phobal a chuir an teanga ar aghaidh ó ghlúin go ghlúin le 1500 bliain mar shampla amháin den mhíloighciúlacht atá ann. Tá cruinniú fógraithe don 24/10/98 i gcomhar le Cónascadh na Réigiún agus na bPobal .i. na pobail mhionlaigh sa Fhrainc d'fhonn teacht ar chomhréiteach ar trí éilimh dearfa:

- 1 an Chairt a shíniú agus a dhaingniú ag an leibhéal is airde le go mbeadh toradh air;
- 2 Airteagal 2 de Bhunreacht na Fraince a athrú ag an gComhdháil i Versailles in Eanáir '99 nuair a pléifear cúrsaí bhunreachtacha ag an Congrés (Seanad i Parlaimint);
- 3 dearbhú ón rialtas go dtabharfar stádas oifigiúil do na teangacha eile i bPoblacht na Fraince chomh maith leis an bhFraincise.

Tá cruinniú eile a ghairm ag EMGANN i St. Brieg ar an 17/10/98 agus cuireadh oscailte chuige do chuile dhuine gur chúis leo an Bhriotáinis. Arís deirtear ina ráiteas nach bhfuil Lionel Jospin réidh le tada a ghéilleadh do na teangacha réigiúnda nó an Bunreacht a athrú. Tá gá níos mó ná ariamh le troid ar son stádaís oifigiúla a fháil don teanga.

Ar aon dul leo siúd thuas atá na freagraí a thug cagrais eile ar mholtai Carcassonne. Deir ceann amháin díobh gur chéim siar do na teangacha mionlaigh a bheadh i síniú na Cairte seachas a mhalairt

Cá bhfágann seo cás na hÉireann tharla nár shíniigh Éire an Chairt Eorpach go dtí seo chan oircad, agus cé go bhfuil iomrá le tamall anuas go ndéanfar an beart, ní mór an cheist a chur an fiú é i bhfraincise leagan amach na Fraince ar an gCairt. Measann go leor de lucht na teanga anseo nach mbeadh ann ach céim síos don Ghaeilge, céad teanga oifigiúil an Stáit i mBunreacht na hÉireann, agus sílim gurb í an tuairim chéanna atá ag an Aire Stáit sa Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gaeltachta agus Oileáin, Éamonn Ó Cuív a bhfuil cúram na teanga air sa rialtas. Tá sé féin ag cur a mhuiníne sa Acht Teanga atá á ullmhú ag a Roinn faoi láthair agus a cuirfear os comhair na Dála go luath – laistigh de sé mhí b'fhéidir? Is gá an Acht Teanga le cinntiú go mbeadh polasaí dearfa i leith na Gaeilge sa tseirbhís phoiblí, ins na cúirteanna agus sa saol poiblí go ginearálta. Ní mór bheith dóchasach go gcuirfear i bhfeidhm é.

Brid Heussaff

Comhaontas Ceilteach

Mi Bealtaine seo chaite fuair an "Comhaontas Ceilteach" cumann micléinn a chuireann na tíortha Ceilteacha chun cinn – aitheantas ó Lár Choiste na gCumann i gColáiste na Tríonóide i mBaile Átha Cliath. Le linn Seachtain na nGibeannaigh, cláraíodh 267 baill – sármaith do chumann nua-bhunaithe. Tá an cumann tar éis a bheith an-ghníomhach ag eagrú imeachtaí go raibh an-tóir orthu sa Choláiste.

Bhí toghcháin agus an chéad cruinniú (le oíche Ceol agus Ól ina dhiaidh, urraithe ag Guinness) ann i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. I mí na Samhna bhí díospóireacht spéisiúil faoin Bhriotáinis. Ag labhairt bhí Cathal Ó Luain, cathaoirleach an Chonradh Ceilteach; Henry Leperlier, léachtóir as Ollscoil Chathair Átha Cliath agus labharthóir Briotáinise; Anne-Frances Badoui, ionadaí Ambassáid na Fraince, agus Yann Rivaillan, ón Biúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana.

B'é an eachtra ba mhó go fóill áfach ná an "Cic-Ass Céili Ceilteach", ar ar shreastal 1,000 micléinn as os cionn 4 Ollscoileanna. Ceol Gaelach (Albanach agus Éireannach) fiáin a bhí ann ó "Gliondar", banna ceoil na hoíche. D'eagraigh an Comhaontas Ceilteach an ócáid seo le Choláiste Phádraig agus Ollscoil Chathair Átha Cliath, agus bhí tacaíocht agus poiblíocht ó AMLÉ (Aontas Mí Léinn na hÉireann) ann chomh maith.

Tá teagmháil bunaithe idir an Comhaontas agus an Conradh Ceilteach, agus tá Carn curtha ar díol ag an Comhaontas i siopa leabhair na Micléinn sa Choláiste. Tá pleananna seachtain eolas Ceilteach a bheith ann níos déanaí sa scoilbhliain agus turas go tír Ceilteach amháin (ach táthar fós ag argóint faoi cén ceann...).

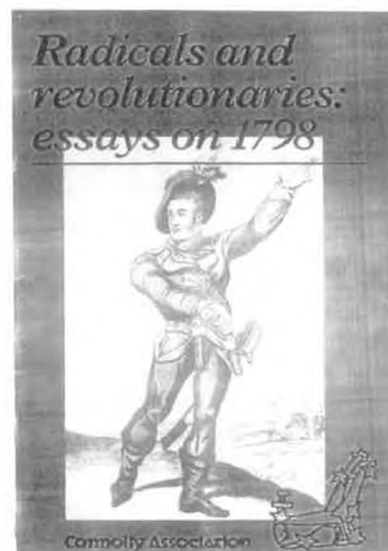
Eoin Ó hÓgáin
Cathaoirleach

Summary (Sineoidh an Fhrainc...)

The professor of Jurisprudence who had been appointed by Lionel Jospin to examine The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has recommended that the Government should sign the Charter, but with precautionary reservations. His report claims that signing and ratifying the Charter does not oblige the French state to give official recognition to any minority language within the State nor to provide special funds for their promotion. The report has been widely condemned by both language and political organisations in Brittany, who have demanded a change in the French Constitution which states that French is the only language of France.

Summary

College recognition has been granted to a new "Celtic" society in Trinity College Dublin. So far, 267 members have been recruited. The society is called "An Comhaontas Ceilteach" ("The Celtic Alliance") and its activity has been proven by three outstanding events so far: the first Meeting – which was followed by a night of music and drink; a debate on the Breton language, with speakers from, among others, the Celtic League (Cathal Ó Luain, Chairman) and Dublin City University (Henry Leperlier, Breton speaker and activist) providing many interesting points. The society's greatest success so far, however, has been the joint organisation of a Celtic Ceili – the "Cic-Ass Céili Ceilteach" which was attended by about 1,000 students – some from as far afield as Galway (two lively bus-loads).



Radicals and Revolutionaries: Essays on 1798

This collection of essays on the United Irish Movement's rebellion of 1798 (most of which have been printed in the *Irish Democrat* throughout this anniversary year), attempts to look at some of the important aspects of the United Irish Movement and the rebellion of 1798. Thus, there are chapters on the role of women in the rebellion, James Connolly's examination of the United Irishmen, a study of one of the United Irish leaders, Wolfe Tone, an examination of the links between Irish and Scottish republicanism and finally an examination of the role of Ulster in 1798.

The booklet is available for £3.30 (Britain and Northern Ireland, incl. p+p) and £3.85 (Ireland and Europe, incl. p+p) from 244 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR. (Make cheques payable to Connolly Publications Ltd.)
fax: 0171 916 6172.
email: connolly@geo2.poptel.org.uk



Pádraig Ó Snodaigh

Book Launched on Radio Poetry Series

On December 10th last in the United Arts Club in Dublin Paddy Glackin, Executive Producer (Weekends) RTE Radio 1, launched 'Eigse an Acir' a new poetry anthology featuring over forty contemporary Irish language poets. The book is based on the radio series of the same name which has been running on RTE Radio 1 since the beginning of 1998 and features leading poets such as Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Cathal Ó Searcaigh, Maire Mhac an tSaoi, Michael Hartnett, Biddy Jenkinson and Michael Davitt.

The introduction for 'Eigse an Acir' was written by leading critic and academic Dr Alan Titley of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Speaking in Irish he told the assembly of leading poets and critics that "this is not English poetry dressed up in Gaelic clothing. This is Irish language poetry which is the legitimate heir to the lyrics of Old Irish which spoke and still speaks to a community of individuals throughout the country. If there are stereotypes in this anthology I failed to find them. If I were asked what the main characteristic of this collection is," he continued, "I would have to say it is the universality of Irish language poetry. The anthology's strength is that we are allowed to experience the work of individual contemporary poets as part of a wider canvas of creative activity. Although there are links with the Gaelic poetry tradition, the poetry in 'Eigse an Acir' is also a positive statement about the future of poetry in Irish as it enters its third millenium."

'Eigse an Acir' features a wide range of poets from all over the country who accepted RTE's invitation to read a selection of their most recent work in conjunction with some of their personal favourites from their individual collections.

'Eigse an Acir' was edited by RTE producer Cathal Póirtéir and is published in paperback by Coiscéim.

Nuclear Waste Scandal

Waste dumped in the Irish sea over thirty years ago is probably highly toxic debris from the Windscale fire disaster.

The Celtic League is pressing the Irish government to investigate claims that highly toxic nuclear waste was dumped in the Irish sea over thirty years ago. The League have already received support from Welsh Nationalist leader Dafydd Wigley who has set down a question in the British parliament.

For many years the British government had denied the inshore dumping of nuclear waste although they were forced to concede that "small" quantities of waste had been disposed of at the Beaufort Dyke and also a few miles off the Anglesey coast in the Holyhead deep.

But last month reports from Ireland indicated that an Irish shipping company was contracted in the late 1950s and 60s to dispose of nuclear/toxic waste from Windscale/Sellafield.

The League asked the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to investigate claims by a retired Irish seaman, Mr. Walter Regan, that he was employed in an operation in the 1950s and 60s carried out by the Limerick Steamship Company to dispose of nuclear/toxic waste from Windscale/Sellafield.

Destined for disposal off the Hebrides the material was, to quote, the man, dumped in the Irish sea: "Invariably, the weather was too bad. No one checked. So we'd tip the barrels into the Irish sea usually about 60 miles south of Holyhead"

His description of the method of disposal overboard in drum like containers have a familiarity with later deep water nuclear disposals which were well documented until they ceased in the 1980s.

MAFF have provided the League with comprehensive detail on dumping at a number of sites around the Irish sea and inner Hebrides but say they can find no evidence to support Mr. Regan's allegations.

Pointedly however, they do not totally dismiss the claims and disturbingly allude to the possibility that debris i.e. "very small quantities of fuel and isotopes", from the 1957 Windscale Pile 1 fire could have been dispatched to UKAEA Harwell for analysis and the "residues disposed of by authorised sea disposal routes".

The Celtic League are also considering the data supplied by MAFF on documented Irish sea disposals. Of the three sites identified Liverpool Bay, Holyhead Deep and Beaufort Dyke the Liverpool bay area has the highest contamination although MAFF insist all sites pose no danger. Possible accidental recovery of material is also deemed unlikely by MAFF however with current concerns over cable laying work at Beaufort Dyke this assumption like some of the other exposure scenarios contained in the documentation may be naive.

J. B. Moffatt



Where it is – Inshore Nuclear Waste Dump Sites

Three Irish Sea locations and sites of Inner Hebrides and eastern Britain. MAFF seem unclear about where some material from the Windscale fire in 1957 was disposed. Ambiguity over the subject is not new, until 1997 successive British governments had denied any dumping of nuclear waste in the Irish sea or other inshore waters.

Whitehall "Spooks" Key to Airliner Loss

Earlier this year a question in the House of Commons once again tried to draw back the veil of secrecy and lies that surround the loss of an Irish airliner over the British Aberporth missile testing range in March 1968. Sixty eight people, all on board, died in the incident and the top secret establishment then in its cold war heyday has long been suspected of involvement. The Celtic League campaign to retrieve information has drawn support from members of both the British and Irish Parliaments

Dafydd Wigley, one of the group of MPs who have campaigned to secure the truth of the incident, asked the British Department of Transport (in March) to release papers about the crash. Astonishingly Junior Transport Secretary, Glenda Jackson, said the papers had been "destroyed".

That the papers should be "destroyed" at a time when there was a new focus on the crash beggars belief and this taken with the "disappearance" of log books from three British naval vessels at the aircraft crash site is highly suspect.

Despite the best efforts of various sections of the British establishment to eliminate all evidence of the crash or the subsequent recovery operation there is however one

repository where detailed records will be kept and will be intact.

It is inconceivable, given the slow political decline under-way in N. Ireland in the late 1960s, that the whole area of Anglo-Irish relations was not under scrutiny. The British Intelligence Services must have taken a keen interest in the potential political embarrassment of any link or suspected link of the military establishment at Aberporth to the crash. Also the fact that Britains' hush-hush missile testing range should be placed so squarely in the frame must have also frustrated the "spooks" of Whitehall. All official reports and indeed their own military intelligence must have been collated.

This material will now be mouldering in the dusty files of MI5 and/or MI6 and would be a rich source of evidence to resolve this mystery. The League has written to Bertie Ahern asking him to use the new detente in Anglo-Irish relations to prevail upon the Blair government to unlock the archives. The Celtic League believe the British will be only too willing - unless that is they still have something to hide!

J B Moffatt

Agreement On Ministries And Cross Border Bodies

After many months of acrimonious negotiation agreement finally emerged on the contentious issues of the number and responsibilities of the Ministries responsible to the Northern Assembly and of the various Cross Border implementation bodies. As predicted in CARN 103 it took the intervention of those who brokered the agreement (Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern and British Premier Tony Blair) to ensure that an agreement acceptable to all was arrived at - this happened in the very late hours of the third Friday in December.

There will be ten Departments:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Environment
- Regional Development
- Social Development
- Education
- Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment
- Enterprise, Trade and Investment
- Culture, Arts and Leisure
- Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- Finance and Personnel

The six implementation (Cross Border) bodies are:

- Inland Waterways
- Food Safety
- Trade and Business Development
- Special EU Programmes
- Language (Irish and Ulster Scots)
- Aquaculture and Marine Affairs.

According to reports the implementation body on the Irish Language came at the insistence of Bertie Ahern to satisfy Sinn Féin. It has the curious addendum of the responsibility to promote also a greater awareness of Ulster Scots! It will indeed be interesting to see how the fortunes of the Irish Language fare under this new all-Ireland Body.

Peace and Neutrality Alliance

Partnership for Peace

There has clearly been a complete change of policy by the Government on the issue of Irish membership of the Partnership for Peace. The Fianna Fáil Election manifesto clearly ruled out membership yet it now appears it is Government policy to join although they say they want a debate. PANA leafleted the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis putting the case for not joining, has written to every FF TD and Senator and will be publishing a Briefing Document on Partnership written by Carol Fox and hopefully jointly sponsored by Irish CND. We would hope that DOCAS and other groups that have declared their opposition to PFP membership reiterate their opposition publicly as soon as possible.

The Irish political/media elite however have learnt their lesson from the debate on the Amsterdam Treaty where apart from the Independent Group of Newspapers we were given fair coverage. This time we are not being given any opportunity, as for example the Irish Times has published several articles in favour of the PFP and have refused to publish our case. However we must continue to make the case to the media at every available opportunity.

European Neutrality Zone

PANA was one of the joint sponsors of an appeal to the Governments of Europe to create a neutral zone between the existing states of NATO and Russia as a better way to build peace rather than see all these states join NATO and build up their armies rather than spend their money on health, education and housing. The Chair of

PANA will be attending an International Press Conference in Vienna with the other groups from Austria, Finland and Switzerland who co-sponsored the Neutrality Zone Appeal.

Neutrality-European Security Conference April 23/24 1999

PANA has agreed to hold a major Conference on Irish Neutrality and European Security in TCD on April 23/24. A number of Speakers have already agreed to speak, Patricia McKenna MEP, Bernie Malone MEP and Alan Dukes TD. We hope to get a number of other speakers in order to make it a major conference which will help to set the agenda for the Euro elections.



Patricia McKenna

Federal Nuclear Armed Superstate

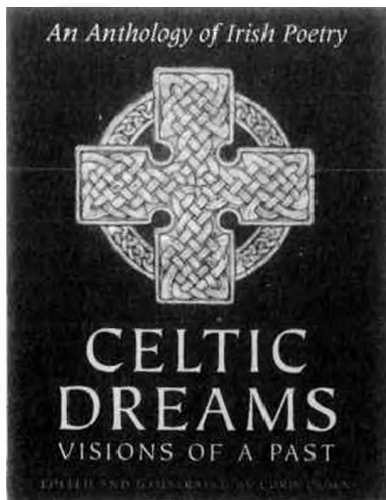
The Peace & Neutrality Alliance was established to defend Irish Neutrality and oppose the transformation of the EU into a nuclear armed superstate. We envisage the EU as a Civic Organisation for trade and commerce which does not have a military dimension. Security concerns should be dealt with through international organisations such as the UN or the OSCE. We need your help and support if we are to achieve our objectives. We have shown with the Amsterdam Referendum result that there is real popular support for neutrality in Ireland despite the political elite. However we need know if you believe we are pursuing the correct strategies and still have your support. Please contact us.

Roger Cole
Peace & Neutrality Alliance
113 Springhill Avenue, Blackrock,
Co. Dublin
e-mail - vmacdowe@iol.ie

Celtic Dreams – visions of a past. An Anthology of Irish Poetry.

Edited and illustrated by Chris Down. Blandford, Hardback

ISBN 07137 27411 £16.99.



Featuring the work of Seamus Heaney, Louis MacNeice, W.B. Yeats and Jonathan Swift.

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Gwel an Vlydhenn 1998

An vlydhenn 1998 a dhallethys yn lent. Pan wruk an parti lafur a waynyas erbyn an parti Tori wosa an dewysyans a 1997 tus a brederys y fia gwell, mes wosa degeyans a Le'ti St Erth, Abru Aluminium, bal South Crofty h.e., tus adreylyas aga thybians yn kever a'n governans nowedh. Drefen y fydh senedhow rag Alban ha Kembra mes travith ragon ni. Ytho drefen an kalleterow dallethys o "Cornish Solidarity" neb a synsys nyver a "high profile publicity stunts" kepar ha'n "penny Protest" pan wrug bagas a dus tremmena pons Tamer ha tylli an toll £1 gans 100 bath dinar, hag ynwedh yn mis Est i a dhegeas an amal gans Pow Sows rag mynsen dhe dhri dhe vrys an governans kalleterow Kernow ha dhe ri kovheans nag yw Kernow manas tyller rag degollyow.

Yn mis Hedra Mebyon Kernow a synsys aga Kuntelles Kemmyn Blydhennek i a dhallethys gans mynsen disonek yn kovheans E.G.R. Hooper (Talek) neb a verwys moy avar yn Vlydhen. Ena y hwrussens dysmigi a vydh an brassa nyver a sav rag dewysyans konsel ranndirek yn mis Me 1999, (22 dhe'n dewetha reknans) Ynwedh i a apointyas avel Hon. Presydynt Richard Jenkin onen a'n dallethor MK, Kyns Barth Meur, ha den aswoenes meur yn broyow Keltek. Y'n Dohajydh pan o an kuntelles igerys dhe'n poblek esa arethow dyworth Bernard Deacon (CoSERG), neb a wrug areth yn kever ober war'tu ha "Objective 1" ha'n kalleterow mar kwra Kernow kavos an £500 milvil, Dafydd Williams (Plaid Cymru) neb a wrug areth yn kever ober wor'tu ha'n Senedh Kembrek, ha Mark Kaczmarek (Cornish Solidarity) a wrug areth yn kever ober "Cornish Solidarity" ha'n pesyans y'n keskows dhe dhasygeri bal South Crofty.

Nyns o pub tra drog a wrug an governans yn mis Metheven Eurostat a wruk aswoen Kernow avel ranndir yn unnik (ranndir N.U.T.S. 2) ha dre henna Kernow yw war'n fordh rag "objective 1 status". Yma a nyver a berson aji Konsel Kernow, dewysys ha

sodhogyon o erbyn defnydhyans a gernewek war brofyans dhe Europ (nyns esa marnas 12 ger) mes wosa nebes protest bras dyworth esyli Kernewek an eryow na o dasworres yn skrif.

Lemmyn grwen ni mires orth 1999 pyth eusi ow hwarfos. Yma kudhyans an howl yn mis Est, yma dewysyans konsellow ranndir mis Me ha dewysyans Europek mis Metheven. Ynwedh newodhow da rag tiogyon gorfenn an "Beef ban".

An dewysyans konsellow ranndir a vydh gwella chons rag MK kavos aga hanow ha tybiansow a rak an boblek drefen ny vydh possybel gul travith rag dewysyans Europek mar kwra an governans pesya war aga fordh dh'y sysnsi dre "system roll degeas ranndirek". Rag MK dhe vos dewysys y fia res dhedha kavos 210% a bub vot yn Kernow po 750,000 vot.

Mes pan eus senedhow yn Alban ha Kembra pes hir a vydh kyns eusi Alban rydh? Yn Kernow pyth eus dhe hwarfos nyns eus senedh nyns eus RDA (marnas RDA rag 6 konteth sowsnek ha Kernow ha'ga penn nebonen diworth Northants.) nyns eus travith marnas keskerth wor'tu ha Soth-West ranndirheans mar ny wren-ni sevel er aga fyn

Summary

A look back at the past year with the protests from "Cornish Solidarity" such as "the Penny Protest" and the total closure of the border with England for one symbolic minute. Also the closure of Europes last tin mine South-Crofty, and the recognition of Kernow as a "N.U.T.S 2" European region.

Also a look forward to 1999 and the challenges that it brings. With events such as District Council elections in May and the problems of getting the Cornish voice heard during the European elections if they are fought as the UK Government want on closed regional list system, meaning MK would need 210% of the Cornish vote to get elected or 750,000 votes.

Pewa Reeg Pea Rag an Kidniow?

Fatel ew eysy cabel ri eral rag falladow gon hunnen! Eze co tha why a an theaw polar smale na, Laurel ha Hardy? Pesqueth a skydnia war Hardy neb droaglam, e levery. "Lebmen, inee peath resta gweel them gweel!", andelna trailia adrneuwhan an blame thort e hunnen!

Alerh, Alex Salmond, pedn leder an Pow Kenezlack Kelezonack, reeg progath derage kentel e vayny adro than termen hogan a Alban. Ewe a lavaras dro preze dressa an Scottes ry aman cably an Sausen rag amplish o hunnen; an Scottes a dalveea cowas serves rag radn o hunnen. ha rag miscomerians o hunnen.

Henew tha laull drew de an dethiow a Hardy, ha dre gothe thene gara tha veaz gazooly dro tha gon radn nye. Ma an descreers pub preze gurra an blame war ri eral rag cabmoth o hunnen, avel edn dean reeg moaz aleaz et an glawe, ha creeny drova derbethes, buz nag o devethes et e vreeze dralgaya perna cota stanche, ha andella assoylia an amplish e hunnen. Daslier ew blamia kene ri avel gurra an beh war gon owne duscooth, ha devezalena theria nye nebas ha nebas nakévy fatla comeras weeth a gon hunnen. ha ma an state nye trailia nevra lacka ha lacka.

En breze ve ew devethes deaw vatter, kenza an tavas Kernuack. Rag fra riga defigia, ihan? Awotta questyon lecas! Thera nye ree veno whelas an gorub en story agon glaze: kenever droag ew dew than Sausen tebal leb reeg gon arveth nye ha ladra ker gon heynes: gye reeg destrea an tavas nye! Buz ma hebma mar bell thort an gwreanath es drella hoaz, rag bosogian gon pow reeg tregas en usia an Kernuack meel vlethan po nebas ugge arveth an Sausen, ha radn reeg longia tha e clappia bis en dewetha blethidniow an 19vas cansblethan; ha na dale thene nekevy peath reeg Carew compla dro tha deez a usias erria *Me na vidna cowz a Sowsnack!*

Thea dallathvas an cansblethanma, car droren nye era, bagas bean a deez kelednack a vee saya tha drailia andro radn agon tavas; terwithiow cabmdirectes, ha wos tel na alga nye agrea pub preze gen ago trade, nye a gothe thene gormal an speres angye; mear a vee effectes, ha na eil deneth deneya drew an bobel Kernuack, ha kene ri, covis an tavas Kernuack hethow, ha prout anotha; whathe, nag ens buz nebas an withorian, ha nag cze buz scall a Kernowian ew parres tha desky ha usia an tavas, ha thort hebma ma lecas a tescreea. Mallew tha nye cowas an Kernuack maga creav avel an Gembrack! Soo, rag fra nag eze milliw a deez a tesky an Kernuack, ha e clappia en strates?

Kene matter: an economy a Kernow, rag fra ewa mar veaz gadgack? Drevan mikan an Sausen leb na vedn gon gweras nye, whathe ew parres tha gon usia avel

gweale gwary? A vedn nye, metessen, dressa Kernow boaz reeth, ha rowlia e hunnen der neb maner vor? Thera nye quachas dre vedn 'angye' dry thehe hebma war scuddel driziebmal. Whathe, gothe tha nye pedery dreze tha nye kens lebmen gon owne senes nye. Senes an Stenorian, peea thehe an colon tha gweel nepeth itna, ha e scoothia.

Erna leas glaze bean, behatna avel agon pow nye, pokene a cowas lee a bobel, eze a rowlia o hunnen war neb coor, ha gen lower sowena, ha parres terwithiow tha usia tawas enwedgack o hunnen: Luxembourg? Ennis an Reaw? Barbados? Mann? An Enezow Faroe? Nye alga gweel pecare, peea thehe an mennas, peea nye parres tha ry aman radn an hezowack eze thehe thort gara tha ri eral agon governa nye, ha hethas rage gon cap rag pe rothow bennag pee angye parres tha wotheffia thehe.

Mesk paperiow Wella Borlase ez igges a cawas an reem bearna:

Why pobel Poreea,
Na ra why descreea,
Why ra gowas muna da pea
Rag goz kidniow wharea.

Ma nepeth obma ew cooth thehe, ha nye eil gorthrothy Kernow rag Poreea. Whathe, ma obma edn dra na oren nye nothia: pewa reeg pea an kidniow, you?

Richard Gendall

Précis:

Our beloved comic Oliver Hardy has long made us laugh by putting the blame for every accident upon his chum Stan Laurel. Alex Salmond has recently warned the Scottish National Party that the Scots must cease blaming England for all their own shortcomings, and from now on take responsibility for their own destiny. The example of Laurel and Hardy and the wisdom of Alex Salmond must be taken to heart by all Cornish people who would see either their Cornish language more enthusiastically taken up, or their country in a better position to control her own affairs.

A New Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish - Part 2, English-Cornish

Over 27,000 entries.

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PUTTING OBJECTIVE ONE IN PERSPECTIVE

Policy follies and missed opportunities

Cornwall - forgotten and invisible?

Cornwall is one of Europe's rich tapestry of nations and regions, with a fierce sense of belonging underpinned by a Celtic history and language and a proud industrial heritage.

Yet many outsiders and even some insiders seem unaware of this and Cornwall is ignored by central government while it is invisible statistically.

But it's not really invisible. In fact Cornwall is very visible but only in one guise - through the tourist gaze.

- Objective 1 status [in particular, the failure to gain this funding in the 1980s and early 1990s]



A generation of mistaken policies

Why weren't these opportunities grasped? Obviously there are structural factors involved, such as Cornwall's lack of political weight in the British state.

Also the absence of 'can-do' and dynamism amongst Cornwall's policy makers. The result is reactive and ad-hoc policy making, no clear vision and a tendency to follow other peoples' agendas.

The policies that emerge from this vacuum which have actually made Cornwall's position worse and can be viewed as classic policy follies, things such as:

- over-dependence on tourism
- road building
- population growth
- Devonwall
- a muted opposition voice.

It's not that opposition has been absent. Quite the contrary, there has been a vigorous and dynamic critique of the dominant agenda since the 1970s by organisations such as CIDA, Mebyon Kernow, various environmentalist groups and CoSERG. The problem is that these voices have been consistently ignored, patronised and marginalised despite the fact that many of the policies they have been urging for years (e.g. CDA, Cornish university, Objective 1 status) have now been belatedly adopted by sections of the ruling elite.



So who is to blame for this lamentable failure?

It's not difficult to identify a whole range of candidates, for instance:

- **Central government** ignorant of Cornwall's case and wedded to over-centralisation.
- **Local politicians** especially on the County and District Councils. In general, these are imbued with

A history of lost opportunities

We are told that Cornwall is a land steeped in history. Both the heritage industry and grassroots interest in the past is strong in Cornwall. However, the least well known history and yet the most important is the hidden history of the past 25 years or so, a history of lost opportunities and failures of leadership. We must re-acquaint ourselves with this history.

The framework for this history of lost opportunities is Cornwall's slide down the various league tables, for example:

- in wages
- in GDP per capita
- in measures of deprivation
- in the less measurable quality of life
- in increasing social inequality

These things don't just happen. There must be some sort of link between the policies pursued over the past 25 years and this sorry tale of stagnation. It's widely recognised that one of Cornwall's problems is the lack of institutions that might provide the tools and thinking necessary to evolve the strategic package to meet Cornwall's particular needs. But over the past two decades we have seen a series of missed opportunities, when the battle to gain the institutions required were forfeited before a shot was fired.



What were those lost opportunities?

- a Cornwall based TEC
- a Cornish university

parochialism and are unwilling and/or incapable of thinking strategically.

- **Local political parties.** The Conservatives are wedded to their market dogma, which had disastrous results for the Cornish economy in the 1980s. Labour Party members are either unimaginative and unable to 'think Cornish' and come up with indigenous answers (and thus end up supporting dominant policy follies) or they are carpet-baggers with a lack of knowledge of local conditions. Liberal Democrats are probably the most culpable as they have been the controlling group on Cornwall County Council for the last decade and have fought and won elections on a 'Fair Deal for Cornwall' plank. Yet, once elected, Liberal Democrats have proved themselves as feeble and incapable of leadership as the rest. Even worse some of them turn out to be active Devonwallers, road builders, tourist touts and the like.
- **Quangoites.** The Tory government's expansion of the quango state resulted in a great increase in the spending of public money by non-elected local bodies. In Cornwall a small and unrepresentative group, self-selecting and with little accountability to the local community, monopolise the local quangos. They have usually been vociferous supporters of the dominant policy follies, either through ignorance or because they are presenting their own interests as the common good.
- **The business community.** Because of Cornwall's industrial structure, with many small and medium sized businesses plus the role of branch factories, there is a weak business lobby. As many of them are unaware of Cornwall's case they have happily tagged along with a more vigorous business lobby based in Devon, led by the privatised monopoly of South West Water, who have been pursuing a 'regional' agenda. Unfortunately this agenda is part of Cornwall's problems not its solutions.
- **Intellectuals.** There are insufficient numbers of intellectuals in Cornwall, based on the absence of an institutional base. What intellectual class exists in Cornwall is often compromised by having to sell their labour to Devonwall or broader state institutions in order to survive.
- **Local government bureaucrats.** Ineffective, undynamic and uninspired. For many Cornwall is just a step on a career ladder and policies appropriate to places like Hampshire are applied to Cornwall unthinkingly.
- **The media.** There is no critical, investigative media in Cornwall: Much of the press have either, like the

Western Morning News, been the ideological wing of the programme to construct a 'Westcountry' region, a programme that has undermined Cornwall's special case at every opportunity. In addition, 'regional' press and TV share the dominant imagery of Cornwall as a leisure zone, an imagery that fails to connect with Cornwall's problems. The local press in Cornwall remain stubbornly parochial. BBC local radio, despite some good moments, too often appears content with a Radio Yokel image whereas Pirate FM is merely an accident of geography, a clone of the innumerable commercial stations that inhabit a spatial nether-world of the airwaves.



Objective 1: the only game in town

In 1998 the ruling elite belatedly woke up to the possibility of Objective 1 funding. After years of dismissing the possibility of gaining this funding, the first few months of 1998 saw the unedifying and incredible spectacle of assorted defenders of Devonwall desperately waving the Cornish flag and climbing on the bandwagon of Objective 1. The corollary of obtaining this is that Cornwall is recognised as a separate European region, thus completely destroying the logic of the Devonwall policy strenuously pursued by the same people ever since the mid- 1970s.

We can identify three factors in this amazing volte-face. First, the closure of Crofty was one closure too many and raised the very real danger that the policy follies of the previous generation would have the searchlight turned on them. Second, Cornish Solidarity was a new factor, difficult to marginalise as it seemed to receive public sympathy. The political dinosaurs were most confused. What better than to co-opt one of its six demands at the same time as ignoring the others. Finally, the County Council was beginning to panic about the prospect that, under changes to the EU regional aid programme, Cornwall was in real danger of losing the 5b money that it currently receives. Objective 1 therefore became the only game in town as the Western Morning News, business interests, quangoites and councillors pitched in to support the campaign for it.

But in doing so the dead hand of the ruling elite has transformed the Objective 1 campaign into a simplistic slogan. It has become the answer to all our problems, just as road building and Devonwall were presented in the 1980s. Hysterical over-reaction has replaced a measured assessment of the benefits of Objective 1.

For Objective 1 in reality offers both opportunities and threats. The main threat is that, if the same policies as before are pursued, Objective 1 just means that more

money will be wasted on policy follies and that Cornwall will undergo a re-run of the events of the 1970s and 1980s. Objective 1 in the absence of a serious re-think and without the other necessary factors in place, could be a major disaster, economically and environmentally.

In other words, the ruling elite see Objective 1 as merely a way of continuing business as usual. But what is needed is new agendas, new thinking on a broad front and a clear end to the policy follies of the past 25 years. This probably requires replacing the grant gatekeepers, the 'opinion-formers'. In the 1939-45 War the British political class replaced Chamberlain and the other supporters of appeasement with Churchill, someone not tainted with the failed policies of the 1930s. In a similar way how can we trust the same people who have led us into the current mess to lead us out of it?



The Way Forward

It is now becoming clear that it is not enough to demand Objective 1 funds and then just use this as a framework for the same stale strategic thinking and the same tired old policies that are well past their sell-by dates.

So what is required? The vision has to be Cornwall as a European region in its own right. This will enhance Cornwall's visibility and clout by stressing its own clear case. To do this means ending the present mixed messages and disengaging from Devonwall. The latter has been an unmitigated failure for Cornwall. That needs openly acknowledging. A drift to institutional merger should be replaced by co-operation if and when necessary. We have to demand an end to the institutional deficit that blights Cornwall and prevents it making its own special case. This requires some sort of democratically elected strategic assembly with regional powers based on Cornwall, together with the reform of a local government system that has failed abysmally. Moreover, it will also demand new private sector institutions, e.g. a Cornish based newspaper and a revived local radio station.

The Cornish dimension has to be inserted into policy making. Some of the anger and passion felt at the closure of Crofty has to be translated into the political domain.

For this we require new brooms. We need to sweep away the deadwood who currently occupy the corridors of 'power' in Cornwall. Their policies have failed. Why should they continue to be supported from the public purse? Political reform would help to unleash the dynamism at present stifled by an undynamic ruling clique.

Bernard Deacon
CoSERG

Branch News

- The petition to Prime Minister Tony Blair requesting the U.K. government to recognise Cornwall's unique position and its right to greater control of its own affairs was signed and forwarded on behalf of the C.E. International Branch. The same request was sent to the two MPs for Cornwall, John Prescott and Richard Caborn.
- The secretary of the C.E. International Branch signed the petition circulated by Mebyon Kernow calling on the U.K. government to create an accountable economic development agency in Cornwall for Cornwall.
- C.E. Branch secretaries wrote to the director of EDILARGE Editions Ouest-France, Rennes, asking him to rectify or make amends for the defamatory error in the book 'Archives Secrètes de Bretagne', by Henri Fréville, namely in the passage which attributed to Roparz Hemon a racist article published in the periodical STUR in 1938 and which was proved to have been written by a Roger Hervé using the pseudonym 'Katuvolkos'.

Cornish at the Bottom of the Ladder



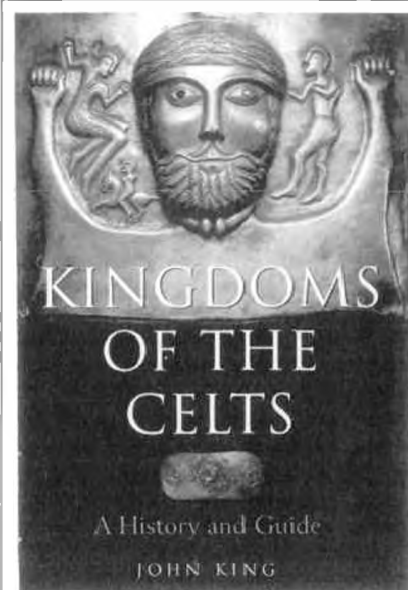
The national language is not the usual medium of education in any of the Celtic countries. Even in Wales there are less Welsh medium schools than there are English ones. Indeed it is only in the realm of nursery and primary education that there are Welsh schools. There is not one single Welsh secondary school. The best that Wales aspires to in secondary education is bilingual schools.

The percentage of Irish primary schools is less than that of Welsh ones. The other primary schools in Ireland are English schools or at best bilingual ones. One would not expect the situation to be as it should be in Northern Ireland. But the Republic has been a sovereign state for over three quarters of a century. In that state Irish schools should be the norm by now. At least there are some all-Irish secondary schools. The Republic of Ireland beats Wales on that count.

Wales and Ireland are shining beacons when compared with the other Celtic countries. Brittany and Scotland are trailing a long way behind. The DIWAN schools are excellent but there are too few of them. Many more of them are needed to counter the rapid decline in the use of Breton. In Scotland there is a new spirit of self-confidence with the prospect of its own parliament. Let us hope that that self-confidence will permeate the country's educational system. At present the number of Gaelic schools is pitifully meagre. However the political developments in Scotland bode well for the promotion of Scots Gaelic in the schools.

Until a few years ago Mann and Cornwall would have been bottom equal in promoting their languages. While there are no Manx medium schools yet there has been a transformation in favour of Manx. This has been brought about by the dedication of Brian y Stoyll together with a few teachers. The education authority in Mann was overwhelmed by the response from parents wanting their children taught Manx. The demand for Manx outstripped what the education authority would provide in the number of Manx teachers. Let us not pretend that the language situation is good in Mann. It is dismal. But it is so much better than it used to be. With the continuing pressure from parents it is going to get better and better. Mann has left Cornwall by itself on the bottom rung of the linguistic ladder.

Merfyn Phillips



Kingdom of the Celts – A History and Guide,

John King, Blanford, ISBN
07137 2692 X £18.99.

Examining and tracing the history and legends of the Celtic people through their special regard for their kings and queens. Expert, John King tracks the rise and fall of the Celtic dynasties and their famous royalty such as Boudica, Vortigern and Arthur, from pre-Roman tribal warrior-kings and queens to the lairds of the 19th Century. All the different Celtic countries are accounted for, including Ireland, Man, Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Brittany and Galicia.

An important text which reveals the legacy left to us by the good leadership of the Celtic royalty who were believed to be personifications of the powerful divine forces ruling the land. What made them so well respected was their adherence to honesty, equality, just punishment, loyalty and honour.

If you require further information about this title, contact Cassell Publicity Department on UK 0171 420 5561.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who contribute material to Carn on a regular basis. I would also remind readers and members that the magazine is open to contributions from you as long as they are in line with our aims. It is important that we cover all aspects of news, views, events etc of interest - if you feel there is a gap, fill it. Any suggestions for changes to Carn are welcome as long as they are followed by action.



DROGH AIGH VRETIN

Ren Ron Davies coayl e chiartey myr Scrudeyr Vretin lurg taghyrtyn quaagh er Clapham Common. Sleih ta noi jee-laaraghey (devolution) Vretin. t'ad glackey'n caa shoh dy lhiettal jurnaa Vretin gys y jee-laaraghey shen. Sleih ta noi jee-laaraghey, cha nel ad ooilley nyn Dhorceyn Sostnagh. Ta kuse jeu sy Phartee Obbraghys Goaldagh. Y sleih t'ayns foayr jeh jee-laaraghey Vretin, tra hooar ad y varriaght sy refrane shen, va peiagh ny ghaa sy Phartee Obbraghys bunnys gra nagh row y varriaght shicky dy liooar dy chur (!) jee-laaraghey da ny Bretnee. Va sleih sansheraght mychione kialgeyrys sy refrane as cur sannish dy row y lught er Ron Davies. Ta sleih dy liooar sy Phartee Obbraghys Goaldagh goaill aggle roish dy chooilley horch dy h-ashoonaghys er-lhimme y jeh ashoonaghys Sostnagh. Kyndagh rish shen, ta lheid y sleih shen er ve neuarryltagh dy chur seyrnsys da Bretin ny Nalbin (ny Nerin).

Erskyn ooilley, ta'n soshiallys (socialism) lajer ayns Bretin, as s'mie shen. Agh, er y fa dy row ad credjal feer lajer ayns eddyr-ashoonaghys as unnaneys ny h-obbreeyn, ren soshiallee Bretnagh cur ashoonaghys Bretnagh fo chosh as co-obbraghey dy niartal lesh Lunnin. Cha dooar ad monney son yn ynricks shen. Ec y traa cheddin, ren polaseeyn ny shenn soshiallee Bretnagh lheanaghey'n shenn scoltey eddyr twoaie Vretin as jiass Vretin ('Shinyn ayns y jiass, ta shin caarjoil as lhean-aignagh. Cha nel shin goll rish y sleih coon-aignagh sy twoaie, ta soiet er loayrt Bretnish car y traa.')

Nish, ta reddyng er chaghlaa as ta ny shlee Bretnee toiggal dy nhagin dauesyn jannoo cagey dauesyn hene sy cheer oc hene dyn y ve geaishtagh rish Lunnin car y traa. Son shickyrys, ga dy dooar lught jee-laaraghey'n varriaght sy refrane, cha row y varriaght shen yindyssagh. S'liklee nagh row monney sleih er y Costa Geriatria sy twoaie ayns foayr jeh jee-laaraghey. As syn ard-valley, Caerdydd, va'n chooid smoo dy 'leih noi jee-laaraghey. Cha bee eh aashagh by chur er bun Quaiyl Vretin (quaiyl nagh bee cho lajer as Tinvaal er laa olk).

Agh, gyn ourys erbee, adsyn ta noi jee-

laaraghey, t'ad gra dy vel ny doilleeidyn ny smoo na t'ad dy firrinagh. Ayns cooishyn Bretnagh ayns Lunnin, s'mooar y kynneeaghys noi ny Bretnee. Tra hie Ron Davies magh ass myr Scrudeyr Vretin, chlou y fritlag shen y 'Sun' jalloo jeh'n fer boght as eshyn coamrit myr bard-Gorsedd lesh ny focklyn 'Baa! Baa!' (Shione dhyt dy vel gagh dooinney Bretnagh geddyn marish kirree). Er agh ennagh, ta'n kynneeaghys noi ny Bretnee ny smessey na'n lheid noi ny Yerne.

Surrys enn dy jean y chooish shoh soilshaghey vel lane jeeanid er reiltys Tony Blair mychione jee-laaraghey ayns Bretin (as ayns Nalbin). Bee Blair guce mollaht dy cooyrtoil dy daink yn atchim shoh er Ron Davies tra va Blair smooinghyn dy row eh er ngeddyn y dooinney kiart dy stiurey Quaiyl Vretin Nish, shegin reih fer elley, as sy reihys shen bee ny scoltaghyn sy Phartee Obbraghys ayns Bretin ry-akin dy cronnal. Ta scoltey mooar eddyr sleih ta graihagh er Lunnin as Blair, as sleih ta currit da Bretin hene. S'doillee da Bretnee dooghysagh co-veaghey marish Blair, Mandelson as nyn lheid.

As, ec y traa cheddin, ta fys ec reiltys Lunnin dy vel yn SNP jannoo mie er bashtal ayns Nalbin. Shirveishagh-argidoil reiltys Lunnin, Gordon Brown, t'eh shecaney beggan debejagh tra t'eh gra dy beagh Nalbin brisht argid dy beagh ee cheet dy ve seyr. T'eh jeeaghyn dy bee yn SNP cosney ram soieagyn ayns Ard-Whaiyl Nalbin. As, my vee Lunnin cur y Phartee Obbraghys Vretnagh fo chosh, bee'n SNP aby! dy ghra 'Jeeagh - ta reiltys Lunnin lhiggey er dy vel eh jee-laaraghey Bretin as Nalbin, agh cha nel ad eer arryltagh dy lhiggey da ny Bretnee reih'n fer-toshee oc dauesyn hene'.

Ta fys ec Tony Blair as c chumraagyn ayns Lunnin dy vel ad goll er raad gaueagh. T'ad laccal y fer oc hene dy ve yn ard-dooiiney ayns Quaiyl Vretin. Agh bee ny Bretnee ayns Bretin hene coontey'n fer shen dy ve ny hraidoor goll rish Quisling. As my ta lught Blair lhiggey da ny Bretnee reih'n leedeilagh ayns shee, s'cosoylagh dy bee ad reih soshiallagh - red nagh vel lowit sy phartee noa, partee ta fo ordaag Rupert Murdoch, partee nagh vel gimraa

shenn reddyng myr soshiallys. Ta reiltys Lunnin guce dy vod eh cur seyrnsys ennagh da Bretin as Nalbin gyn goll er y raad dys brishey seose y Reeriaght Unnaneysit. Dy firrinagh, cha nel ch jecaghyn dy bee Bretin scapail. Skeel elley ayns Nalbin, foddee.

Summary

Enemies of Welsh devolution have seized on Ron Davies' misfortune. Tony Blair's government has to tread delicately.

Orree Crennell



Children's Custom Under Attack

A few weeks before 31st October 1998 there appeared an attack on Hop-tu-Naa, the Manks eve of Samhain custom. The attack came out in the "Courier" and was attributed to the Vicar of Kirk Michael. It transpired later that it had in fact come from a parishioner without his authority. This person was actually attacking Hallowe'en customs because of a supposed connection with Devil-worship and a fear that children might in some way become contaminated. It should not come as any surprise that the two festivals have become confused one with the other as there are similarities and, indeed, they may have a common origin.

This is not the first time that Hop-tu-Naa has come in for criticism. Some years ago a new resident was complaining about children "begging round the houses", and from time to time a leaflet has been circulated to schools from a Christian organisation asking staff to discourage Hallowe'en customs and practices. I received a copy myself through the post from an anonymous Douglas resident. "for my enlightenment"!

Several people, myself included, wrote letters and other submissions to the

papers. Manks Radio had a phone-in on the topic and in general the public response was supportive and considered that the custom is harmless. However, there is still much confusion of the one custom with Hallowe'en.

One local shop had a display of Hallowe'en turnips and Hop-tu-Naa pumpkins for sale. Also, over the years there has been an increase in the sale of witch costumes, brooms and horror masks. In addition even the Hallowe'en is being referred to as "trick or treat night", in imitation of the American version of the custom. My own daughter was asked by a friend whether her girls were going out trick or treating. "No", said my daughter, "but your girl is welcome to join mine to go round singing for Hop-tu-Naa".

The substance of the Hop-tu-Naa custom is the making of a turnip lantern, several versions of a song that was originally in Manks and a processional dance. The turnip lanterns in Peel, and probably elsewhere, are made by hollowing the turnips out from the bottom. Turnips with a bit of stalk left on as a handle, are supplied to the shops by sympathetic farmers. Patterns and symbols, moon, stars, cats, boats etc. are then cut into the skin, making silhouettes when the candle inside is lit. It is probably the oldest surviving of the Manks calender customs, and was thought not to be in any danger of dying out. When I was still a teacher, our school had a competition for turnip lanterns each years.

The folk-lore collectors at the turn of the century do not mention turnip lanterns. The singers at that time were said to have uprooted a cabbage with a hard head and a long stalk with which they would bang on the door if the resident was slow to respond to their sung request for money or gifts. Turnips on sticks were used in the same way. There is evidence that Hop-tu-Naa is the equivalent to Hogmanay. Certainly, in former times, there were many customs involving foretelling the future, some of which were also attached to New Year's Eve.

It would be a sad thing if this night, which so many generations of children have enjoyed, should disappear, whether because of ill-informed censure from religious quarters or because a drowning under a tide of largely American Hallowe'en influence. Several other seasonal customs which had all but disappeared, have been successfully revived. If schools are unwilling or cannot find the time to find out about and encourage a better and more distinctly Manks way of celebrating Hop-tu-Naa, it is difficult to know what to do. Certainly the various cultural organisations should make an effort in good time for 31st October 1999 to promote a proper observance and to spread information about it's Manks Celtic origin.

Colin Jerry

Edwards' Report on Tax Havens Published

A major PR operation swung into place as the Manx and London governments adopted a positive stance on the publication of the Edwards Review into the off-shore tax havens.

Even before publication of the Edwards Review various Manx government Ministers issued statements on the line that the Island had little to fear, or learn, from Edwards - although off course his views would be considered.

The Isle of Man, with its economy heavily dependant on finance related business, may already be engaging in damaging self-delusion about both the importance of the Edwards document and also the factors which have brought about its compilation.

Whatever the state of current regulatory controls within this jurisdiction, and indeed the other Channel Isles dependencies, these have been achieved in spite of rather than because of any desire on the part of government.

We arrive at Edwards as a result of a series of damaging scandals involving virtually all sectors of the Manx Financial Services Industry. The crash of banks such as SIB in the 1980s should have signalled the need to react promptly and positively. However, inertia prevailed and subsequent scandal ensued. Company Registration and the abuse it fostered were well known long before documents linking the Island to this shady trade were found on the blood spattered bodies of victims of a central African war. The Manx governments own police force knew of (and still knows of) the problems of money laundering. The Head of the Island's minuscule police enforcement agency had the courage to speak out openly about what others like ourselves had eluded to - but still this tiny under resourced unit was not strengthened. Dodgy banks, dodgy companies and money laundering were all a feature of the Finance Industry in past years and no report from Edwards will sweep that aside, however sanitised its delivery by the Manx government and the heavily finance dependant Manx media.

The Manx Government believes that it had and has matters in hand but again this contention will not stand scrutiny. For example, in respect of so called "all crimes money laundering legislation" now deemed a necessary component of finance regulation we called for this many years ago and yet in August 1996 the British government could still only confirm that it was asking "all its dependencies to give serious consideration to passing" such legislation. As with every other facet of control the initiative came from without not within.

So let's not have a nauseous rewriting of history please. No gerrymandered account of the years during which investors were swindled, crooked companies operated under a cloak of secrecy and we derived benefit from the criminals destroying the youth of Europe with drugs who could quietly send their ill-gotten gains off-shore.

By all means let us learn from the Edwards Report but also let us not lose sight of the fact that another "Edwards" could be waiting in the wings if we get it wrong.

Bernard Moffatt

Post Edwards - Euro-View Sought

Following the publication of the "Edwards Report" the Celtic League contacted Per Brix Knudsen a director at the European Commission.

In the letter the General Secretary writes: "I draw your attention to an article in The Times (UK) (20/11/98) which states that the *Head of the European Commission's anti-fraud unit said that the island's were good examples of how "lax regulation combined with off-shore status" created ideal hiding places for illegal financial operations.* I assume that this statement is either attributable to you or the Commissioner, Anita Grabin. Could we enquire if, as a result of the Edwards' Report, you will be modifying your view on jurisdictions such as Isle of Man and Channel Island and issuing a retraction of the earlier statement, giving them, so to speak, 'a clean bill of health'?"

I should stress that the Celtic League, which has branches in the six Celtic countries, has been a strident campaigner for better regulation of off-shore centres including (in our organisations area of interest) the Isle of Man and Ireland. In this context we support efforts by the EU, and other International organisations, to properly regulate all financial service centres and combat financial crime."

J.B. Moffatt

Celtica

On the brink of hope - how fare the Celts in Europe?

Is the Europe we live in, which cradled Celtic civilisation two thousand years ago, and now cradles a would-be federal union, hindering or aiding the sustainable recovery of our own Celtic countries?

Viewed from our 'western shores' we cannot ignore the Atlantean thesis of Irish journalist Bob Quinn which explored Ireland's North African and maritime heritage in a book and subsequent TV series launched in 1986. When he first heard sean-nós singing in Connemara he was fascinated by a musical form that seemed outside European tradition; the similarity between sean-nós and Arab music was the first of a series of discoveries connecting Ireland with the middle East. He found archaeological, musical, artistic, linguistic and religious parallels between the inhabitants of the coastal regions of Western Ireland and other isolated groups in Brittany, Galicia and the Middle East. The parallels extend from pre-historic megaliths to the twentieth century, showing contact in all periods of history. Gradually the notion of a land-diffused Celtic culture was replaced by a culture diffused by sea - a common inheritance of the people living on the western seaboard of Europe and the Mediterranean: Atlantean culture.[1]

Such theses are joined in today's politics by the pragmatic development of solidarity between nations and regions in the European Union to bring pressure on the centre. At present that has had limited effect as has the European Free Alliance in the European Parliament. Here the Union Democratique Bretonne [UDB] party has been an active player now joined by Plaid Cymru and the SNP in Strasbourg related organisations. However the changing fortunes of regionalist and nationalist groupings in Europe has been far from steady. 1994's European elections removed important figures Euzkadi and Corsica from the frame. Nevertheless the potential



R. Gibson

power of a major block of small countries on the European scene has considerable importance as I will argue later.

Numerous lines of political development are sought: regionalism, autonomy, and full national independence based on the distinctive histories of particular nations. Tom Nairn 1976 essay Scotland and Wales - notes on Nationalist Pre-history[2] made some enduring points. Uneven development, economically and in terms of civic national institutions is a key concept. Scotland and Catalonia were both 'historic nations' like those 19th century revivals Poland and Hungary. Wales and Euzkadi developed nationally as industrialised and distinctive 'national entities' without the degree of self-governing mechanisms which nation states can display.

However the Irish case of a revived nation early this century cuts across that kind of analysis. Ireland's current 'tiger economy' status provides an exciting instance of a small nation on a rapid development curve grappling with the prizes and problems of modernity. A distinctive, attractive and welcoming cultural appeal has clear advantages as well as draw backs. Ireland's attempts to lose the

Eurovision Song Contest [because of its financial drain] and since the high fashion for Irish theme pubs and so-called Celtic music may have a short shelf life. Yet in Ireland's shadow the lure of a seat at the top table beckons for the Scots and others. But how can the nations of the Atlantic periphery influence such big players as the Franco-German block?

The convulsions of this century produced the Norway/Sweden separation at the start to the Czech and Slovak 'velvet divorce' during this decade. Indeed including European Russia the number of independent states in Europe have increased from 35 in 1990 to 48 today as Roy Pedersen chronicles in his 1992 study One Europe - 100 nations[3] the surge of nation building in the territorial kaleidoscope that is European history. It is clear testament to the struggle for democracy, the re-invigoration of its many tongues and the emerging European spirit which he believes will act as the conduit for unity in diversity.

He argues, 'The process is bound to be volatile, particularly as such re-alignments tend to take place over a short historic timespan. Of course nobody can predict precisely how such a radical power shift will work out in practice. It is possible, however, by interpreting current trends and aspirations, to create a model which identifies a feasible future pattern of European self-governing territories. Each of them has some, if not all, of the following characteristics:

- * existing statehood or a history of former statehood;
- * a distinct culture or religion;
- * a distinct language or dialect;
- * the existence of a popular movement for autonomy or independence;
- * geographical distinctiveness.'

Pedersen's arguments for the 100 nations thesis notes in passing that this would give an average of 6 million which equates quite closely with the average population of individual US states.

Ireland's independence and Scotland's aspirations to independence within Europe may not be as typical as the current status of Catalan, Basque and Galician autonomy. Nevertheless Nairn noted in 1976 the demonstration effect encourages those seeking autonomy whatever the specific circumstances of their struggles. Therefore the current examples in September 1997 gave others great heart - the strong Scottish referendum votes for a tax varying Edinburgh parliament and the tight squeeze as Wales shaved past the post towards an elected Assembly. Witness the comments reprinted even in the Scottish tabloid press[4] from the Breton, Flemish and other autonomy movements.

What certainties are there in today's view

of Atlantic periphery against a backdrop of the looming uncertainties of the global market which the big economic players plot through their *World Trade Organisations*? It is necessary to ask what could a 'confederation of Celtic republics' – in Alan Stivell's memorable phrase [5] – do to sustain and nourish our nations in the third millennium?

Relevant light is shed by Richard Douthwaite's 1996 book *Short Circuit - strengthening local economies for security in an unstable world*[6]. A professional economist, he has advised the Jamaican and Montserrat governments but he came to prominence with his 1992 work *The Growth Illusion- how economic growth has enriched the few, impoverished the many, and endangered the planet*. Born in Yorkshire, Douthwaite has been based in Mayo since 1974 and provides many examples across the globe of the fight back against global market forces in small nations and small communities. A significant number of these come from among the Celts and along the Atlantic Arc. He argues cogently for 'new attitudes for new times' in that the market economy relies on competition to control the way businesses behave. As high levels of competition are not possible in a community economy, new approaches and attitudes towards how we should interact commercially need to be found. Mediaeval craft guilds, the Mondragon co-ops in Euzkadi and the Briarpatch network in California provide hints for us, he writes.

In real terms the Atlantic periphery of Europe contains 40% of the EU land area, 20% of her people but only 13% of the GDP in conventional economic terms. But we contain the diversity of history, cultures, and natural resources to sustain our way ahead if our peoples can pool self-government and resources to cherish our unique resource base. The Celtic nations are at the core of this potentially dynamic zone. So we need to explore the possibilities of finding coherent partnership as one of the *regional poles of prosperity*[7] in an expanding European Community.

We should note that the Scottish National Party's 1988 formula of *independence in Europe* should occasion no surprise. Historian Michael Lynch introduced his 1991 study *Scotland a new history*[8] thus, 'The prospect of a greater Europe, in 1992 and after, may offer an alternative to the break-up of Britain. It is much the same journey as that earlier one from Home rule to *Home Rule all round*. It also re-establishes one of the most important threads of continuity in Scottish history.'

This can be applied to all of the Celtic countries following the example of Ireland which escaped London's economic clutches for the first time by embarking on the Europe project. So we are back at the point I started. The thrust of Bob Quinn's Atlantean thesis should point to a practical

and sustainable future for the Celtic peoples. Already the arguments which divide the Celts from other peoples along the Atlantic Arc boil down to specific cultural and linguistic distinctiveness. But in cultural, economic, environmental and political terms there are many more factors which join us.

In 1991 the European Community helped kick start links between the regions which contain 100 Atlantic ports. A development package was earmarked to be promoted by local government representatives. I believe that such a regional grouping has the potential to be built into an international one. I also believe that the best interests of the Celtic peoples are to campaign for such a grouping.

The Atlantic Arc idea was born in Brittany. Its civil service is based in Nantes, the ancient Breton capital. The guide to its work published in 1993[9] quotes as an introduction the ideas of poet and writer Romain Rolland. He writes 'La vie est l'arc; et la corde est la reve. Ou est le sagittaire?' - loosely translated this says - life is the bow, the bowstring is the dream, where is the archer? If the Celts are serious about sustainable recovery and development for our unique linguistic cultures and ancient nations in the coming millennium then the Atlantic Arc can potentially be the democratic sinews to fire an arrow of hope into the future.

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Rob Gibson

Dà Chànanachas

scriobh Colin Baker, àrd ollamh an fhoghlaim Oilthigh na Cuimrigh. "An Encyclopaedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education" air thoillseachadh le Multilingual Matters, Frankfurt Lodge, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Road, Avon BS21 7SJ.

Sgrìobh e gum bheil e feumail an darn a cànain a thoiseachadh roimh trì bliadhna dh'aois agus a reir rannsachaidh sna Staithean Aonaichte agus san Rìoghachd Aonaichte togaidh am foghlam dà-chànanach an IQ aca agus ni dà-chànanachas iad nas fheàrr san sgoil.

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For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

ALBA Risnìdh Mag Aoidh. 16/1 McCleod Street, Gorgie, Edinburgh. EH11 2NQ. e-mail : risnìdh@cableinet.co.uk

BREIZH

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The General Secretary and P.R.O. of the Celtic League is **Bernard Moffatt**, 11 Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan, Mannin. Tel - UK (0) 1624 627128

The Editor is **Ms P. Bridson**, 33 Cèide na Grianóige, Rath Cuil, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.

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