

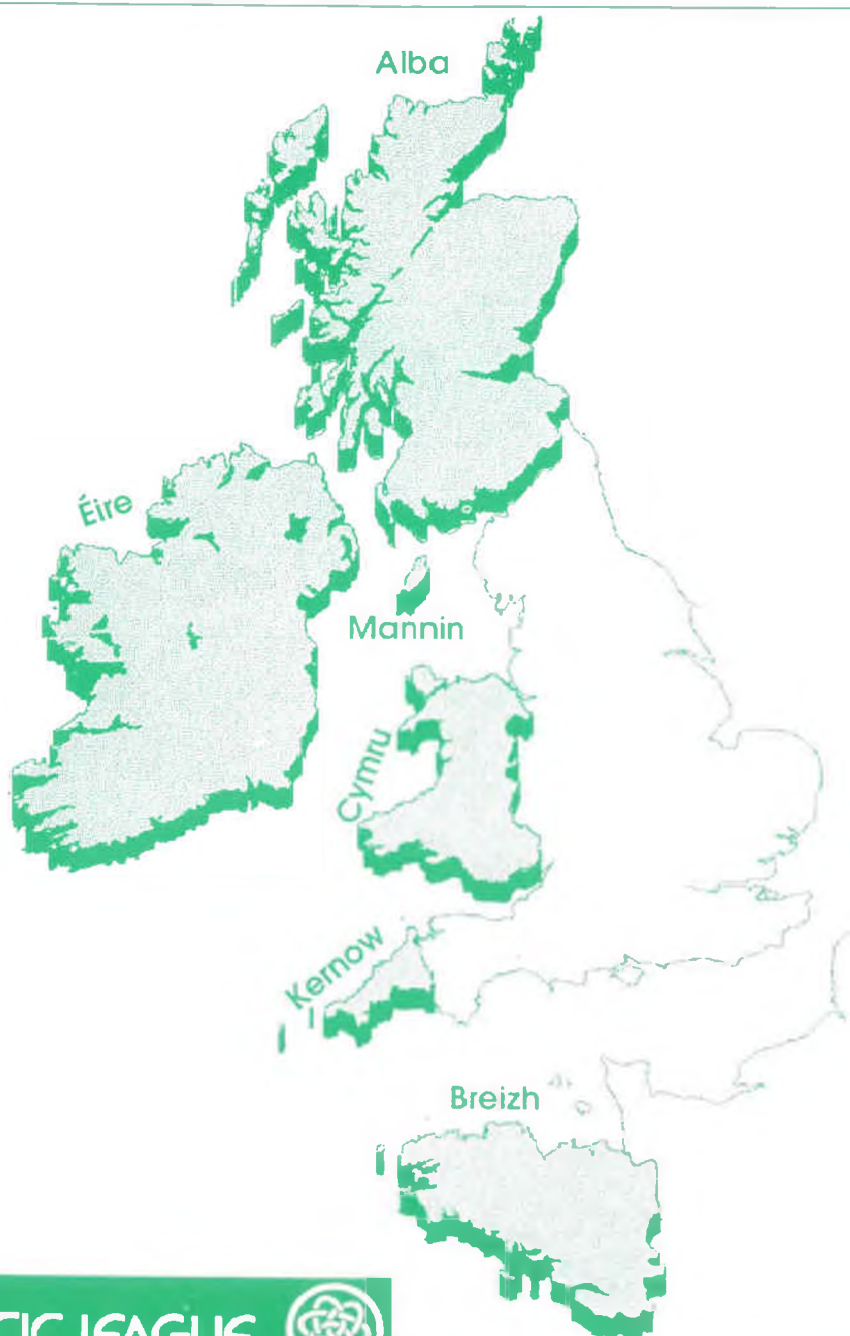
comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 117

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- *SNP Talking Independence . . .*
- *Reunification of Brittany Campaign . . .*
- *Cymdeithas Returns to Roots . . .*
- *Gaeltacht Commission Report . . .*
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- *Housing Crisis - Inter-Celtic Meeting . . .*
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CELTIC LEAGUE



A' Phortagail, an t-Eilean Mhanainneach agus ar canain

Air a' mhór chuid 's ann tha Alba cho mór ris a' Phortagail a' thaobh fearainn. Ach, bhon nach robh Fuadach nan Gàidheal anns a' Phortagail tha deich millean neach a' fuireach san dùthaich sin, ach an seo chan eil ach còig millean ann an Alba.

Thuit Pol Scott gun robh Alba mar gun robh i anns an aon leabaibh le aillbhean (elephant)... Se sin ri redh Sasainn, bho-n a tha i cho mór is cho laidir. Mata, bu choir dhuinn gum bheil a' Phortagail anns an aon seòrsa leabaibh còmhla ris an Spàinn.

O chionn ghoirid, anns a' bhaile Cascais, a tha ri taobh na mara, mu fhichead mìle à Lisbon, chunnaic sinn taisbeanadh sa phàirc far an robh gach leabhar a bhiodh cleachta sna sgoiltean o cheann gu ceann na Portagail. Gu nadarrach, bha luchd teagaisg air gach taobh, mar sheilleanan timcheall air poit-mheala.

Thachair sinn air mnaoi-teagaisg mu leth chiad bliadhna a dh'aois. Bhon a bha mo fheileadh-beag orm, thuig i gu grad gun robh mi nam Albannach.

Is e fàth mo dhroin nach d'thug Bonnie Prince Charlie (Am Prionnsa) buaidh air na Sasannaich. Ràinig e Derby cho fàisg ri Lunnain... mi shealbhach... dìreach mi-shealbhach," tuirt i.

"Chan e, "arsa an sgrìobhadair, "bha e gun fheum... mi-chomasach, dìreach mi-chomasach!"

"Mi-shealbhach... mi-shealbhach," arsa ise. "Mata," fhreagair sinn, "bhiodh Alba cho saor ris a' Phortagail nan robh e air stad aig Derby agus bhiodh ar cànan cho laidir ri Portagailis an diugh."

"Co-dhiù, cha robh ach aon ard-sgoil air feadh Lisbon uile gu leir far an robh iad a' teagaisg tre Portagailis nuair a fhair sinn ar saorsa air ais. Dìreach air an latha sin, bha gach sgoil eile a' teagasg tre Spàinnis, oir bha sinn air ar ceannachadh leis an Spàinn," arsa ise.

"Dìreach mar a tha Alba ceannsaichte le Sasann agus a' chànan Shasunnach aca," fhreagair sinn.

Bliadhna no dhà an deidh sin, bha sinn anns an eilean Portagail each d'am b'ainm Madeira, sa phrìomh-bhaile Funchal, san Avenue Arriaga, oir bha sinn air lorg na h-oifis-turasachd. An deidh fhiosrachadh fhaighinn, chunnaic am boireannach gun

robh feileadh-beag orm. "Rach tarsaing air a' phàirc oirnn agus chì sibh an Eaglais Albannach!" arsa ise.

Gu fhìrinneach, bha eaglais nach robh ro mhór an sin agus sgrìobhte ann an iarann, "Eaglais Albannach" sa Bheurla. Ach bha gach sanas air a' bhord sa Phortagailis; nochd sinn gun do dh'fhalbh na h-Albannaich iomadach bliadhna air ais. Ach chunnaic sinn gum biodh seirbheis ann air Diardaoin feasgar, bhon a bha a' Chaisg a' dlùthachadh oirnn.

An deidh na seirbhis thuit am ministear, "Ah, chì mi gum bheil Albannaich nar measg. Bithidh difir mor an t-seirbheis seo sa Phortagailis an aite Beurla."

"Tha sinne a' dol chun an t-seirbheis Ghàidhlig, a' chanain Albannach, ann an Eaglais nam Manach Liath, DunEideann!" fhreagair sinn.

Thàinig Di-Domhnaich agus dh'iarr eildear oirnn, sa Bheurla, an ceann-teagaisg sa Ghàidhlig.

"Cha bhiodh neach gar tuigsinn ach a' bhean againn," thuit sinn.

"Coma leat, an leugh sibh an ceann-teagaisg anns a' chànan Albannach, mas e bhur toil e. Leughaidh neach e sa Phortagailis as bhur deidh."

Chord ar cànan, Ghàidhlig, ris a' chomhthional anabarrach math ged nach do thuig iad facal dhith idir.

"Bu choir dhuinn a bhi taingeil," arsa am pears'eaglais, "'s urrainn dhuinn Portagailis bruidhinn, faicinn, eisdeachd, leughadh anns gach àite agus TV is raidio anns ar canain fad an latha. Chan eil an fheadhainn a' bruidhinn na canain Albannach cho fortanach idir. 'S fheadar dhuinn a bhih taingeil don Tighearna."

Gun teagamh, chaidh teagasg air feadh na Portagail tre na Portagailis agus cumaidh an Riaghaltas taic ris a' chànan aige gu dùrachdach.

Ach, tha difir mór mór eadar teagasg anns a' Phortagail is an riaghaltas Portagail each agus staid na cànan Albannach againn thin is an riaghaltas Albannach againn.

Sgrìobh Michael Russell, fear-labhairt SNP a thaobh an fhoghlaim, sa phaipear, "An t-Albannach" (12.9.01)... Bha meas mor aige air an Eilean Mhanainneach. Gedcho beag's a tha e, tha e a' cumail taic ris

a' Ghàidhlig Mhanainneach. Dh'fhosgail an Riaghaltas Manainneach ('s e fo Chrun Shasunnach a tha ann) sgoil Ghàidhlig Mhanainneach coltach ris an aon sgoil Ghàidhlig a tha againn... an te ann an Glaschu. Dh'fhosgail iad an sgoil seo sa bhaile beag Ballacottier faisg air prìomh-bhaile an Eilean...Dubhghlas.

"An uiridh," sgrìobh Michael Russell choir, "rinn mi mo dhìcheal Achd ur an Fhoghlaim Albannach a leasachadh. Bhiodh sin a' toirt ceartas do pharantan air son teagasg fhaighinn air son na cloinne aca tre mheadhan na Gàidhlig ma bhios an àireamh fhreagarrach.

"Iongantach ri ràdh, sa Phàrlamaid againn dé rinn na partaidhean eile ach rinn iad bhòtadh an aghaidh a' bhile! Carson? Chan eil fhios againn, bhon a gheall na Lib-Demich agus na Laboraich gum bhiodh iad math agus fialaidh do ar cànan. Chì sinn na geallaidhean aca sna gairmean fhollaiseach, no manifestò, aca aig àm an Taghadh Mhòir no General Election."

Feumaidh sinn na geallaidhean sin a thoirt gu buil. Feumaidh sinn a bhith sabaideadh sa Phàrlamaid Albannach agus air feadh na h-Alba gun stad, gus am bi a h-uile sgoil air feadh Alba a teagasg tre na Gàidhlig.

O chionn ghoirid, rannsaich an t-Ard Ollamh Dic MacIain, Oilthigh Sruibhle, a h-uile cuspair sna bhun-sgoiltean far an robh teagasg gu tur sa Ghàidhlig agus dearbh e gun robh iad a' deanamh fada nas fhearr na an fheadhainn far an robh teagasg tre Beurla, bhon a bha arcanain a' brosnachadh an ean-chainn aca.

Chuala sinn ceist. Dè mu dheidhinn parantan aig nach eil facal Ghàidhlig agus iadsan durachdach a' chlann aca a chuideachadh? Mata, dh'fhoillsich Roinn an Fhoghlaim DunEideannach da leabhar aig còig not aig gach aon. 'S e sin... "A chlad latha" agus am fear eile "Latha trang". Fon Wendy Laird air (0131) 469-3328 no WWW.wendylaird@educ.edin.gov.uk agus ma bhios tu air lorg fiosrachadh mu thimcheall teagasg tre na Gàidhlig ann an DunEideann, fòn Norma Martin air (0131) 469-3307.

Chan eil na Portagailis a' teagasg ach tre na Portagailis sna sgoiltean aca... eadhon nuair a tha iad ag ionnsachadh Beurla.

Fàgaidh sinn Michael Russell coir leis an fhacal deireannach... Feumaidh na h-Albannaich còmrach fada nas cruaidh air son cothrom Gàidhlig ionnsachadh."

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich Gilleasbuig
Lachlann 'Illeasbuig**

SUMMARY

Much of this discussion is taken up with anecdotes about experiences on the mainland of Portugal and its offshore island of Madeira. There is news from the Isle of Man, followed by an update of our language. Thereafter the much respected Micael Russell, SNP spokesman on education, tells of his experiences in the Scottish Parliament, where he found, to his dismay, that the three

Gaelic in the Mass Media

Broadcasting

Gaelic broadcasting, unlike Gaelic education, seems to be on the verge of a major expansion at present. Following the recommendations of two Government funded reports on Gaelic television, the Scottish Executive and UK Government are giving serious consideration to their recommendation that a digital Gaelic television channel be established. At present Gaelic television programmes are shown on the BBC and on the Scottish and Grampian ITV companies but are often relegated to poor time-slots where few people can see them.

Gaelic radio has seen significant expansion in recent times. The national Gaelic radio station BBC Radio nan Gaidheal (RnG) has recently been given a comprehensive website and can also be listened to the internet. RnG is currently available in most of the Highlands, in the central belt and in Aberdeen. Transmitter work to take place in 2002 will extend provision to Dundee, lowland Perthshire and to reception black spots in the Highlands and Islands. Further future phases of Radio nan Gaidheal expansion will see more areas of the country receiving Gaelic radio. It is unclear, however, when this will happen and whether the BBC will ever make RnG available throughout the country.

During 2001 Radio nan Gaidheal has increased the number of hours broadcast per day and introduced some new and more modern programmes intended to appeal to youth. Growth aside, however, there are still serious gaps in Radio nan Gaidheal provision with no Gaelic broadcasts between mid-day and five pm, in the early evening or after 10.30pm. Activists continue the campaign for a 24 hour radio station which is available nationally.

The Internet

The internet has seen major expansion in Gaelic provision in the last year. The most significant additions to the Gaelic Internet presence in recent times have been the Gaelic section of the Scottish Parliament website (www.scottish.parliament.uk) and the BBC Alba website (www.bbc.co.uk/alba).

The BBC Alba website is particularly comprehensive, containing information online Gaelic radio, a news website, bulletin boards, programme listings, children's pages and a Gaelic learners course. A number of websites are also operated by the Gaelic agencies. The largest and most significant of these sites are operated by Cli - the New Gaels (www.cli.org.uk), the national Gaelic resource centre An Stòrlann (www.storlann.co.uk) and the Gaelic books' council (www.gaelicbooks.net). The definitive Gaelic is that of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (www.smo.uhi.ac.uk), the Gaelic medium college on Skye. Sabhal Mòr's website is the oldest Gaelic website and contains a great deal of information about all things Gaelic and minority language related with extensive collection of links.

Progress aside; there are still significant gaps in Gaelic Internet presence. One particularly obvious example of this is the Scottish Executive (www.scotland.gov.uk), which at present contains no Gaelic at all.

Newspapers

Gaelic has a very low profile as far as the national newspapers are concerned. With the exception of a twice-weekly column in the Scotsman (a broadsheet paper with national circulation) and a weekly column in the Highland edition of the Press and Journal (a broadsheet serving northern Scotland), there are no Gaelic columns in any national dailies. There is no Gaelic presence in any Sunday paper at present. A range of (mainly weekly) Highland newspapers such as the West Highland Free Press, Oban Times, Ross-Shire Journal and the Inverness Courier carry Gaelic columns as does the monthly nationalist newspaper the Scots Independent.

There is currently only one Gaelic newspaper, the monthly *An Gaidheal Ùr*. Despite being the only all-Gaelic paper, and despite a range of high-quality columnists, *An Gaidheal Ùr* is not greatly loved amongst Gaelic activists due to its pro-Government/pro-Labour editorial stance on Gaelic issues and to its mainly western isles focus in news stories.

Brude mac Maelcon

Scottish Executive "Murdering Gaelic"

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Sport, Mike Watson MSP who also has responsibility for Gaelic has revealed that the Scottish Executive have no plans to legislate for Gaelic or to significantly expand funding for the language.

In an interview with the Scotsman newspaper, Watson said "I see Gaelic at the very heart of Scottish culture" (Scotsman 20/2/01). In the same interview, however, the minister ruled out the possibility of a Gaelic language act or of the implementation of most of the key recommendations of the Scottish Executive commissioned "Revitalising Gaelic" document (the Macpherson report - Carn 112).

The recommendations that Gaelic (non broadcasting related) funding be increased to £10M per annum has been dismissed as has the recommendation that a department with responsibility for Gaelic affairs should be established within the Scottish Executive.

This news has dismayed Gaelic activists. John Alick Macpherson, author of the Macpherson report has accused the Scottish Executive of "murdering Gaelic" (Radio nan Gaidheal 21/02/02). He has called upon Gaelic speakers to mount the strongest ever Gaelic campaign to ensure progress for the language.

Brude mac Maelcon

Bug Sweep of New Scottish Parliament

Security services, MI5 carried out a search of the new Scottish parliament building for bugging devices and bombs under floors and behind walls.

Surveillance experts carried out the security sweep during construction of the building in a bid to reassure MSPs they can work without fear their conversations will be listened to. MI5 has also demanded strengthened windows and window frames to ensure any terrorist attack would result in minimal loss of life.

A senior parliament official confirmed that these strict anti-terrorist measures could impact on the already soaring price of the building, presently estimated to cost £280m.

A' Phortagail- continued

other parties blocked all support for parents to have the right to choose Gàidhlig as the language of teaching for their children. The way in which Labour and the LibDems ganged up with Tories was particularly distressing, as both these parties betrayed their election manifestos on the subject. As he said, 'Scots will have to fight far harder to get the right to learn Gàidhlig.' P.S. Hot off

the press ... two recommended books from the Edinburgh publishers Birlinn ... 'Eighteenth Century Gàidhlig Poetry' edited by Ronald Black. There is a translation for each poem parallel to the original and a vast amount of explanatory notes. The other is a Dictionary by Angus Watson, an English-Gaelic one designed to take fluent speakers to the level of native speakers.

Talking Independence Campaign

London does not owe Scotland a living, was the message from SNP Leader, Mr. John Swinney MSP, as he made a radical call for the end of Scotland's culture of political dependency. Mr Swinney was speaking in front of an audience of representatives from over 100 leading organisations from business, trade unions, charities and the voluntary sector as part of the SNP's Talking Independence Campaign.

In his speech, Mr Swinney said:

'I am calling for an end to the dependency culture of Scottish politics. We must stop waiting for others to make decisions – and then merely mounting protest campaigns when those decisions turn out to be disastrous. The politics of grievance will not deliver the kind of Scotland we all want.

Admittedly, valuable campaigns have been fought against the poll tax, against the privatisation of our railways, against the destruction of our manufacturing and others.

Some of these campaigns have been successful, some have not. But none of them would have been necessary if Scotland, rather than Westminster, had been in control. Instead of protesting we could and should have been making policy.

My message to the SNP and to the Scottish people is clear: London does not owe us a living. The responsibility for delivering the best Scotland possible is a responsibility that lies with Scots and we should have the tools to take on that task. That is why we are Talking Independence and that is why independence will deliver the best Scotland possible.



Mr. John Swinney
MSP, SNP Leader

Alex Salmond to Return to Scottish Parliament

Alex Salmond has confirmed his plans to return to the Scottish parliament. According to an article in *The Scotsman* Salmond will return in 2007. However, some SNP/ MSPs believe Salmond would be back in Holyrood much earlier than 2007.

While some party sources have welcomed the move and hopes that a return by Salmond will revitalise the party, the party's MSPs have divided opinions. One MSP said, 'Some way will be found' to bring him back. Whether you agree with everything Alex did or said within the party, there is no doubt that he is one of the greatest political talents to have been in Scottish politics in the past 40 years. We are missing him. Many of us who didn't always see eye to eye with him want him back.'

An SNP spokesman said: 'It is wrong to see this as a signal Alex will challenge John for the party leadership.'

In April, *Scotland on Sunday* revealed that Sir Sean Connery, the actor and the SNP's most famous backer, had insisted that his £50,000 per year cash donations to the party could not be spent without approval from Salmond.

Alex Salmond said, 'John Swinney knows about my wish to return and fully supports it. It was decided last year when I went to Westminster to help the SNP group. I am a strong supporter of John Swinney's leadership so any suggestion that I would be a threat is ludicrous.'



Alex Salmond



CLi gus:

- ionnsachadh is inbhe nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh
- fiosrachadh air Gàidhlig is cùisean Gàidhlig a spòrleachadh
- beachd luchd ionnsachaidh is luchd labhairt reo-dhualchasach na Gàidhlig a chur an cèill



CLi to:

- promote the learning and national status of Gaelic
- disseminate information on Gaelic and Gaelic affairs
- act as the voice of Gaelic learners and non-traditional speakers

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NAACLT Establishes New Celtic Language Book Prize for Children's Books

On behalf of the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers (NAACLT), I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Clann Lir book award, an annual prize for a children's book in any of the six Celtic languages. The winning book will be noted on our website (www.naaclt.org) and reviewed in our journal (*Journal of Celtic Language Learning*); all entries will be mentioned in the NAACLT newsletter, and, space permitting, brief notes will be included. The website feature can be linked directly to the sites of the winning publisher, writer, and illustrator, if desired. In addition, the winning publisher will receive gold stickers that can be placed on copies of the book; inspired by those for the Caldecott and Newbery prizes or the Aesop prize of the American Folklore Society. We hope that this publicity for your books will help promote North American awareness of the Celtic languages and encourage the use of your books in Celtic language programs here.

Our immediate project concerns picture books and fiction or non-fiction books for younger readers (under 9 years old). Our emphasis is on original works in the Celtic languages. Translations from one Celtic language to another are eligible. Bilingual books with one Celtic language and one non-Celtic language are eligible if both versions appear for the first time in one volume and the non-Celtic version has not appeared separately. In the future we may establish other categories for older children, young adults, and translations from non-Celtic languages, or broaden the categories. Self-published works are eligible provided they are professionally produced; Children's textbooks are not eligible for submission.

Books may either be intended primarily for native-speaking children or for learners. The eligible languages are Breton, Cornish, Irish, Manx, Scottish Gaelic, and Welsh; books in any dialect, register, or variety of the language are eligible as long as they are understandable by their intended audience and useful to readers, teachers, speakers or students of Celtic languages in North America.

For further information contact:

Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew, Ph.D. President, North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers, Chair, NAACLT Celtic Children's Book Prize Committee, Lecturer, Irish Gaelic, University of Pennsylvania.

Breizh

UN NEBEUT GERIOÙ DIWAR-BENN ENEZ-VANAV

Sonjet hon eus e vefe dedennus evit an holl ac'hanoc'h dizoleiñ kartenn Enez-Vanav gant un toullad anvioù-lec'h.

Ar re a oar tamm pe damm iwerzhoneg pe ouezeleg Skos ne vint ket souezhet daoust d'an doare-skrivañ ispisial, da skouer "slied" evit "sliabh" (menez), balley / baile (kêriadenn), keeill / cill (iliz, lann), kione / ceann (penn), cronk / cnoc (krec'h, knec'h), traie / tráigh (traezh), mooar / mör (bras, meur),

joarrie / deorai (estren, diavaeziad, divroad), awyn / abhainn, abha (stêr, aven, a'ón).

An anv-lec'h "Kione Traie" a vez distaget "k'auntrai" hag a dalv "Penn-Traezh", hogen "kione" a vez distaget a-wezhioù "k'ón".

Setu un nebeut gerioù gant o distagadur : thie (t'ai), ti - mie (ma'i), mat - drine (dra'in), drez - Çheh (t'e), tomm - Jee (d'i), dezhi.

Ma vez 75% a anvioù-lec'h gouezeleg e chom avat kalz anvioù-lec'h a orin hen-norvegek evel anv parlamant Enez-Vanav "Tynvaal" deuet diwar "Thing-Völlr" hag a dalv "Tachenn ar Breujoù", ha c'hoazh "Laksaa" evit "Stêr an Eog" eus "lax" an eog. Anv ar stêr a zo deuet da vezañ hini ar gêr warlerc'h. Anv an daou venez "Barrule" or "Baarooyl" a zo diazezet diwar "Vördu-fjall" hag a dalv "Menez-Evezhiañ" da lavarout e oant implijet evit sellvaou.

Stankoc'h e vez an anvioù a orin skandinavek tro-dro an aochoù. Kalz anezho a zo bet savet diwar "by-r" (ti-feurm, atant) deuet da vezañ "by" a vez staget ouzh anv un den, dre skouer "Colby" a dalv "Colli Atant".

Bremañ ez eus evit deskiñ manaveg ul levr-studiñ arnevez eilet gant pladennoù-arc'hant, frouezh labour ar manaveger brudet Brian Mac Stoyll. Hogen ar re a fell dezho ober un tañva d'ar manaveg, pe zoken deskiñ un tamm mat anezhañ dre ar brezhoneg, a c'hell hen ober gant al levr-deskiñ hag an div vinikasedig savet gant hor c'henvroad ha mignon Padrig Ar Besko. Embannet int gant "Ar Skol Vrezoneg / Emglev Breiz", 10 ru Kemper F-29200 Brest. (Lec'hienn internet: <http://alter.org/emglev-breiz/>).

An holl re a fello dezho anavezout gwelloc'h Enez-Vanav a gavo dañvez dibar e-barzh al levr "Ile de Man Enez-Vanav" savet e galleg gant an Iwerzhonad Tadhg Ó h-Ifearnaín. Embannet eo bet al levr-mañ e 1998 gant Skol-Uhel ar Vro (ICB).

Trugarekaat a ran Colin Jerry ha Mark Lockerby evit o skoazell prizius.

Jakez Derouet

SUMMARY

I thought it would be interesting for Breton readers to see a map of the Isle of Man. Using the place-names, Jakez D., highlights the similarity between Irish and Manx words, which can clearly be seen in spite of the differences in spellings.

About 75% of Manx place-names derive from Gaelic, but there are also quite a lot from old norwegian (Norse).

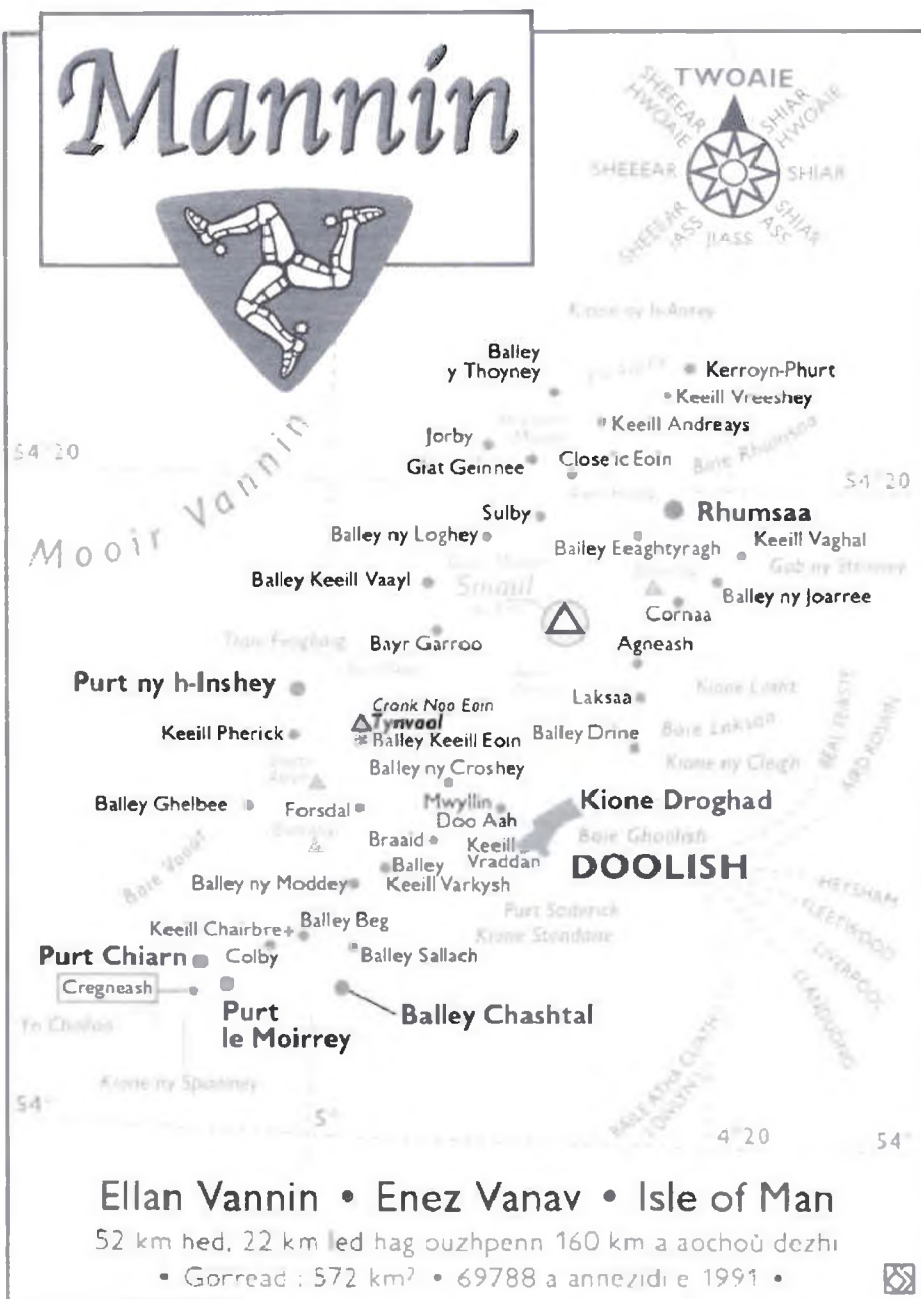
The writer then goes on to look at two ways to learn Manx. The first is a course designed by the well-known and fluent Manx speaker, Brian Mac Stoyll, who has produced a very modern textbook assisted by compact disks. The second course he proposes especially for Breton speakers who want to learn a fair bit of Manx is by our Breton friend, Padrig Ar Besko. 'Dornlevr Manaveg' or 'Manx Handbook' uses Breton as the teaching medium. There are two tapes with this course, recorded by Brian Mac Stoyll.

All those who wish to learn more about the Isle of Man will find 'Isle of Man/ Enez Vanav' written in French by Tadhg Ó h-Ifearnaín, an excellent resource.

The Course 'Dornlevr Manaveg' is available from:

Ar skol vrezoneg/Emglev Breiz, 10 ru Kemper, F-29200 BREST, Breizh/ Brittany.

Internet site: <http://alter.org/emglev-breiz/>



Un araokadenn vras, evit saveteiñ ar Manaveg

Kalz a gerent a soñj eo un dra vat e c'hellfe o bugale bezañ skoliataet e manaveg. Laouen-kenañ int o welout eo bet digoret ur c'hlas e Bellacottier. Kinniget o doa ar rak-tres-se d'an deskadurezh-stad gant sikour MHF, MNH, ha MMppMv. Digoret eo bet e miz Gwengolo diwezhañ hag e vez gwelet evel un sapre lañs gouest da saveteiñ ar manaveg evit an amzer da zont. SnyP ha MV eo a ra war-dro ar c'hlas.

P.G., prezidant MV, hag en deus kemeret perzh en digoradur -se, a ziskleir fraezh, n'eus Mme netra da welout gant mojennoù an amzer gwechall na kennebeut gant Harry Potter.

Skoliata ar vugale e manaveg a dalv e vez graet pep tra er yezh-se: ar c'hentelioù eveljust met ivez ar mont en-dro, al levrioù hag ar binviji pedagogel a zo e manaveg, anat eo.

Brud ar c'hlas-se a zo aet pelloc'h eget an enezenn. Kaoz a zo bet outañ war BBC Bro Gembre ha war Border TV. BBC Bro Skos a zo deuet betek ar skol zoken d'ober un abadenn.

Kitty Gawne, 6 vloaz, unan eus an nav bugel, a ra un hanter eurvezh hent bemdez da vont d'ar skol. Kalz diouto a ra kement-all, hervez mamm Kitty, met talvezout a ra ar boan.

Evit Daniel, 4 bloaz, an hini yaouankañ, dre ma tesk manaveg ez a e saozneg war wellaat ivez. Plijout a ra kalz ar manaveg dezhañ. E dud a zo o teskiñ ivez met evit ar poent n'int ket gouest da gaozeal gantañ.

Bet eo bet Sinead (6 vloaz) er skolioù MV ha MS araok don't da Vallacottier. Pell eo bet he zud oc'h ober o soñj, met hiziv n'o deus tamm keuz ebet, pell ac'halese.

Laouen eo an holl gant labour ar skolaerez J. Matthews ha gant hini ar baby sitter C. Clucas.

Sekretourez ar SnyP, S. Skillicorn eus Santon a zo plijet-kenañ gant digoradur ar c'hlas, he merc'h Paige, 5 bloaz, a zo en he bleud er skol, hervezi.

Pep tra a vez graet e manaveg ha fiziañs a zo e c'hello klasoù all digeriñ er bloavezhioù o tont.

A-benn bloaz eta e vo staliet ar c'hlas-mañ e skol St John e-lec'h ma tigor ar skol kentañ derez.

Roet eo bet da S. Rodan, ministr kozh an deskadurezh, ur skrid-testeni a-berzh an YCG, evit e labour war tachenn ar manaveg.

Summary

The opening of the new Manx medium education unit at Ballacottier (see Carn 116) is applauded as a huge step for the preservation of the Manx language.

THE ESTABLISHMENT HAS CHOSEN TO SPEAK BRETON

Late last year in Carhaix (Penn ar Bed) the "Ofis ar Brezhoneg" (O.A.B.). The office for the Breton launched their first great campaign to boost the use of Breton as the daily language of public life.

The campaign, inspired by the Bask example "Bai Eiska", is aiming at the key economic players. The link between economic development and awakening of our cultural identity is obvious. The Breton Language creates jobs, which would have been unbelievable 30 years ago.

The vice president Reun Koupa and the president Lena Louarn, highlighted the purpose of this campaign by declaring: we want to stop protesting and start creating... Diwan is really a good example.

The entirely bilingual ceremony, was devoted to the signature of the agreement "Ya d'ar Brezhoneg", Yes to Breton language, by the representatives of 161 pro-

fessional bodies organized into 7 groups (10 groups actually) according to their fields of activity. By the 10th of November more than 200 people and companies had signed the agreement. Far from being satisfied with the 200 signatures, Reun Koupa and Lena Louarn declared they were aiming to gather 500 signatures.

Here is the list of 10 fields of activity determined by OAB.

1) Education, 2) Means of communication, 3) Foundations and charities, 4) Show business and cultural associations, 5) Sports, 6) Working world, 7) Agricultural and maritime activities, 8) Trade and shopping centres, 9) Services (Banking/Insurances), 10) Health...

The OAB has provided vocabulary and IRM has become "dasson magnetk"... In January 2002 the people in charge of the

10 groups met again to report on the situation in their area, and the people in charge decided lines of action, in order to remain closer to reality.

Contrary to their parent's generation today's youngsters are not always exposed to Breton in their daily life. As Erwan Ar C'hoadig, in charge of public relations at OAB said, 'it is most important to create an environment where young Bretons can be immersed in Breton'. Here is an excerpt from the Agreement: 'We, the main organized forces of society, undersigned, are committed to participating in the effort of revival of Breton language so that our language reaches its full development, we wish by this dynamic agreement, to highlight the desire of our society to strengthen Breton'.

The campaign continues...

Jakez D.



Participants at the launch of the Ya d'ar Brezhoneg campaign.

There are no more Skeletons in Cupboards

An international conference took place in November 2001 at the University of Western Brittany on the theme: *Brittany and Regional Identity during the Second World War*.

Professor, **Fañch Roudaut**, and President of C.R.B.C., initiated this conference; his purpose was to use graduate's theses to answer the numerous press articles published during the second term of 1999 and which deeply hurt the Breton people.

In an interview with the regional paper Ouest France, Christian Bougeard, Professor of Contemporary History and Chairman of the conference said, "The controversies which took place have in some way pushed us to present a clarification for the historians – things are obvious but not for the lay people and there is a large demand for more precise views. The National Archives, especially those of Finistère, have been available to us. The purpose of the conference is to give precisions on that period and to compare what happened in our region to what happened during the same period in other French or foreign regions with the same strong identity. Our contribution will be to shed light on the attitude of regions with strong identities during the war. It is our responsibility as citizens and historians, and our duty is to bring solid knowledge and clear-sighted reflection so that the debate can be as dispassionate as possible.

Besides Christian Bougeard and Fañch Roudaut the scientific committee was composed of Jose Go, President of CEGES in Bruxelles, Giani Perona a Professor at Turin University, Jacqueline Sainclivier, Manager of CHISCO at Rennes University and Yvon Tranvouez of UBO. These six professors with the help of 18 others worked on all the different themes related to this period.

Although it was interesting to compare the attitudes of these regions with a strong identity, which are often national minorities, a concept which isn't accepted by the French Republican concept, I will only quote the communications about regions or countries and I will give the addresses of CRBC for those who want to get information directly. The following papers were presented at the Conference:

- The political position of the Basque National Party during the Spanish Civil War (1939/1939).
- Belgium, wallonie, France, Torn Identities.
- Corsica between 1930 and the Second World War: A Passion for Identity
- The Various Autonomists' Movements during the Second World War
- Resistance and Regional Identity dur-

- ing the Second World War in Provence
- In Search of Identity Landmarks: Resistance in Franche-Comté
- Regions of Resistance and Regions in Italy
- Ireland during the Second World War.

It is interesting to notice that contrary to national minorities in Belgium and in France those from Italy have chosen *Resistance* in the face of *Centralism* of Italian fascism.

In spite of this important difference the feeling of regional solidarity, apart from all desire of autonomy, played an important role particularly in Provence.

In spite of their faithfulness to France and to the republic and of their rejection of all national Breton feelings, the Resistance in Brittany is characterised by their feelings of belonging and of Breton solidarity including Nantes region as well.

The Breton Side

After his introductory speech, **Christian Bougeard**, described '*Brittany and the Bretons in front of German Occupation*'.

At a variable rhythm, according to their geographical location and political opinions, the Breton public opinion rejected the Germans, which didn't prevent some arrangements. Breton public opinion rejected Vichy's propaganda and turned to the British and Gaullism in spite of the disastrous effect of Mers-el Kebir. The German presence had a determining effect in the rejection of State collaboration.

(Mers-el Kebir is a harbour in Northern Africa where the Royal Navy sank the French fleet 1,2000 sailors perished among whom were 900 Bretons.)

Professor **Michel Denis** made a thorough but moderate report on '*The Breton Movement during the war*'. Beyond the men the only interesting question is, how could such a misunderstanding between the militant minority and the majority of the population have developed?

To understand some Breton nationalist's attitude better, we must say that the concept of democracy at that time wasn't the same as it is today.

In addition to 3 exposés about resistance in Brittany, the others were about the defence and illustration of the Breton language during the war, the attitudes of catholics and protestants from occupation to liberation.

The only two presentations that brought a more positive vision of this period were : '*Some aspects of the artistic and intellectual Breton*



Fañch Roudaut

movement during the Second World War' by Daniel Le Couedic, Professor of geo-architecture in Brest and another presentation by Gerard Monnier, a Professor at Lannion University of Technology: '*Breton militants in the Resistance*'

The first speaker insisted on the creativity and the quality of artists and intellectuals involved in the Breton movement. Although we must remain unbiased we must not consider some political mistakes only and we mustn't 'throw the baby out with the bath water'.

The second speaker who is very well known for his work as an historian for Skol-Vreizh and by his articles in the monthly paper of the U.D.B. 'Le Peuple Breton' did an interesting presentation on the Breton nationalists in the St. Nazaire area who were very close to the population, fully integrated among the ship-building yard workers, these men who chose to join the Resistance and founded their own network – this thesis was supported by photos of the time to prevent any equivocal thought among the Resistants who attended the conference, however they weren't completely convinced.

The number of subjects and their wide diversity didn't leave much room for debating. All the questions raised were about the last two subjects developed, and in too short a time. Some unscrupulous people made the debate go on questions, which allowed them to justify their negative views. This shortened and twisted the debate.

Most of the audience was convinced that the Breton Nationalists had collaborated with Nazi Germany. The speakers remained on a scholarly point of view which isn't necessarily unbiased particularly when they had chosen 'La Resistance' as their field of research.

However the conference had the advantage of gathering in the same room Breton militants from different backgrounds including some close to the Breton Nationalists concerned, and also former resistants and their friends. The big issue remains: It is possible to have an unbiased opinion on this period if

The Committee for the Administrative Reunification of Brittany (C.U.A.B.)

On June 30th 1941, through its decree No 2727, the collaborationist government of Vichy partitioned Brittany to punish the Bretons who, had one year earlier in London, with general de Gaulle, were the mainstay of the Free State French Forces.

The very next day in Nantes, some courageous people demonstrated against the partition of the then Loire-Inférieure from the four other Breton departments.

One of them was a great painter, the late Michel Noury, who in 1969 founded the association Nantes en Bretagne (Nantes in Brittany) to protest against the continuing partition of Brittany maintained by the new powers that were in Paris.

Amongst the many scandals that have littered French political life over the past fifty years there is this shocking French 'exception', a regime brought to power thanks to the liberation of the territory by the Allied forces maintains a political partition imposed on the Bretons, as a punishment by a pro-nazi government!

Faced with the will of the powers in Paris to maintain the partition of Brittany and 'debretionise' its southern part, which had become the department of Loire-Atlantique, the Bretons continued their protests and organised themselves through the new association B5. Instead of taking note of these protests the government, through its regional gerrymandering, intensified its propaganda, paid for by the local taxpayers to the tune of hundreds of millions of francs, spent very often outside all legal control!

Faced with this shocking propaganda wave the Bretons decided to organise their

protests on a larger scale and in 1981, when they saw that the *leftists* who had taken over in Paris were no better than the rightists, they launched the C.U.A.B. (Committee for the Administrative Reunification of Brittany). The founding act was the great march organised in Nantes on the 11th October of that year when about 10,000 people marched along the streets of the *City of the Dukes of Brittany*.

That march followed two previous ones, the years before in Nantes and Saint-Nazaire, eight more were to follow in Paris, Nantes and Rennes, the last one in Nantes on the 30th June 2001 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Vichy Decree.

All this to no avail, it was ignored just as were all the conferences, the seminars, the gatherings, the books and articles, the petitions signed by thousands of people or for that matter the seven polls, from 1986 - 2001 that showed beyond a doubt that the Bretons, between two-thirds and three-quarters, supported the administrative reunion of their country.

This is a shocking state of affairs, quite typical of the oligarchy that rules in Paris. It has not taken aback the patriots in charge of the C.U.A.B. and its thousands of members, they brought this problem to the attention of the European Parliament and, recently launched a campaign to secure the support of elected members of the municipal councils, departmental councils, the regional council and the Parliament in Paris.

Indeed, since 1972 the departmental council of Loire-Atlantique and the regional council of administrative Brittany have passed several motions in favour of the administrative reunification of Brittany, June and again in July 2001. But there again the French government, whatever its political colour, has always chosen to ignore these votes, just as it ignores the voice of the people.

In the face of these facts it is regrettably concluded that the French oligarchy is totally undemocratic and the only hope of the C.U.A.B. is to marshal the support of the democratic countries within the European Union to compel the French totalitarians to admit at last the right of the people of Brittany to live and develop in their legitimate territory

J.C.

Aotearoa, the long struggle of the Maori

New Zealand or Aotearoa was first inhabited by the Maori. By the end of the XVIIIth century it had become a British colony with the Maoris dispossessed of their land, despite the Waitangi Treaty. However for the last thirty years the Maori have been asserting their rights and regaining their identity.

Maori's Aotearoa

New Zealand is an archipelago mostly consisting of two large islands, spreading over 268.000 KM2. It is on this previously virgin island, that Polynesians arrived descending from populations coming from Southwest Asia, at the beginning of IXth century. The Maori constituted the first wave of populating. Another wave arrived around the middle of the Xth century, coming according to legend, from a mystical land called Hawaiki. The Maoris settled the islands. They are divided in tribes, which are then divided in smaller groups. The population lived in community villages next to the "marae". That's to say, the blessed land in front of the common house. Maori society is very hierarchical. The chieftains, polytheists, are the leaders of the tribes. The priest plays an important role in the transmission of an oral culture. The notions of mauri (vital force) wairua (spirit), tapu (prohibitions) are

important in their culture. It is a fighting society with a lot of tribal conflicts. Losers became slaves. The goal of the anthropologist rituals is to take the vital force of your enemy.

BRITISH COLONISATION

In 1642, Dutch navigator Tasman, come from present Indonesia, only approaching the West Coast, but gives Aotearoa its European name of New Zealand. Europeans come back in 1769 with British explorer Cook. He explores the coast and proclaims British sovereignty before heading to Australia. He was able to make contact with the Maori thanks to a Tahitian interpreter. Fear of French colonisation persuaded Maori leaders to sign the Waitangi Treaty on the 6th of February 1840, by the resident Hobson, in the name of Queen Victoria, and by Maori chieftains, mostly originated from Island Bay, in the Northern Island. During the following seven months, it is signed by 500 chieftains. It is a controversial document, the Maori translation weakening the significance of the English text.

A COLONIAL SITUATION

The conflict between the Europeans (=Pakeha) and the Maori was unavoidable as the numbers of settlers increase.

No More Skeletons - continued

Brittany is just seen as a French region (even with a strong identity), and if the French resistance in Brittany is seen just as a simple thoroughly French and anti-Breton. The reasons for individual choices are complex.

Once the war was over, the Resistance became an instrument used to create a new French national mysticism and quite a lot of French people have forgotten the darker moments. It would be fair to have a more nuanced opinion on the nationalists at that time for their defence we can't recall what an historian said recently about crimes and tortures committed by the French army in Algeria 'opening a debate which had been so far truncated ... we accumulated testimonies without really making the effort to analyse them. Which leads is to judge yesterday's reality with today's eyes. (Quoted from an Ouest-France article and signed by the managing director)

C.R.B.C. = Centre for Breton and Celtic Research
www.univ-brest.fr/Recherche/Laboratoire/CRBC/

They are buyers of land but the Maori refused to sell. So wars, often severe, broke out between 1843 and 1847 and again between 1861 to 1865. After the Maori's defeat, the lands were confiscated and sold to private owners. The Maori still owned 4.4 million acres in 1890; in modern times they only owned 1.2 million acres. However they reclaimed their rights, guaranteed by the Waitangi Treaty, which is considered legally void and has never been ratified by any New Zealand Parliament. The right to vote was granted to the Maori in 1867, with a designation of four deputies in Parliament. The young Maori Party asked for health and teaching services. Apirana Ngata, Maori leader, became Minister of Indigenous affairs in 1928, and made every effort to elaborate the development plans. Other Maori leaders joined the Labour Party, which came to power in 1935. The Maori's fate is probably better than that of most of the settlers in other countries, but disparities remain, even though New Zealanders are proud of the racial harmony in their country.

TOWARDS A RECOGNITION OF THE MAORI'S RIGHTS

After World War II, the number of Maoris increased noticeably. They were nearly 100.000 in 1945, 270.000 in 1976 and close to 600.000 in 1999, representing more than 15% of a population over 3.8 million inhabitants. After the war, they migrated from rural areas to cities and today 80% of the Maori live in town. That has cut them off, from their roots and their culture. They often know severe social problems; they represent half of the prison population. However in the seventies and eighties, the Maori began to claim their rights. In 1975, an important march to the Parliament took place in Wellington. In the same year was voted the law of the Waitangi Treaty, establishing a Waitangi Court to examine the Maori grievances against the British Crown as of 1975. The law was amended in 1985, with acceptance of complaints previous to 1975, going back to 1840. Demonstrations and land occupancies took place. Agreements have been made with some tribes with restitution of lands and payment of financial compensation. Nevertheless, the split remains important between an educated minority of Maori integrated to the system and the large number of underprivileged ones, because there is no middle-class. One wonders about the choice between maintenance of assistance to the most underprivileged and the use of projects with development of capital investments. The maintenance of traditions can be a blocking factor, particularly the joint land property.

THE REVIVAL OF THE MAORI CULTURE

The end of the sixties saw a revival of the Maori culture with, sometimes, a come back To marae (=Blessed Land) and to ancestral rural culture which is not necessarily a solution for all Maori settle in town. Maori people came back to their culture and language which takes up a larger place in schools and in the medias. Maori language is now recognized as an official language since 1987. It's taught in most schools. In the seventies the "Te Kohanga" (=the nest of language) were created, a net of nursery schools created by the parents, with language training by immersion. Since 1983, programmes in the Maori language (understood by 40% of the Maori) are shown on the TV at the rate of 260 hours a week. A debate is in progress about the creation of a public TV channel in the Maori language. There is also a net of more than twenty radio stations in Maori language. The awakening of the Maori culture allowed a very rich artistic life to develop, as much as a Maori literature and characteristic audio-visual expression. But for all that there is no separation between Maori arts and European arts (=Pakeha arts) between modern technology and tradition.

MAORI AND MOVIES

More than thirty films, fiction or documentaries realised by or about the Maori, old or new, have been shown in Douarnenez Films Festival on behalf of history, culture, fights and cinematographic creations of the Maoris. It was also shown a selection of short films, rather aimed to children...Films Archives of New Zealand offered nine exceptional films, from "Sight in New-Zealand"(1906) to "Maori Battalion returns"(1946)

OTHER PARTS OF CINEMA

A programme of films was specifically primed to children on the theme of difference. With films about culture in far away countries: Canada, Iran or Africa...Otherwise, for the second time took place the European competition opened to fiction feature films, totally or in part in "minority" language. As every year since 1978 was shown the essence of Breton audio-visual productions of the year, with films shown either in competition or on "display". Hats off to Christophe de Ponfilly. A dozen of his films were shown, among which "Massoud the Afgan", dedicated to that hero of the Afgan resistance who goes on, fighting the Talibans, in Kaboul

Yves Jardin-(August-2001)
Courtesy of Peuple Breton.

MILITARY MONITORING

League Experience Included In Report To Japanese Parliament

Research into the impact of bases used by the United States globally over the past three decades, and which includes a section on the military monitoring campaign of the Celtic League, has been submitted to the Upper House of the Japanese National Diet (Parliament).

The project involved a number of academics who were dispatched to six countries where the United States military forces are disposed including Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Australia and Korea. Their composite report, which also includes a section on the United States itself, was completed recently.

As part of the project Tohru Aketagawa, a political science lecturer at Hosei University, visited the Isle of Man to learn about the Celtic League project to monitor military activity from the mid seventies until the end of the Cold War. Mr. Aketagawa was particularly interested in the period when US forces used the NATO sea-bombing range off the north west coast of the Isle of Man and the controls exercised over the operation of the range and the campaigns by the Celtic League and others against it.

The Celtic League supplied Tohru Aketagawa with information on all the ongoing monitoring campaigns, which the Celtic League has conducted but with the special emphasis on the problems caused by bombing ranges and military low-flying to all the Celtic countries. We also provided detail on the campaign to monitor the operation of nuclear submarines based at the Clyde complex and the particular problems caused to fishermen during the quarter century the base operated. A score of fishing vessels disappeared or were damaged during this period in Irish coastal waters, off Western Scotland and in the Irish Sea. Pointedly, the mysterious disappearances and collisions ended when the US base at Holy Loch closed.

There is growing agitation in Japan for the current defence arrangements with the United States to be placed on a more equitable footing and this project was a part of that process.

J B Moffatt

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Gwawrio'r Bedwaredd Reich (Rhan 2)

Go dda'r Iwerddon! Gwrthod wnaeth y Gwyddelod y cynnig i newid cyfansoddiad Iwerddon i ganiatáu i'r wlad Geltaidd honno gadarnhau cyfamod Nice o 54% i 46% mewn Refferendwm ar Fehefn y seithfed 2001 (gyda cyn lleied â 35 wedi troi allan i fwrw pleidlais). Serch i'r pleidiau gwleidyddol mawrion, yr undebau llafur (ac eithrio ATGWU), y cyrff amaethyddol a'r cyfryngau, a hyd yn oed yr Eglwys Babyddol tua'r diwedd, annog y Gwyddelod i fwrw pleidlais o blaid. Llwyddodd y gwrthwynebwyr (y Blaid Werdd, yr Undeb Heddwch Niwtral, Sinn Féin, Sinn Féin Weriniaethol, Llwyfan Genedlaethol Anthony Coughlan, Afri, yr Undeb Celtaidd a grwpiau eraill o blaid bywyd) i ennill.

Deallodd y Gwyddel cyffredin nad oedd Cyfamod Nice dros echangu'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yn unig, ond dros rannu Ewrop a throsglwyddo grym i ddwylo'r gwladwriaethau mwyaf wrth ddeddfu a chanoli mwy o benderfyniadau ym Mrwsel a gwneud Ewrop yn filwrol! Tybed a blesiwyd Canghellor yr Almaen – go brin. Beth bynnag, mae'n bosib echangu aelodaeth yr Undeb Ewropeaidd dan delerau Cyfamod Amsterdam (hwnnw yw'r llwybr cyfreithiol i droi'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn Llywodraeth Ewropeaidd). Dyna gynllun Gerhard Schröder yn cael ei wrthod gan Iwerddon rhyw wyth deng mlynedd o'r bron wedi iddi ymladd i gael gwared â'r Saeson a'u brenhinoedd estron. Ar hyn o bryd mae economi Éire yn llewyrchu a chaiff ei glasiennu'r 'Teigr Celtaidd' – buasai cynllun Almeinig Cyfamod Nice yn llesteirio hynny drwy orfodi cynllun trethu cwmnïau newydd (i'w gwneud nhw i gyd yr un faint ar draws y gwahanol wledydd). Buasai'n peri newid y Cyfansoddiad Gwyddelig er mwyn trosglwyddo gwarant hawliau dynol i Frwsel ac i nadu'r wlad i gadw'r hawl i gael cynnal refferenda ar tua deg ar hugain o bethau gan ganoli pob grym ym Mrwsel. Cadw democratiaeth yw diben ein cyd-Geltaid dros fôr Iwerddon, ond ddeil hyn ond tan Ionawr 2005 hyd yn oed os na ddaw'r un wlad arall yn aelod o'r U.E. yn y cyfamser. Dyma pryd yr aiff cynllun – neu **gynllwyn** – Schröder ymlaen – a Dyn a'n helpo ni.

Os bydd Aelod wlad o'r Undeb yn gwrthwynebu unrhyw ddeddf o eiddo'r U.E., hyd

yn oed poblogaeth y wlad honno, ei llywodraeth, ei senedd a'i Gweinidog ar Gyngor yr U.E. yn gwrthwynebu, fe fydd y ddeddf honno'n sefyll ac yn parhau'n gyfraith. Bydd cyfalaf, rhai darnau o bolisiau tramor a masnach, y dull o ariannu pleidiau gwleidyddol, rheolau cyllideb yr U.E., cyflogau ac amodau gwaith Aelodau Senedd Ewrop oll i ddod dan bawen Brwsel (er na fydd y dreth incwm o'u cyflogau). Bydd y dull o ddewis Arlywydd i'r Comisiwn ac o ddewis Comisiynywyr hefyd yn newid i'r dull pleidlais y mwyafrif (sef y gwladwriaethau mwyaf poblog – yr Almaen, Ffrainc a Lloegr). Mae hynny'n golygu na fydd prif weinidog gwlad o hyn ymlaen yn gallu sicrhau fod pwy bynnag mae'n ei enwebu'n Gomisiynywr dros ei wladwriaeth yn cael ei apwyntio i'r swydd. Mae Cyfamod Nice hefyd yn gadael i'r Arlywydd gymysgu ei Gomisiynywyr fel y gwna Prif Weinidog ei Gabined. Sylwer, pan ddaw'r U.E. yn undeb o saith gwlad ar hugain, fydd y gwleidydd llai – megis yr Iwerddon – ond yn cael enwebu comisiynywr yn eu tro ac felly'n colli cynrychiolaeth mae'n bur debyg. Er bod byddin fechan gan y 26 sir, bu'n niwtral 1939–45. Gyda Chyfamod Nice bydd yr U.E. yn rheoli fframwaith milwrol Undeb Gorllewin Ewrop, rhan o NATO, gan gymryd yn ganiatool weithredu'n uniongyrchol drosti ei hun. Buasai'r Cyfamod yn gosod i fewn adeiladwaith milwrol yng Nghyfamodau'r Undeb am y tro cyntaf. Nid oes ychwaith ddarpariaeth o fath yn y byd i gynnwys seneddau'r gwleidydd na'r Senedd Ewropeaidd i fod yn gyfrifol dros reoli a gweithredu'r fframwaith milwrol yma. Bydd y Pwyllgor Gwleidyddol yn cael ei ailennu'r "Pwyllgor Gwleidyddol a Diogelwch" ac yn derbyn cyfrifoldeb dros weithredu milwrol yr U.E. Mae'r Cyfamod ymhellach yn datgan fod militarïaeth fuan yn amcan gan yr Undeb. Dengys y saith atodiad i adroddiad yr Arlywyddiaeth y cyfeirir atynt yn y Cyfamod holl fanylion yr adeiladu milwrol yma. Sylwer nad oes ynddynt sôn o gwbl fod rhaid wrth fandad y Cenhedloedd Unedig i'r "Rapid Reaction Force" weithredu. Yn y trafodaethau, cyn ffurfio'r Cyfamod yn Nice, methodd llywodraeth Iwerddon gael protocol arbennig i barhau'n annibynnol mewn materion tramor a diogelwch, sef seiliau niwtraliaeth Iwerddon. Fe barodd y

methiant yma gryn siom a chwerwedd o fewn y sefydliad Gwyddelig. Fe drodd yn erbyn y Comisiwn Refferendwm yn chwyrn a'i gyhuddo o fod yn rhy ddiiniwed wrth gyflwyno'u dadl 'O blaid' neu 'Yn Erbyn'. Atgyfnerthasant yn fuan. Yn wahanol i ddeddfau normal cyfamodau, cadarnhodd arweinyddion yr U.E. y byddai amodau Cyfamod Nice yn sefyll. Fe fyddai'r gwleidydd eraill yn dal i gymeradwyo yn eu seneddau unigol (a'r un ohonynt ddigon hyl i gynnal refferendwm gan wybod na fyddent yn derbyn cefnogaeth o gwbl). Dywedwyd wrth Iwerddon am ail-bleidleisio ar yr un peth ar ôl i'r lleill ei gymeradwyo. 'Roedd tactegau'r llywodraeth Wyddelig – wedi dewis i beidio cynnal dadl a methu gwrthio Cyfamod Nice trwodd – oedd i osod Fforwm ar ei thraed i drafod dyfodol Ewrop a Chyfamod Nice yn benodol. Y sawl a bleidleisiodd 'O Blaid' fydd yn gweithredu! Dywedant y caiff y sawl a fwridd bleidlais lwyddiannus 'Yn Erbyn' wrandawriad. Gobeithio wir y bydd hyn yn foddion i liniaru'r filitariaeth (sef cael addewidion i'w cynnwys o fewn telerau rhyw Gyfamod arall i'r dyfodol). Felly trawodd y Gwyddelod ergyd dros ddemocratiaeth a heddwch o fewn yr U.E., dros y gwladwriaethau o'i mewn, a thros genhedloedd di-wladwriaeth – fel Cymru – o'i mewn, a thros aelodau newyddion i ddod pwy bynnag y bônt. Dylid parchu barn pobl Iwerddon, rhoi Cyfamod Nice o'r neilltu, a chael cynnal trafodaethau pellgyrhaeddol am y math o Ewrop mae pobl Ewrop am gael –. Undeb sydd am barchu democratiaeth a heddwch ac sydd yn diogelu'r gwleidydd bychain. Bydd yr hynaf yn ein mysg yn dwyn ar gof sut oedd Ewrop yn nhridegau'r ganrif ddiwethaf gyda'r Almaen yn ymarfogi. Mae wrthi eto. Rhaid rhoi gwardd ami y tro hwn neu bydd y Bedwaredd Reich yma, a heb inni ddeall. Oni ddylai'r Ffrancwyr a'r Saeson glosio er mwyn ffrwyno'r Almaen? Onid dyma'r ateb – ac atgoffa Ffrainc na ddaw'r Amerig i'w hachub hi'r trydydd tro o fewn can mlynedd? Chlywyd dim sôn am refferendwm yma o gwbl, paham? Mynnwn lais ar hyn. Bydd yn rhy hwyr ar ôl Ionawr 2005 os nad yw yn barod.

John Griffith Jones

Summary:

Ireland's rejection of the Nice Treaty was a blow for democracy and the rights of small nations in the European Union, but the German-led conspiracy for a centralised Europe has not ended and plans are afoot for the building up of the Fourth Reich.

On going to Press we received news of the sudden death of John Griffith Jones. Our sympathies to his widow. An obituary will appear in the next issue of Carn.

WALES IN BRIEF

Tories about turn?

The Tories in Wales, traditionally opposed to any self-government for the country, have officially changed their attitude to devolution. Not only do they accept the existence of the National Assembly, but they have also said that they want it to have more power! This means that the only main party now opposed to an extension of the Assembly's authority is the one in power, the Labour Party, though most Labour AC's favour more devolution. Ten years ago progress on self-determination in Wales was being held up by the governing Tories in London, while all the other parties represented in Wales favoured movement on devolution, and now we are in the same situation with another imperialist party.

Welsh to be allowed bilingual registration in England

In January it was announced that people living in Wales to have a bilingual birth or death certificate issued even when the event happens in England. Over recent years, so many people have been dismayed because they have been unable to register births and deaths bilingually outside Wales, and for many living near the border the local maternity hospital is in England (Chester, Oswestry etc.). This small concession was welcomed by language activists and even the language quango.

Nine Cymdeithas members arrested

Nine members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith were released without charge after spending 3½ hours in the cells at Rhydaman/Ammanford. They had been arrested following the occupation of a show house at the Cwrt y Cadno estate at Cwmgwili in Carmarthenshire. The members were Sioned Elin, Huw Lewis, Carys Llewelyn, Ffion Mai, Gwenno Teifi, Dylan Davies, Manon Wyn Jones, Jo Hill and Nest Llwyd Owain. The innovative protest was staged as part of the campaign against housing policy in Wales which is not directed at meeting the needs of local people and in Welsh speaking areas is aiding the decline in the Welsh language. G. Teifi said for the protesters "The development in Cwrt y Cadno, where the houses cost £130,000 to £200,000, is much too expensive for the local community and is proof of the need for a Property Act." The development had been approved without consideration of local needs and is priced in a range that locals cannot afford.

Ceredigion council picketed by Cymdeithas

On 1st March (St. David's Day) members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith picketed a meeting of unionist-controlled Ceredigion Council at a hall in Aberystwyth to protest against the council's cultural genocide intention of building 6500 new houses in Ceredigion over the next few years in order to increase the population. Such a population increase can only mean bringing in more English incomers. Since colons form already between a third and a half of the county's population, one suspects that this council actually want to make the Welsh-speakers a minority in Ceredigion.

Cymuned growing rapidly

Cymuned, the new pressure group formed to combat the *Mewnlifiad*, the mass influx of non-Welsh speakers (generally from England) into the remaining parts of Wales where Welsh remains the local language, has been expanding rapidly since its formation last year. It had nearly a thousand members by February, has built up a valuable network of political connections through contacts with members of the National Assembly and local councils and is continuing to form new branches. The newly formed Cardiff branch, as well as lobbying local AC's, is working with the Cymru branch of the League to organise public meetings in other Celtic countries about the colonisation threat.

National Assembly degraded

Unionist politicians and media commentators are trying to reduce the prestige of our National Assembly by leaving out the word National and referring to the establishment as the Welsh Assembly (as opposed to the East Anglian one?). In a similar tone the First Minister is regularly referred to as the First Minister of the Assembly rather than the First Minister of Wales (it is not known what the view of the incumbent of the post, Rhodri Morgan AS, is). The official name of our government is still Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru/ the National Assembly for Wales and the new unionist usage should be avoided (though the use of 'for' rather than 'of' in the above title is itself seen as a small unionist degradation since it implies that the Assembly has been given 'from above').

Plaid Slash Labour Majority in Ogwr

In a by-election for the London parliament seat of Ogwr (*anglice Ogmores*), caused by the death of the anti-devolution veteran Labour MP Ray Powell, Plaid Cymru reduced the Labour majority from nearly 25,000 to 5721, and confirmed its status as New Labour's only real challenger in the South Wales valleys. In one of Labour's safest seats in Britain, Plaid's candidate Bleddyn Hancock gained over 20% of the vote, more than the Liberal and Tory candidates combined, and was the only candidate of the main parties to increase his vote from the Westminster election last year.

Bleddyn Hancock said, "In only five years, New Labour's majority has been reduced in this seat by nearly 20,000 votes. If Plaid Cymru can do this to Blair in Ogwr, then we can challenge Blair in every valleys seat - and we intend to!"

More Pressure to Return Artefacts

The selfish retention by the British Museum and Library of artifacts taken from the Celtic countries has again come in for criticism. A member of the Welsh Assembly, Alison Halford, said that the Gold Cape of Mold which is at present held by the British Museum should be returned to Wales. The cape, a 4000 year old bronze-age artifact, was discovered in 1833 at Bryn-yr-Ellyllon, east of Mold town centre.

Recently the Culture Secretary announced increased funding to develop museums in Wales and it is felt that a site with enhanced security could exhibit the item and stimulate tourism. However, in a response which has echoes of the refusal of the British Library to return the ancient Manx manuscript the *Chronicles of the Kings and Man & the Isles* the British Museum say they are legally prohibited from repatriating the artifact.

This new development indicates that there is increasing disenchantment throughout the British Isles over the retention by institutions in London of items, which many believe have been removed from their rightful owners.

It seems that in Wales, since the establishment of the autonomous Assembly, politicians are willing to speak out and demand the return of treasured items. Perhaps their example will encourage Manx politicians to speak out also and demand the return of our oldest manuscript, which chronicles the early period of Tynwald's first millennium.

RapT

J B Moffatt

MEPs' Kurdish pledge

Representatives of the 20 million minority Kurdish population in Turkey will be invited to the National Assembly in Wales to press their case following an intervention this week in the European Parliament by the two Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales MEPs Eurig Wyn and Jill Evans.

In a joint statement from the European Parliament in Strassburg, the MEPs pledged solidarity to the Kurdish minority

and supported a motion for resolution before a parliamentary session this week.

Speaking from Strassburg, Eurig Wyn MEP said:

"There are clear similarities between the Kurdish cultural situation and our own in Wales. The Welsh language was effectively banned early in the last century, and the same is now true for the Kurdish language that is prohibited from the school curriculum. No Kurdish language or Kurdish-medium lessons are allowed."

They also stressed the possibility that



Eurig Wyn MEP

the Ilisu Dam project could still proceed in the country, leading to the displacement of 30,000 Kurdish families, and that the treatment of the Kurdish minority was in clear contravention of the Convention on Human Rights. 3,000 students are now detained by police for expressing their support of the Kurdish cause.

Jill Evans MEP, Plaid Cymru International Affairs Spokesperson, said:

"Following meetings with Kurdish women's groups, I am deeply concerned about the situation facing women in Turkey, not only because of the high percentage of prisoners who are women, but also because of violence against women in society in general."

"I will be visiting Turkey in April for meetings with women's groups, and human rights will be our prime concern."

CYMDEITHAS TARGET THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Three members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith were arrested in the early morning of the 8th February for breaking into the building belonging to the National Assembly in Aberystwyth in a protest directed against the Welsh government's failure to protect Welsh-speaking communities or Welsh-speakers' rights. They were Vice-chairman Huw Lewis from Aberystwyth, who has since become the new Chairman of Cymdeithas, Hedd Gwynfor and Manon Wyn.

On the 20th February the new chairman, Huw Lewis, and his predecessor, Branwen Evans, were both before Aberystwyth magistrates charged with criminal damage. Huw as a result of the above protest and Branwen as a result of action against Somerfield during the 9th February rally. In his statement H. Lewis said for Cymdeithas *"This is a critical time for the language with the Culture Committee's report drawing to an end. If they are serious about tackling the problems facing Welsh, the report must call for definite measures like a Language Act and a Property Act. We constantly hear of the good will existing towards the language, and that needs to be built upon to ensure meaningful linguistic rights in Wales"*

RapT

A BAD TIME FOR BRITAIN'S WONDER JET

We have learned that another North Wales based RAF Hawk jet trainer was involved in a landing accident just hours before the accident on February 16th, an aircraft crashed at Caergeiliog near RAF Valley on Anglesey.

The Caergeiliog incident involved a Hawk T1A, which was destroyed as the aircraft was approaching RAF Valley after encountering engine trouble. The pilot suffered back injuries when he ejected. His aircraft crashed and burst into flames just yards from a farmhouse, the occupants were fortunately away at the time.

In the earlier incident on February 15th a Hawk T1 crashed at Llanbedr airfield and sustained substantial damage - apparently the nose-wheel was still retracted when the aircraft touched down.

It is not only in RAF service that the Hawk is encountering difficulties. On January 14th this year a Kuwait Air Force Hawk trainer also suffered undercarriage problems and was badly damaged. Also in the Middle East two Saudi aircraft collided and crashed whilst coming in to land at their base in February. Meanwhile, even further east another two Hawks this time belonging to the Indonesian Air Force crashed near an air base on east Java. An Indonesian Air Force Chief said the aircraft "experienced total loss" while in routine practice and crashed. Paradoxically, many of the Indonesian crews trained at bases in N. Wales

After the latest two incidents in N. Wales the RAF / MOD again rejected concerns expressed by the Celtic League about the aircraft's record. Almost forty have now crashed in RAF service since 1982.

The MOD is extremely defensive about any criticism of the aircraft's records. The plane has been a winner particularly in the field of export sales. Only recently South Africa signed up to a 1.5 billion pounds deal. However, Britain's export 'wonder jet' has had a bad first quarter in 2002 and our concerns about its operation by the RAF over the Celtic countries remain!

J.B. MOFFATT

40 years on, Cymdeithas return to Pont Trefechan

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg marked the 40th anniversary of its founding on the 9th of February with a rally at Trefechan bridge in Aberystwyth, the site of Cymdeithas's first ever protest in 1962, followed by a march through the town in support of the two main campaigns for a Deddf Iaith Newydd, a new law to give Welsh-speakers the right to live their lives through Welsh particularly in relation to the business sector, and a Deddf Eiddo, a Property Act which would give authorities in Wales the right to control the sale of housing and thus the mass-immigration of English-speakers which is turning the Welsh-speaking community into a diaspora.

The 300-400 members marching through the town stuck posters on the offices of Ceredigion council in protest at their intention to build 6500 new houses in the county for mainly-English incomers. We then proceeded to the Halifax bank (whose Welsh service is deficient, like all the other banks) on which slogans were painted and two members, Angharad Clwyd from Llanfihangel ar Arth and Gwenan Schiavone from Pandy Tudur, were arrested. The march went on to Somerfield's supermarket where English-only signs were painted and retiring Cymdeithas chairman Branwen Evans and Ffion Mai from near Pencader were arrested. The final protest was at the Kwiksave supermarket where dozens of members entered the stores filling trolleys with goods from the shelves which blocked up the aisles, putting 'Cymraeg!' stickers on the English-only notices and blowing whistles, effectively bringing the store's business to a halt. This protest was particularly effective in attracting publicity to the need for a new law to force companies like Somerfield to respect the Welsh language.

RapT



Éire



Gael-Taca i gCorcaigh

Níor tharla riamh gur fhás aon ghluaiseacht ná aon chreideamh agus níor díoladh riamh aon earraí as a stuaim féin. I gcónaí tá gá le heagrú, bolscaireacht, poiblíocht agus é déanta go proifisiúnta. Tá gá le teangmháil rialta le daoine de gach sórt, chun iad a threorú agus a mhealladh agus a lúbadh i dtreo áirithe. I bhfocal amháin, tá gá le 'margaíocht' is cuma cad i an chúis nó cad é an t-earra.

Más féidir le Muintir Coca-Cola na céadta míle canna Coke a dhíol in Éirinn gach seachtain – agus cad tá iontu i ndáiríre ach uisce, siúcra, dathú, aicíd agus caifeín – is é an mhargaíocht is cúis leis sin. Níl aon mhíniú eile air.

I gCorcaigh, tá Gael-Taca ag déanamh traen-iarracht modhanna nua mhargaíochta a úsáid maidir le chur chun chinn na Gaeilge. Tuigtear do Ghael-Taca go bhfuil sé thar a bheith tábhachtach go mbeadh an Ghaeilge le feiscint os comhair agus i measc an phobal mar teanga bheo. Agus tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach go mbeidh seans ag páistí scoile an Ghaeilge a fheiscint taobh amuigh den seomra ranga agus go speisialta aitheanta ag ghnóthaí tábhachtacha cosúil le na bainc. Sin é an fáth go mbíonn an t-eagraíocht i gcónaí ag iarraidh aitheantas don Ghaeilge do comhluchtaí agus ghnóthaí de gach sort. Le roinnt blianta anuas, tá cheist na Gaeilge á ardú le toglaithe maidir le hainmneacha i nGaeilge a chur ar eastáit tithíochta in ionad ainmneacha gránna cosúil le 'Tiffany Downs', 'Westminster Lawns', 'Radcliff Hall' agus mar sin de.

An rud suimiúil ná go bhfuil ag eiri go geal leis an bhfeachtas seo agus anois tá tuairim is 15 toglaithe i gCathair agus Ceantar Chorcaí ag glacadh le hainmneacha i nGaeilge. Tá seirbhís saor ag Gael-Taca chun cabhrú leis na toglaithe. Déantar scrúdú ar an suíomh agus ansin moltar ainmneacha atá oiriúnach do stair, cultúr agus fiú dúlra an cheantair. Mar thoradh ar seo, tá anois ainmneacha álainn agus oiriúnach le feiscint ar scéimeanna tithíochta nua. Ainmneacha cosúil le 'Lios na Gréine', 'Ard Dara', 'Cois Trá', 'Taobh na Coille', 'Dún Eoin', 'Traonach', 'Cluain Órga' agus a thuilleadh nach iad.

Maidir leis an airneáil ghnótha, tá sé coitianta anois Gaeilge a fheiscint taobh amuigh de tithe tábhairne agus siopai, ní



An Ghaeilge taobh amuigh de siopai i lár Cathair Chorcaí.

amháin i gceantar na Cathrach ach tríd an Chontae ar iad.

Déantar cúram speisialta do ghnóthaí tábhachtacha cosúil leis na Bainc aon uair atá craobh nua de bhainc a thógáil nó á dheisiú.

Pléitear ainm i nGaeilge láithreach leis an Bhainisteoir agus leis an Oifig Réigiúnda. Níl aon fhadhb nó chuir i gcoinne ó thaobh na baince de agus mar thoradh ar sin, tá 'Banc Uladh' suas ar gach ceann de 4 craobhacha den Bhanc i gCathair Chorcaí agus anois, tá Banc na hÉireann ag glacadh leis an ainm i nGaeilge chomh maith leis an ainm i mBéarla.

Dar le Gael-Taca, táimid ag brú ar doras oscailte maidir le chur chun chinn na Gaeilge ach gan amhras caithfear an mhargaíocht a dhéanamh.

Ba chóir a luath freisin go bhfuil ana dul chun chinn déanta ag 'Gaillimh le Gaeilge' sa Chathair sin agus iad ag úsáid na modhanna margaíochta céanna le Gael-Taca.

'Sé tuairim Gael-Taca go bhféadfai ana dul chun chinn a dhéanamh maidir leis an Teanga Naisiúnta dá mba é go mbeadh an Foras Teanga sásta gníomhú le Oifig agus Córas Mhargaíochta ón ceanncheathrú atá acu i mBaile Átha Cliath agus comh-oibriú le heagraíochtaí mhargaíochta cosúil le Gael-Taca agus Gaillimh le Gaeilge tríd an tír uilig.

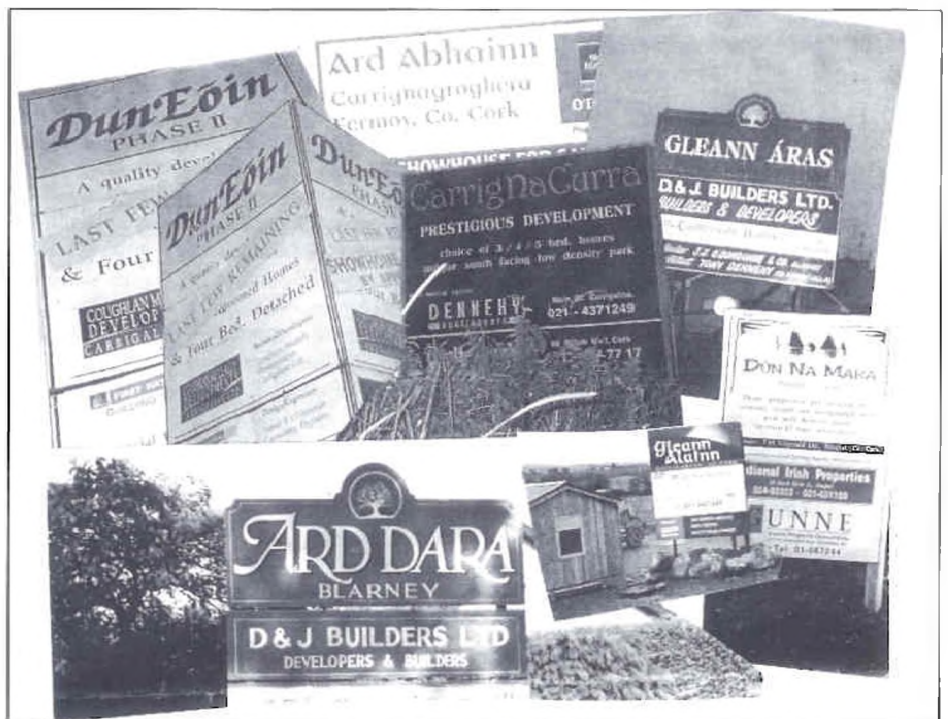
Tá ré nua i ndán ní amháin don Ghaeilge agus do teangacha Cheilteacha eile má ghlactar leis go bhfuil modhanna margaíochta nua aimsearach ní amháin tábhachtach ach riachtanach.

Pádraig Ó Cuanacháin

SUMMARY

Pádraig Ó Cuanacháin and Gael-Taca in Cork believe that the reason why the Irish revival has not succeeded as well as it should is the failure by Irish Language Organisations to understand the importance of marketing.

However, Gael-Taca with the financial support of Roinn na Gaeltachta, is involved in some very interesting pioneering efforts in Cork City and are hopeful that other organisations will follow their example.



Roinnt des na ainmneacha i nGaeilge de toglaithe i gCathair Chorcaí.

LANGUAGE NEWS

Language Bill at last

In April the long awaited Bill on Irish language rights was published – the Bill is curiously titled the Official Languages Bill (Equality) 2002. The Bill is structured to give equal rights to Irish and English in Parliamentary Affairs, Acts of the Legislature, Administration of Rights and in the services Public Bodies provide to the public at large. A Language Commissioner is proposed but most of the responsibilities of the state system are contained in the equality schemes.

The Minister for the Gaeltacht is given the power to prepare guidelines to ensure equal treatment in provision of services from State bodies and the methods under which those bodies must fulfil their obligations. The Minister can demand such schemes and the role of the Commissioner is to monitor these schemes. It is under these schemes that most of the responsibilities of the State bodies with regard to service for Irish speakers fall. These include the requirement to take account of the Minister's guidelines, the need to take public recommendations into account, the need to ensure they have sufficient fluent speakers to provide services in Irish, the need to provide any particular language requirements necessary to provide services in Gaeltacht areas, the need to ensure equality for those who wish to avail of services through Irish and defining the methods for implementation of their responsibilities.

The Bill is far too dependent on the exercise of the powers of the Minister when provisions could have been included in the Bill itself. Many a Minister for the Gaeltacht had little enthusiasm for his remit. Another weakness of the Bill is that while it allows the Minister to require a State body to provide an implementation scheme it leaves the particular bodies to be chosen by the Minister instead of defining them.

State bodies will have to use both languages on their stationary (will this mean all application forms, licences etc must now be bilingual?) and publish specific publications bilingually i.e. annual reports, financial statements etc. Any citizen will have the right to use the language of his/her choice in any Court, this will apply to witnesses also and simultaneous translation must be provided. The Bill however does not state clearly anywhere that Gaeltacht courts must operate through Irish.

While this Bill contains positive elements there is much room for improvement particularly with regard to the basic responsibilities of the State bodies and there is too much dependence on the Minister for implementation. A glaring omission is the absence of any provision with regard to the private sector. Many of the State bodies are threatened

with privatisation but even apart from that large private companies should be subjected to the same requirements on language equality.

Foras na Gaeilge have expressed severe reservations about the Bill in its present format and have objected to the title of the Bill. They have expressed fears that as now framed it may even reduce the Constitutional status of the language and take from some of the positive Court decisions on the status of the language in recent decades.

Gaeltacht Commission Report

When setting up the Gaeltacht Commission over two years ago the then Minister for the Gaeltacht, Éamon Ó Cuív, claimed that its establishment was as significant a step as the establishment of the Údáras na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Authority). Radio na Gaeltachta or Telefís na Gaeltachta.. It was charged with examining the position of the Irish Language in the Gaeltacht (perilous, in the opinion of many in the language movement who had watched the continual shrinkage of the number of Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht over the decades, estimated to be only about 20,000 by 2000), the efficiency of the policies of State bodies operating to maintain and promote the language in the Gaeltacht, the effect of policies of others (sport, media, tourism etc) on the language and planning matters. It was to make recommendations and prepare an action plan to ensure provisions of services through Irish in the Gaeltacht, to persuade Gaeltacht communities of the importance of the language and suggest means to strengthen and expand Irish within the Gaeltacht regions.

The Commission spent its first year holding a series of public meetings in Gaeltacht areas and receiving submissions from a variety of interested bodies and organisations. These were published and they contained a wide-ranging number of recommendations from individuals and organisations. Amongst these were proposals to transfer the powers of the Local Authorities (i.e. the County Councils) with regard to planning and housing to the Údáras, to recognise the Gaeltacht as a special administrative region for education, housing, infrastructure and health, to establish a special Teachers Training College for the Gaeltacht and Gaelscoileanna and many suggestions relating to the boundaries of the Gaeltacht.

Finally in April details of the Gaeltacht Commission report appeared in the press. The principal recommendations are:

- The immediate enactment of a Language Bill, which would provide services by right in Irish in the Gaeltacht and to the Irish speaking community.

- The provision of Education and Training across all levels which would give prime place to Irish as the first language in the Gaeltacht
- The achievement of the status of a working language in the European Union, for Irish
- The provision of information and publicity in the Gaeltacht, in the country and outside it, which would emphasise the importance of the Irish language.
- The provision of a dedicated Third Level Unit, funded by the Higher Education Authority, for socio-linguistics and (Irish) language planning.
- The defining of a Government policy which would confirm the reestablishment of Irish as a national language.
- That a National Plan for the language with specific targets, which would demonstrate the role of the Gaeltacht in the national effort, be prepared and implemented.
- That all aspects of development and life of the Gaeltacht be supportive of the policy and plan inclusive of:
 - A physical plan in support of language policy and plan.
 - Promotion of a broad programme of enterprise development amongst the Gaeltacht community.
 - Every development to be language friendly and language centred.
 - Provision of both social and technological infrastructure for the Gaeltacht regions.
- That State services be provided efficiently through Irish to ensure their sustainability.
- That the Language Act confirms the right of individuals to services in Irish and to ensure this that the position of a Language Commissioner be provided for.
- That all public and private bodies functioning in the Gaeltacht must publish and implement language policies in relation to language courtesy and that without this funding would not be forthcoming.
- That all State offices located in the Gaeltacht operate through Irish and have Irish as their normal working language.
- That a model be created for industrial development using new directions in industry and research and development. In this way an employment base will be developed from the language industry, information technology, the social economy, recreation, arts, education and cultural tourism..
- That a sustainable development policy be agreed which would direct development expenditure in those fields towards the stronger language areas.
- That cross area partnerships be founded between the stronger Gaeltacht areas and the weaker ones..
- That Language Planning on a national level be established based on best international practices and that
 - Sufficient personnel with the appropriate skills to operate the system be provided.

- A Policy and Action Plan with specific targets be published every five years and an independent research and monitoring system be provided.
- That an executive structure as follows be established:
 - i An independent Board of Commissioners (five at most) with legislative support and the authority to ensure implementation of the State Plan for Irish and the Gaeltacht. The Board would report to the Dail each year on implementation measures and on the State Plan. The Board would also confirm or annul the status of Gaeltacht areas based on information from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI, see iv below) or other suitable sources.
 - ii The named Minister and his Department (Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) will be responsible for Policy and Planning. This will be done in consultation with stakeholders taking account of the assessment system and research from a dedicated division of the ESRI. The Minister will publish a National Action Plan every five years.
 - iii A restructured Gaeltacht Authority will execute the Plan in the Gaeltacht while Foras na Gaeilge will implement it in the rest of the country.
 - iv A special division of the ESRI will be founded which will assess, monitor and



Éamon Ó Cuív, who as Minister for the Gaeltacht in 2000, set up the Gaeltacht Commission.

research Irish/Gaeltacht policies of the State.

- Work under way as part of LEADER, ADM partnerships and other National and European programmes should be brought under the Gaeltacht Plan.
- Proper financial provision should be provided to execute the Plan.

At the time of writing the full report has yet to be published but it can be seen that while there are many worthwhile recommendations they are hardly of the revolutionary nature presaged by Minister Ó Cuív at the launch of the Commission. The fact that many relate to the actions of State bodies themselves indicate how poorly the Gaeltacht was served by State Departments over the decades and the hypocrisy and political expediency involved. It is understood that the Report is very critical of State bodies and policies or rather lack of policies and understanding. If the recommendations were to be implemented there could be a significant improvement however the initial reaction of the Minister for the Gaeltacht was hardly encouraging. The real fear of the Irish language community is the lack of a political will to adopt and implement the recommendations and the real possibility that like many other reports it will be left on the shelf to gather dust. The report is due to be launched officially at the end of May.

Coláiste na nGael

- Coláiste na nGael are organising this year's **International Festival of the Irish Language** in The Hague, Netherlands, September 6th – 8th, 2002. Musicians, writers and teachers from all over Europe will descend on the Netherlands for this friendly and interesting event. For a free 8-page bilingual booklet about the festival contact Christy Evans at address given below.
- On the 12th / 13th October 2002, there is a weekend college in Basingstoke Irish Centre, in Hampshire.
- **Lá Gaelach**, Irish Language Activity Day, will take place on the 2nd November in Donegal House in the pretty cathedral town of Lichfield, Staffordshire.
- **Mar eolas duitne:**
 - A new guide to the Irish Language courses for adults in the Gaeltacht.
 - The resurgence of the Irish language in Britain continues. (See picture) Forty-four students attended a three-

day programme of classes, music and walks in the Derbyshire Peak District.

- For further information about any of the above, contact: Christy Evans,

Shenfield High School, Alexander Lane, Shenfield, Essex, CM15 8RY.

Tel: 01277 210 131;

Fax: 01277 266 422;

Email: shs@shenfield.essex.sch.uk



Irish speakers in London: Deidre Finn, Jackie Quirk and Cáit Woods

The NICE 2 Scandal

The new Irish Government proposes to ask the people to change the Constitution in exactly the same way in Nice 2 as in Nice 1, to permit the Nice Treaty to be ratified. At the EU summit in Seville on 20 June 2002 the Irish Government intends getting a political Declaration on neutrality from the other EU States to the effect that Ireland can remain neutral if the EU goes to war. This Declaration will not be legally binding, or be part of Nice. It will not alter or affect the treaty one iota. So it is the same Treaty we are being asked to vote on again. The Government has already insulted the Irish electorate before our EU partners by failing to insist that the Treaty be renegotiated following our rejection of it last year. They now seem bent on making a laughing stock of us in the EU and internationally by trying to induce us to say Yes this autumn to exactly the same Nice Treaty as we said No to last year. What will people think of the Irish if they are so easily taken in? Unlike a Declaration, a Protocol is legally part of a Treaty, and negotiating it would require a conference of all EU States and the reopening of the Nice Treaty in proper renegotiations.

The Government has failed in its constitutional duty by not insisting on this, as it could have done, and trying to fob us off with empty Declarations. Therefore the only way to make the Government do its constitutional duty and stand by the Irish people's rejection

of Nice 1, is to reaffirm that rejection by an even bigger No in Nice 2 than last year's 8% No majority. This is why in Nice 2 last year's Yes-side voters, as well as the many people who did not vote at all, should come out to vote No to teach the Government and other politicians the ABC of democracy - that, whether it suits them or not, they must respect and abide by the people's democratic vote.

In a further example of contempt for the people and to make it easier to reverse the result of Nice 1, the Government removed from the statutory neutral Referendum Commission the function of informing citizens what the No-side and Yes-side arguments might be. In Nice 1 the Government gave the Referendum Commission £2.5 million of public money to disseminate information on the Treaty. So there were plenty resources devoted to telling citizens about Nice. To ensure that there will be no public money behind the No-side arguments in Nice 2, the Government pushed an amendment to the Referendum Act through all stages in the Oireachtas in one day on 14 December 2001, with one day's notice to the opposition. This was done on the eve of the Dail rising for the Christmas holidays, when there was likely to be minimal attention by the media or public to such a drastic change in the referendum rules, and no time for properly discussing it in the Dail.

Pan Celtic Games 2002

The 2002 Pan Celtic Games will be hosted in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. It will be the first time Ireland has organised the event.

Up to 700 participants from the delegate nations are expected to attend the week-long event.

Participating Celtic nations will include Ireland, Brittany, Isle of Man, Scotland, Cornwall and Wales, also Asturias, Galicia and north Portugal will attend.

The idea of the Celtic water sports was developed in 1994 by a group of enthusiasts in Brittany. The games will be marked by a major week-long cultural event which will encompass parades, pageants, music, dance and drama.

ICCL SLAM SPECIAL COURT PROVISIONS

There have been renewed concerns about the integrity, in Human Rights terms, of the Special Criminal Court established in Ireland under the Offences Against the State Act (OASA).

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) has expressed concerns about the non-jury Court system (The Herdman Committee) and has called for its abolition. It is also being suggested that the composition of the Committee was structured in such a way that the enquiry was unbalanced. The ICCL remarked that it was "not insignificant" that nine of the 14 members of the Herdman Committee were civil servants, all of whom recommended retention of the Courts.

Over a year ago the Celtic League voiced similar concerns to those currently articulated by the ICCL. With the ceasefire in the North and moves to enshrine Human Rights provisions domestically many had hoped that OASA would be scrapped and there would be a return to the ordinary rule of law. However, instead of reforming OASA the Irish government have strengthened its provisions.

If there is one lesson that both the Irish and British government should have learned over the past thirty years it is that the application of unsound law leads to unsound convictions.

Recently the Irish government established a Human Rights Commission. This was a positive development. However, whilst the State has to resort to dual standards of justice and ignores criticism by both internal and international rights bodies it can only be said to be paying lip service to Human Rights.

J B Moffat

Gains for Sinn Féin and The Greens

The recent general election in the Irish Republic produced some results not expected by the political pundits. There were many cliff hangers and a number of recounts with some long standing TDs losing their seats, including a former Tánaiste and Labour Party leader and a former Fine Gael leader. Fianna Fáil (FF), the outgoing main Government party, increased their vote and number of seats and came close to gaining an overall majority. The Fine Gael (FG) vote collapsed with a corresponding loss of 23 seats. The Labour Party lost seats too. The Progressive Democrats (PDs) gained seats, ensuring they would once again be in Coalition with Fianna Fáil.

The Green Party (GP) increased their number of seats from one to six with their vote going up from 2.8% in 1997 to 3.85%. Sinn Féin increased their representation from one to five TDs and their vote from 2.5% to 6.5%. There was also an increase in the number of Independents with quite a number of community-based representatives being elected.

The final results for the 166 seat Dáil are as given below:

FF	FG	Lab	PD	GP	SF	Others
82	31	21	8	6	5	13

At the time of writing Fianna Fáil and the PDs are negotiating on policies but the outcome is likely to more of the same with the PDs pushing for privatisation and both parties likely to agree, despite election promises, on cutbacks and fiscal rectitude.



Trevor Sargent, Leader of the Green Party, which made significant gains



NOWODHOW DA RAG ASWONNVOS AN YETHOW KELTEK YN AMERIKA DEGHOW

Yma bagas a dhus dhiwysek ow kul lavur meur ha splann rag ledanhe aswonnvos an yethow keltiek yn Amerika Deghow. Nyns yw pur es aga lavur. Res yw dhyn perthi kov a'n studh erbysek a-dhiwedhes yn Argentina. Gwrys yw an bagas ma a dus an wiasva Almargen (www.almargen.com.ar) ha'n Liga Celta Argentina (Kesunyans Keltiek Argentina).

Yn mis Me y fydh synsys kesusulyans yn Buenos Aires (pennsita Argentina) yn gwari-va a-vri Paseo la Plaza yn kres pennsita Argentina a-dro dhe'n yethow keltiek. Res yw dhyn perthi kov bos kemmyniethow keltiek meur yn Argentina y'ga mysk Albanyon. Gwydhyli ha Kembroyon. Ordenoryon an kesusulyans a vydh Pablo Rodríguez Leirado (pennskriker Almargen), Manuel Castro (lywydh an Kesunyans keltiek Argentina ha pennrewler bagas pib galythiek Buenos Aires), Gabriel Cortés, Higinio Martínez Estévez ha Mercedes Giuffrè.

Hendasow Pablo ha Manuel a dheu dhiworth Galythi. Redys vydh tekstow a-dro dhe bub yeth keltiek ha yn kever keltiek kemmyn po keltiek koth, aga istori, aga heyndir ha'ga gnas. An tekstow a vydh lennys gans leverys an yethow ma genesik a Argentina. Rag ensampel : Guillermo Santana Mac Kinlay a wra lenna an tekst yn kever y vammmyeth, an Gwydhelek Alban, Maria James a wra redya an tekst yn kever an Kembrek...

An tekst yn kever an yeth Kernewek a vydh redys gans Manuel Castro kyn na vydh skrifys ganso mes gans den arall dhiworth Galythi, h. y. agas gwas, ow honan. An keth tra a hwyrvydh gans an tekst yn kever an yeth Bretoniek. Redys vydh gans Pablo Rodríguez Leirado mes skrifys vydh gans den dhiworth Galythi, h. y. genev vy. Nyns eus kemmyniethow bretoniek na gernewek a-vri yn Argentina.

Amkan an kesusulyans ma yw ledanhe aswonnvos an yethow keltiek y'ga mysk

Kernewek yn Argentina ha ri korsow Kernewek dre Spaynek dre lyther po der an gwias, dell yw ordenys seulabrys gans korsow Kembrek. Gwydhelek ha Gwydhelek Alban yn Buenos Aires.

Summary

Our friends in Argentina are working hard in order to give a better knowledge of the Celtic languages in their country, in spite of the recent difficult economical situation of Argentina. It is important to remember that there is a large Celtic community in Argentina. Apart the Galician community, we find large Scottish, Welsh and Irish communities.

A conference organized mainly by Pablo Rodríguez Leirado, Manuel Castro, Gabriel Cortés, Higinio Martínez Estévez ha Mercedes Giuffrè about the Celtic languages will be held in a prestigious theater in the centre of Buenos Aires. Texts about Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh will be read by Argentinian-born native speakers. Only the texts about Breton and Cornish will not be read by native speakers as these communities are not represented in Argentina.

The main goal of this conference is to give the opportunity to the Argentinian to have a better knowledge of the Celtic languages and to enable them to learn Cornish through Spanish through the web or by correspondence as Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh courses are already provided in Buenos Aires.

José CALVETE

DERYVAS AN GWASK A DHALLETH (Kernowek)

Cowethas dyllans an yeth Kernowek Spyrys a Gernow yw pys da dhe davethly adro dhe gensa dyllans yn Kernowek Testament Noweth dyen. Re bue treyllys gans Dr Nicholas Williams, scolhyk Keltiek usy owth ober y Wordhen. Publysians an Testament Noweth a vue a roweth specyal yn muer a bowyow, ow ry dhe'n tavas an worship a vos consydrys gwyw dhe uttra ger Dew. Trelyans Martin Luther ha Bybel somper an Mytern Jago a asas aga dew verk andyleadow war an yethi Aliraynek a'n eyl tu ha war an Sawsnek a'y gela.

Y fue kenscryf an treylians ma fundys war an text Greca warbarth gans nebes treyliansow yn Sawsnek modern ha versyons yn dyvers tавosow Keltiek ynwedh. Wosa gorfenna y gensa versyon, an treilyer a'n danvonas dhe nyver a Gernowegoryon skentyl rag cafus aga thybyansow yn y gever. An ewnansow comendys gansans a rendras an treylians moy helavar hag esya dhe redya. Wosa henna an treilyer a sarchyas oll an textow Kernowek (Kernowek Cres hag Adhewedhes kefrys). An ran vrassa an re na yw textow Crystyon, gwaryow merkyl ha homyls, yn ensompel, hag yma devynnow mes a'n scripturs kefrys

yn lyes tyller ynnans. Yn fennough an treilyer a amendyas y versyon rag y hevelly orth an tylleryow ma yn textow coth. Kynth yw tra arnoweth an treylians Kernowek ma, yma sperys fresk ha teythyak an tавas tradycional apert war bub folen anodho.

An Testament Noweth ma a vydh gwres dhe savon pur uhel an pyth yw gwyw rag ger Dew. Bytegens, y fydh gwerthys dhe brys £15.95, (nyver ISBN 0 9535975 4 7), hag yn fordh ma ow cul dhe'n ger Dew yn Kernowek hegergh dhe Gernowegoryon a bub gallus ha pub pegans.

Nyns o possybyl dhe'n dyller gul yndella heb gweres arhansek dheworth lyes masoberor hag yma aga henwyn gorrys yn rol yn lyver.

Morans sodhagyl Testament Noweth a vydh sensys yn Eglos Vethodyst Resulyan ogas dhe Resrudh de Sadorn 30ves mys Merth dhe 3 uer. Heb mar yma galow colonnek dhyso jy dos ty dha honen po ken dhe dhanvon gescoweth, gans ynwedh, / po ken, gwas camera po fotografydh. An Treilyer Dr Williams a vydh ena.

Ny a grys publysians a'n kensa Testament Noweth Kernowek dhe vos men myldyr a vry yn ystory agan yeth ny hag y fydh gweres muer yn gordhyans der Gernowek. Heb dowt vyth an treylians a wra golusegy an Grystonyeth yn mesk an poblw Keltiek.

Summary

The Cornish-language publishing company Spyrys a Gernow is pleased to announce the publication of the first complete New Testament in Cornish. It has been translated by Dr Nicholas Williams, a Celtic scholar working in Ireland

The publication of the New Testament in any language has always been of crucial importance to dignify languages with the undeniable status of being worthy to express the word of God. Luther's German version of the Bible and the incomparable English of the King James Version left an indelible mark on their respective languages.

This New Testament will be produced to a very high standard as is befitting for the word of God. However it will be sold at a price of £15.95, (ISBN number 0 9535975 4 7), thus making the word of God in Cornish accessible to Cornish speakers of all abilities and all incomes.

*Spyrys a Gernow, Gordon Villa, Sunnynvale Road, Portreath, Redruth, Kernow/Cornwall, TR16 4NE. +44 1209 842394
spyrys@eurobell.co.uk*

*Michael Everson
(editor, Testament Noweth 2002)*

*Michael Everson *** Everson Typograph*

Inter-Celtic Meeting to Discuss Housing Crisis

Speakers from the Welsh Housing Campaign group Cymuned joined forces with Cornish Solidarity and a Cornish County Councillor at a public meeting in Penzance on 16th March 2002, in what was predicted to be an "important and potentially very useful meeting" by Malcolm Williams, Senior Lecturer of Sociology, at Plymouth University. The Function Room at the Yacht Inn, Penzance was packed with about 50 people, including many councillors, members of voluntary organisations and the public. The meeting was organised jointly by the Celtic League branches of Kernow and Cymru, to discuss the housing crisis that is affecting both nations.



Dr Seimon Brooks, Cymuned Spokesperson.

Cymuned, a grassroots community group that campaigns on behalf of Welsh-speaking communities in Wales for affordable housing, have had a great deal of success. Dr Seimon Brooks, Cymuned spokesperson, explained,



County Councillor Mark Kaczmarek.

"by holding a public meeting with Cornish Solidarity in Penzance, we hope to show that this housing crisis is one that is common to many parts of rural Britain. By building alliances with other parts of the British Isles, we will be stronger together as we lobby the politicians to tackle this problem."

Both Richard Angove of Cornish Solidarity and County Councillor Mark Kaczmarek, speakers at the meeting, argued that the meeting should be the start of further action to campaign for a fairer deal for local people, who are unable to afford housing.

Property developers, The Housing Foundation, sent representative Martin Page, who also addressed the meeting. He explained that affordability was an option for developers and that local people should be prioritised in the housing market.

Cornwall County Council is also very aware of the housing problem and all say they are committed to affordable housing policies. Its

emphasis though is to expand the market to include affordable housing and not to restrict the market to local people, which many believe would be the more feasible option.

Although the situations in Kernow and Cymru are not exactly the same, there are many overlaps. In both nations for instance, there is a large agricultural and tourism base to the economy, Objective 1 funding and, of course, our common Celtic cultural and linguistic heritage. The housing situation in Kernow however is worse than that in Cymru. For example, GDP in Cymru is 73% of the EC norm, whereas in Kernow it is only 66% and the house prices are much higher.

House prices have increased by an average of 85% in Cornwall and in some places, such as Liskeard by 107%. In some of the more popular areas the normal price of a house can be approximately £300 000, with average salaries being between £10-12, 000. The affordability level of rented accommodation is also low, with the lowest deciles of earners being only able to afford £58/week, but private lettings at this price are incredibly difficult to come by. Young single people and couples are worst affected, with many having to leave Cornwall because of the housing shortage, with its subsequent effect on Cornish identity.

More information about the Penzance meeting can be found on www.cymuned.com and www.eurolang.net

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot

Cornish Housing Campaign on track

On Saturday 18th May 2002, Cornish Solidarity organised a meeting in County Hall, Truro in an attempt to take the matter further. Representatives from potentially interested organisations in Cornwall were invited to air their views on the deepening housing crisis affecting Cornwall.

It was agreed that a working group would be set up to compile a document that detailed possible feasible solutions to combat Cornwall's spiralling housing crisis. Many calls were also made to begin working with other organisations outside of Cornwall, in a joint effort to campaign for legislation to be passed that ensures that local people are not forced out of the housing market. It was agreed that local people must have an equal right and opportunity to home ownership and that rented accommodation must become a cheaper and more available alternative.

A representative from Cornish Solidarity stated that:

'We believe that our best chance of success will be for the people of Cornwall to attempt to form an alliance with the areas of Britain that face similar problems to our own.'

The meeting was the first step in response to the public meeting organised by the Cornish and Welsh Branches of the Celtic League on Saturday March 16th 2002, in Penzance. – See above.

A housing discussion forum has been created on the Internet at www.cornishhousing.communityweave.org

Celtic Cornwall

Martin Sanders has designed a new web site called Celtic Cornwall. Martin has been involved with many campaigns within Cornwall and in 1998 at the age of 16 he became youth branch chairman for Mebyon Kernow. The Party for Cornwall. As well being involved with politics Martin is a student at the Falmouth School of Art where he is studying for his degree.

The Celtic Cornwall web site comes as a result of a project Martin produced for his degree. the web site aims to reflect and help a growing international Cornish community. In recent years many people from around the world have become increasingly interested in Cornwall's political and cultural situation within the Celtic community.

Martin describe the site saying, "Celtic Cornwall will aim to reflect the opinions of an international Cornish family, the project will enable members to publish their news and opinions on Internet through our site. Hopefully as a result the web site will become a wealth of opinions which complement as well as contrast and provide an interesting picture of Cornish life".

If you would like to find out more information about Celtic Cornwall you can visit it at <http://www.celticcornwall.com>.



SOYLEE BEEAL FEIRSHTHEY SY TRAA RY HEET

Er y gherid, hie mee gys Beéal Feirshtey dy loayrt mychione y Ghaelg ayns 'scoill-gheuree' va reaghit son sheshaght ennyssit Soylee Beéal Feirshtey 2008 (Imagine Belfast 2008). Shoh sheshaght va reaghey cheb Veéal Feirshtey dy ve ennyssit Ard-valley Oarpagh jeh Cultoor son y vleín 2008. Myr t'eh taghyrt dy memnick lesh inneaghtyn cultooroil myr shoh, cha hoig mee c'ed va goll er ram jeh'n traa! Va mee ayns Beéal Feirshtey rish tree ny kiare laa as son y chooid smoo jeh'n traa shen va mee marish daa ghooiney ta gobbraghey son Yernish, fer jeu ayns ollooscoill as y fer elley ayns ynyd chultooroil boayl ta bunscóill as ro-scoill (nursery school) Yernish. Y sleih va chebbal Beéal Feirshtey dy ve ennyssit Ard-valley Oarpagh jeh Cultoor, v'ad jeean dy hoilshaghey dy vod y daa heu cheet ry cheilley ayns yn ard-valley. Myr shen, v'ad laccal ny Gaeil dy ve goaill ayn chammah as Albíne-Ullee (Ulster Scots), ny h-ashooneyryn Yernagh chammah as ny unnaneyseyn. Rish ymmodee bleaantyn ta mish gindys cre'n fa t'ad gra 'ashooneyryn' rish y derrey heu as 'unnaneyseyn' ny 'leighaltee' rish y jeh elley. Nagh vel (row?) shoh ny chaggey eddyr ashooneyryn Yernagh as ashooneyryn Goaldagh? Agh, fy yerrey, hoig ny leighaltee nagh row Lunnin laccal ad arragh. Nish, ta kuse jeh ny leighaltee debejaghy dy chroo jarroo-enney (identity) fondagh dauesyn hene. T'ad laccal y seihll dy ve jeeaghyn orroo myr Albíne-Ullee as cha nee Yernee.

As va Soylee Beéal Feirshtey 2008 laccal y seihll dy ve jeeaghyn er Beéal Feirshtey myr boayl raad ta sleih smooineaghtyn mychione y traa ry heet, cha nee mychione y traa t'er ngoll shaghey. Sleih ta smooineaghtyn mychione y traa ry heet ayns Beéal Feirshtey, t'ad briaght cre'n sorch dy h-ard-valley vees ayn ayns 2008? Nod Beéal Feirshtey goll er caghlaa? Bee yn scarreydys (sectarianism) ayn son dy bragh? Cre'n ynyd vees ec Yernish? Cre'n ynyd vees ec Ulleeish, chengey Albíne-Ullee? Nod Beéal Feirshtey toilliu yn ennym jeh Ard-valley Oarpagh jeh Cultoor?

Hug Tom Paulin yn ard-loayrtys jeh'n scoill-gheuree (v'eh ny smoo goll rish leaght na loayrtys). She bard, leaghteyr, cremeyder as persoon-chellveeish Tom Paulin. My ta enney ec sleih er, s'cosoylagh dy dooar ad yn enney shen veih'n chlaare-chellveeish shen er BBC 2, 'Newsnight'. Ta Paulin dy men-

nick goaill ayn ayns 'Newsnight' oie Jeheiney, tra ta inchynee (intellectuals) myr eshyn gra reddynd dewil mychione loayryn t'ad er lhaih, ny filmyn as cloieyn t'ad er nakin. Sy chlaare shen er y gherid, haik Paulin dy ve corree agglagh tra dooyrt Germaine Greer nagh row ny sidooryn Goaldagh agh 'cooilceney yn currym oc' Doonaght ny Folley (Bloody Sunday). Myr shen, ta Paulin co-ennaghtagh rish ny poblaghtee, ga nagh noddagh oo gra dy nee poblaghtagh eshyn. She bard t'ayn, ny yei. Ayns Beéal Feirshtey yn vee elley, she Chengey Phobble yn Ard-valley (The Vernacular City) va ennym e leaght. Dooyrt eh cre cho scanshoil as t'eh dy ve geaishtagh rish chengey yn phobble - Baarle, Yernish, Ulleeish, as gagh chengey elley. Loayr eh mychione y scansh jeh Beéal Feirshtey daa chead blein er dy henney as ny smoo, myr ard-valley raad va sleih smooineaghtyn as screeu ayns aghtyn seyr. Va'n Ravloyd Frangagh feer scanshoil feiy ny cruinneey, Erskyn ooilley, v'eh scanshoil ayns twoaie Nerin. She Prostanee Yernagh chroo poblaghtys Yernagh, dy firrinagh, cur geill da ny h-eieyn oc hene as da eieyn haik noal veih'n Rank.

Chammah as Tom Paulin, loayr sleih elley (as mish ny mast'oc) mychione politickaght Yernagh as chengaghyn. Leaght ren mee clashyn, va shen currit ec Henry Patterson veih Ollooscoill Ullee. Loayr eshyn mychione y skian toshtal ayns cooishyn politickagh ayns twoaie Nerin. Ghow eh rish dy ren Coardail Jeheiney Caisht cur lesh sorch dy hee. Agh t'eh smooineaghtyn dy vel eh gaueagh dy vel y coardail shoh 'riojey' cooishyn as lhiettal gleashaghey er oi.

Dooyrt Henry Patterson dy vel Coardail Jeheiney Caisht cur dy chooilley pheigh ayns Nerin twoaie ayns tree possanyn: 'ashooneyryn', 'unnaneyseyn', as 'sleih elley'. T'eh smooineaghtyn dy bee eh doillee da sleih dy scapail veih ny lipaidyn shen. As t'eh shickyr dy nhegin daue scapail my vees 'politickaght chiert' goll er lhasaghey ayns Nerin twoaie: ta shen dy ghra, y skian toshtal noi'n skian jesh. Ta Patterson smooineaghtyn dy vel Coardail Jeheiney Caisht goaill rish scarreydys as cur er dy ve ny smessey.

Paart dy 'leih va geaishtagh rish Henry Patterson, cha row ad ayns coardailys rish. Fer jeu shen, dooyrt eh dy row lane bwooisal nagh row caggey jecan foast goll er ayns Nerin twoaie, ga dy row reddynd agglagh foast goll er jannoo ayns shen. As dooyrt fer elley nagh chreid eh dy row scarreydys cheet dy ve ny smessey.

Loayrtagh elley, va shen Mary Burgess veih Ollooscoill Notre Dame, Chicago, V'ish loayrt mychione politickaght chultooroil ayns Beéal Feirshtey roish as lurg da Nerin goll er rheynn (veih 1890 gys 1925). Dooyrt ee dy row ashooneyryn Prostanee ayns Nerin twoaie ec y traa shen. Agh cha row shen cooie da sleih va cur beaynchroo (making stereotypes) er yn daa heu: Catolee - ashooneyryn, Prostanee - leighalee. Ooilley yn stoo va screeut ec ny h-ashooneyryn Prostanee shoh ayns y twoaie, va neu-nhee jeant jeh ayns y twoaie - as ayns y jiass neesht. V'eh feer speeideilagh Nerin y seoltey er agh ennagh.

Va daa cheilidh reaghit son y scoill-gheuree shoh. V'eh baghtal ry akin dy row ad reaghit dy chur caa cooie da'n daa heu dy chloie yn kiaull oc ad yannoo ny daunseyn oc. Myr Manninagh, ghow mee soylley jeh ny ceilidhyn. Foddym toiggal dy row eh doillee ny keayrtyn da Yernee veih'n twoaie soylley y ghoail jeh gagh ayn ayns ny ceilidhyn shoh. Cha nel y cagey cho jeean, agh ta'n noidys foast ayn

Summary

A Manninman's view of a cultural event to help Belfast's bid to be named European Capital of Culture in 2008. The keynote address by Tom Paulin stressed Belfast's former tradition of free-thinking.

Brian Stowell

Time to Ratify Minority Languages Treaty

When the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages first appeared two or three years ago, a Government spokesman was reported by IoM newspapers as saying that the Manx Government would ask for the UK to ratify the treaty when the UK Government ratified the treaty itself. Well a year has passed since the UK ratified the treaty and as yet there's no sign of it being extended to the Isle of Man.

This treaty is not yet another one of those silly hits of legislation from Europe designed to keep small countries like ours down - the opposite in fact. In effect the treaty guarantees a fairly limited range of rights and services to minority and regional language speakers.

In the Isle of Man ratification will have little, if any, effect on the excellent provision for Manx already offered by the Government. The importance of the treaty is that it will provide a certain degree of security for the services already provided by Government making it more difficult for them to be cut in the future. So all in all it seems that its time that the Government asked the UK to extend the provisions of this relatively inoffensive treaty to the Isle of Man.

Census Confirms Significant Growth in National Language

For the first time in 80 years, more than 2 % of the population of the Isle of Man speak Manx. Provisional figures from the 2001 Census released by Trudy Culshaw of the Economic Affairs Division of Treasury show a strengthening in recent trends for strong growth in the numbers of people claiming fluency in Manx. The number of persons who can speak, read or write Manx is 1,689 (2.2% of the population) compared with 741 in 1991 (1%), 284 in 1971 (0.5%) and only 165 (0.34%) in 1961.

Perhaps the most encouraging news is that the strongest growth in numbers is in young people with 46% (or 784) of speakers under the age of 19. This represents a significant increase on the 147 (20%) under 19 year olds who were recorded as Manx speakers at the 1991 census. This shows very clearly the tremendous success of the Department of Education's development of Manx Gaelic over the past decade.

Recognising the importance that parents place on their children learning the national language of the Isle of Man, the Department of Education established optional Manx lessons as part of the Manx National Curriculum in 1992. These lessons were enthusiastically welcomed in to all but a few unenlightened schools and have proved to be extremely popular with parents and children.. In 1997 the Department strengthened its Manx language provision through the introduction of the TCG (GCSE equivalent) in Manx and of course the highlight of this year for the Manx language was the Department's establishment of the Manx Medium Class at Ballacottier, in conjunction with Mooijer Veggey.

Mooijer Veggey must also take some of the credit for the fourfold increase in under 19 year old Manx speakers. In the five years since it was established, Mooijer Veggey has provided preschool places for more than 200 children most of which will have been recorded as speakers in this census.

Breakdown of the provisional figures also shows that 1,301 speak, 914 read and 707 write Manx, out of the total 1,689 of people who were able to do one or other of these three. The full figures are expected to be released by the February sitting of Tynwald and further analysis will provide invaluable assistance to those trying to secure the future of our national language.

Manx National Heritage and the Manx Heritage Foundation's Manx Language Development Officer, Phil Gawne, welcomed the Census results but offered the following note of caution. "These figures show clearly what those of us working for the language already suspected, that parents and children

are keen to learn our national language. While the figures are a cause for celebration, it is important to remember that there remains only a handful of competent qualified teachers and development workers attempting to meet growing demands for Manx language services."

"Government has been very supportive of the development of Manx, particularly over the past five years, however, unless Government support continues to keep pace with the increasing demands the 2011 census may well present a much different story. Without proper investment in teacher training, parental support and resource development these tremendous successes recorded in the census, will prove to be short lived."

Phil Gawne
Yn Greinneyder

Knowledge of Manx Gaelic, that is those people who can speak, read or write Manx, stands at 2.2% of the population. The northern parishes of Bride and Jurby each have over 6.5% of the population with knowledge of Manx Gaelic. There is a noticeable increase from the 1991 Census when 0.9% spoke Manx Gaelic, 0.7% could read Manx Gaelic and 0.5% could write Manx Gaelic. This is compared to 2%, 1.2% and 0.9% respectively in 2001. These increases are in the main due to the efforts of the Department of Education's Manx Language Unit introducing Manx Gaelic more comprehensively into the Island's schools.

MANX GOVT. POLICY SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY DEVASTATING FOR MANX

Preliminary census figures show that the number of Manx born people as a percentage of the population continues to fall. The interim information indicates that only 36,755 of the resident population, 48.2 per cent, are Manx-born. Five years ago the figure dipped below 50% for the first time at 49.9 per cent.

The census last time did not provide detail of the percentage of the population who had both Manx born parents and grandparents. This group in percentage terms is considerably smaller (possibly as few as 10,000) and is identified by being denied entitlement to benefits under EU provisions relating to "employment or establishment", (residency)

Mann has traditionally been able to assimilate and balance those moving to the Island but levels of in-migration have never been on the scale now being endured.

The scarcely veiled policy of the Manx government, which is to further dramatically increase the number of in-migrants to the Island, means that the percentage of Manx people as a level of the overall population will nose dive over the next two decades.

Government policy to date has been negative as regards the indigenous population and the continuing economic trends mean that it will continue to be socially and culturally devastating for the Manx.

Bernard Moffatt

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE CHRONICLES ISSUE

British Museums have adopted a new code of ethics, which asserts that Museum curators should "respect the interests" of the communities from which objects of cultural value originate.

The new code is a tacit admission of the dubious nature of some of the past acquisitions that institutions such as the British Museum and others hold. The code urges these institutions to recognise that others may have a "stronger claim to certain items" than themselves.

Some have already interpreted the new ethical policy as providing a means to seek the return of artefacts looted and stolen around the world, which now reside in many of the major collections of British Museums.

The code, one would think, would also have implications for the claim of the Manx people to have the "Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles", held by the British Library, returned to the Island. However, in

an act of astonishing hypocrisy the new code will apparently only apply to new acquisitions. A spokesman for the British Museum said that whilst it will abide by the code it sees no likelihood of it leading to the handing back of parts of its existing collection.

Arguably the acceptance by British institutions of their past misdeeds in acquiring, sometimes in dubious circumstances, the antiquities of others does provide a window of opportunity.

The Manx government should end its prevarication on the Chronicles travesty and issue a measured but firm request for the return of the Chronicles from the British Library. They could perhaps suggest that the British Library "respect the interests" of the Manx community by returning for permanent display in our own National Museum our most important manuscript.

J.B.MOFFATT



Celtica



IS GREATER INTER-CELTIC POLITICAL ACTION AND CO-OPERATION NOW POSSIBLE?

Could a Celtic Council with Teeth be Formed?

These are difficult questions to answer but the answer is probably a qualified yes. The Celts are notorious for infighting and inability to unite against outside threats. It was a civil war between British Celtic factions (in the Council of Londinium which governed Celtic Britain after the Roman withdrawal) which allowed the Anglo-Saxons to get a foothold in Britain back in the 440s', with yet another internal Irish war which allowed the Anglo-Normans to invade Ireland in the twelfth century while the Irish went on fighting each other, while more recent examples of Scotland being sundered by the Highland-Lowland split, bitter dialect divisions in Cornwall, the split between various factions in Brittany (leftwing, rightwing, pro-nationalist, anti-nationalist, etc.), the division between unionist and nationalist in Ulster where Protestant Scots-Irish planters and native Irish Catholics were skillfully played off against each other by London and in all six Celtic countries a sort of pro-assimilationist, anti-nationalist, don't rock the boat posture from what could be termed the local Celtic establishment, the local middle class and church bodies whether Catholic or Protestant.

New Unity and New Nationalism Dawning?

The situation has changed radically since the 1970's. From that period foreword began a revival of interest in minority languages and cultures, which as the socio linguist Joshua Fishman accurately put it "wasn't supposed to happen". However it has happened and today we find a broad consensus in support of the Breton language in all strata of Breton society for example which did not exist in the 1960's (when even many Bretons felt French alone was the ticket to economic survival and cultural progress) as well as an explosion of interest in the other five Celtic languages. This has had political consequences for the 18 million inhabitants

of the Celtic countries. Both Scotland and Wales voted yes in 1997 to the referendum question asking for more self government or devolution which created the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly and provoked calls for Breton and Cornish devolution. Over 50,000 signatures have been collected in favour of the Sened Kernow/Cornish Senate, raising the spectre for London of perhaps a revived Dumnonian state or even kingdom in southwestern Britain! - maybe even with designs on reconquering territory from the Saxons! Meanwhile in Brittany support for independence stands between about 25%-35% and most agree that the status quo in Brittany cannot last. The Manx Government while traditionally seen as a bastion of the establishment has made concessions to nationalists and allowed the introduction of the Manx language into the schools. It is true that internationally regional nationalism has been on the rise over the past two decades but the Northern Ireland conflict may have provoked soul searching in the other Celtic countries about what their real local identity was - and they began to look beyond their French and British passports. Also Margaret Thatcher's bloody minded prolongation of the conflict and misrule every where else which even provoked English miners into open revolt and alienated Scottish and Welsh voters who supported Labour not Thatcherite Conservatism all combined to form a milieu where Scottish, Welsh, Cornish and Manx nationalism became not only respectable but desirable alternatives to policies which were clearly designed only in the interests of England. The Ulster clash may have also caused Bretons to reevaluate Paris for what it is - an external and colonising force and to jettison much of the postwar baggage and guilt they had been carrying with them for forty years or so because of the misguided wartime collaboration with Nazi Germany of a small minority. Also it should be mentioned that with the emerging demographic shift to a Nationalist majority in Northern Ireland of about 50%-55% it is clear that the

status quo in Ulster isn't going to last either. In short England may have overreached herself by trying to hold on to Ireland for too long and may end up losing not merely all of Ireland but most of her other Celtic provinces as well.

Can Effective Inter-Celtic Political Cooperation Really Take Place?

As mentioned this is a difficult question to answer but as also mentioned the answer is a qualified yes. Firstly it has already occurred. In the post war almost Stalinist show trials of Bretons by the French authorities Welsh observers were able to establish the false and perjured accusations being made by the French against many Bretons. The Irish Government in turn granted asylum to many Bretons who might otherwise have faced the death sentence in France. Recently the Irish government has opened consulates in Cardiff and Edinburgh while the Scottish Nationalist Party executive leadership makes no secret of plans for close relations between an independent Scotland and the Irish Republic. The proposed British-Irish Council of the Isles clearly is not acceptable because of its exclusion of Brittany and inclusion of England.

A Celtic Council could either form itself along the lines of the Celtic League and consist of delegations from each of the six nations or it could aspire to attract official representatives from the Irish Government, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly, the Manx Government, the future Cornish Senate and the Breton Regional Council (which may soon give way to a more self governing Breton Assembly similar to the Welsh body). The second route is the more desirable because its representatives would be speaking for responsible and democratically elected bodies.

Such a Celtic council could like the Nordic Council (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland) coordinate a more united Celtic approach to issues such as neutrality, environmental concerns, human rights violations by the French and British authorities and possibly lend assistance to other small nations - offering perhaps early diplomatic recognition to an independent Basque state if Basque nationalists win their proposed referendum on independence and even recognition of a newly independent Québec under similar circumstances. Whatever form it might take an effective Celtic Council is now more than ever a real possibility - and perhaps even necessity for the Celtic peoples.

Diarmuid Ó Néill
ICDBL Canada

Mec Vannin Calls For Stringent Enforcement Of Work Permit System

Mec Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Party, has written to the Chief Executive of the Isle of Man Department of Trade and Industry calling for work permit regulations to be reinforced in the light of a recent history of lack of enforcement, attempts to by-pass regulations and to actually officially abandon the work-permit regulation. The letter is reproduced below:

Dear Sir,

The Annual General Meeting of Mec Vannin, held in March this year, passed the following resolution: "This AGM views plans to review work permit legislation with extreme concern when viewed in conjunction with the new Residency Act."

Our concern was obviously well founded with the announcement of plans to betray the Manx people with the effective abandonment of work-permit regulation to let employers practice cronyism and anti-Manx discrimination on an official basis.

Needless to say, we are relieved that there are still sufficient people of character in Tynwald to force the abandonment of these proposals but it is, nonetheless, extremely disturbing that the proposals were made in the first place. The question must be asked (and hopefully answered): Just whom was the Department of Industry attempting to represent with these proposals? It should be self-evident that it is in the National Interest to increase regulation at times of economic boom to prevent a runaway economy with its attendant negative affects which even UK political advisors have managed to identify: An unsustainable working population, housing shortages and spiralling housing costs with an ever present threat of sudden collapse are just a few. Parallel with this need to regulate to prevent negative effects is the opportunity to raise wages and opportunities for the people that the government in the Isle of Man is supposed to represent i.e. Manx people.

Our previous investigations and communications with the Work Permit Committee has revealed that the problem is its lack of resources and the lack of support at political level: Unless a matter is specifically drawn to the attention of the Committee, it has no way of knowing that a Manx person has been denied an employment opportunity to bring in an immigrant. Nor does it have the facilities to positively vet applications for false declarations. The lack of political support has been demonstrated on several

occasions such as the pressure exerted by the Moon family when in ownership of the Castle Mona Hotel, the pointed failure of the Attorney General to prosecute work-permit abuse at the Ballamona Hospital site and the Civil Service Commission's support for Mr. Steven Rodan's attempt to install a personal acquaintance as Director of Education in preference to a competent and qualified Manx person.

If true, it is also inexcusable that the Chief Constable intends to discriminate against Manx people in the police service, this and certain other fields being exempted from the work permit regulation. To address the deficiencies and to make the work-permit regulation a meaningful and supportable piece of legislation, the following modifications are required at the very least: The number of work-permits issued must be capped as a percentage of the working population. The Work Permit Committee must be provided with the resources to positively vet all work-permit applicants. There should be no excluded occupations.

All work-permit applications should be made public so that Manx workers can inform the Committee of their interest in a job. The well-known practice of "tailoring" job applications to suit a non-Manx applicant should be ended by providing the Work Permit Committee with access to independent professional advice as to what sort of qualifications and / or experience are really necessary to fulfil a particular task.

If it is necessary to provide the Committee with additional full-time officers to support it, then this must be done.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Kermode,
Chairman, Mec Vannin

Celtic Culture Going Down a Storm in Serbia

I've been given the following information by a friend who found it in the Scotsman newspaper. The Balkans is alive with the sound of Celtic fiddles. Add to them bodhrans, tin whistles and accordions and you get a full seven strong Celtic band entertaining the inhabitants of Serbia with such favourites as Wild Rover, Loch Lomond and Rocky Road to Dublin. Yet this is not a band dispatched to Belgrade on some government sponsored cultural exchange. Members of the Orthodox Celts are genuine Serbians, so enamoured with Celtic culture that they perform in Glasgow Celtic FC shirts, maintain a website with links to Seamus Heaney and have in the last nine years recorded three CDs of traditional Celtic music, with a fourth coming out shortly. All this despite the fact that majority of the band have never set foot on the Emerald Isle or any part of Britain.

What stops the Orthodox Celts from being a curiosity, and turns them into something of a local phenomenon, are their numerous Serbian fans. Most reviews of their gigs start by saying the venues were "jammed", "crammed" or "packed full". Their fans wear green and white T-shirts, scarves and hats, and often interrupt performances by launching into We are Glasgow Celtic Supporters. The fans turn the traditional St Patrick's Day concert into a riotous celebration of all things Celtic, replete with pint drinking competitions, sing-alongs and abundant dancing. A sold-out concert two years ago drew 4,000 people to the elite Sava Centre, one of Belgrade's largest concert venues. A year later, due to demand, the band held two concerts at a similar sized venue.

It's great to know that Celtic culture has such widespread international appeal.

CELTIC STUDIES THREAT IN ALBA

The Celtic League is disturbed by reports that Celtic Studies is being downgraded at Aberdeen University. The professor of Celtic at the University, Prof. Donald Meek, recently took up a new post at Edinburgh University. It seems that Aberdeen University now wish to discontinue the chair rather than appointing a successor.

This is a matter of great concern, particularly given that the department in Aberdeen has been putting much emphasis on modern Scottish Gaelic in recent years, having introduced a Gaelic Studies degree in addition to the traditional Celtic degree. As there are only 3 Celtic departments in Scotland, the downgrading of Aberdeen is a very worrying development.

The Celtic League has in the past argued vigorously against the downgrading or discontinuation of Celtic Studies at Universities in mainland Europe. Obviously any threat to established centres of Celtic learning in the 'home countries' is even more worrying.

The Celtic League will be seeking clarification of the situation and urging all National branches of the League and other cultural groups to oppose any diminution in Celtic Studies at Aberdeen.

NO CHECKS ON NUCLEAR DUMP SITES!

The United Kingdom has not provided any information to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about monitoring of sites it used in the Channel and the Atlantic for the disposal of vast quantities of nuclear waste.

Prior to the prohibition by international treaty of sea disposal of nuclear waste the United Kingdom used a variety of locations, off South West Ireland, in the Hurd Deep in the Channel, and off Rockall as dumpsites. Although initially denied they also later admitted that some inshore locations such as the Beaufort Dyke and the Holyhead Deep in the Irish Sea had been used.

In February this year both DEFRA and the MOD (DSEF) confirmed to the Celtic League that the containment vessels used to hold the waste would "eventually break up on the sea bed through the action of ocean currents". Indeed DEFRA said that the drums containing the radioactive contaminants "were designed to reach the ocean floor intact but in the knowledge that the radioactivity would leak over a period of years and be dispersed in the sea".

DEFRA also said that "the Government carries out extensive environmental monitoring" but "has not

detected any adverse effects which could be attributed to radioactivity from the Atlantic disposal sites".

We were aware that the British government and others are required to provide information on these disposals' to the IAEA and we therefore queried the IAEA about potential monitoring of the sites. However, IAEA Depute Director General Tomihiro Taniguchi, told us: *"I would like to inform you that the information in the Agency's possession on the disposal of radioactive material in coastal waters around the United Kingdom which was provided by the Government of the United Kingdom in 1997 and 1998, does not include any statistics on environmental monitoring for the presence of radioactive substances in the areas where disposal of radioactive material took place"*.

Given the British government's own admission about the likely deterioration of containment drums used it seems astonishing that steps have not been taken to advise the relevant international regulatory body about the result of any monitoring. It must call into question if the British have taken any substantial steps to study deterioration and contamination at the sites.

NO DEPLETED URANIUM USED AT CAPE WRATH - ASSURANCE

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has assured the Celtic League that depleted uranium munitions are not authorised at military firing ranges used by the United States Navy off Northern Scotland.

The Celtic League had written to the MOD following news that more exercises were planned by the US Navy off Cape Wrath, Caithness, later this year. The US Navy is under pressure to find new live firing exercises areas having recently had to vacate home exercise facilities in Puerto Rico following a vigorous campaign by Islanders which culminated in direct action and occupation of restricted military test ranges.

There is now a real concern that Cape Wrath usage by the US Navy will be increased. The Celtic League had been in correspondence with the MOD about DU firing in the north Irish Sea area and learned that considerable quantities of DU had been tested by naval vessels fitted with Phalanx CIWS (Close In Weapons System). The CIWS system fires a depleted uranium bullet, or penetrator, manufactured from the waste product of nuclear energy programmes. Being aware

that most US Navy combat vessels are fitted with CIWS we sought assurances about restrictions on DU firing at Cape Wrath.

The MOD said:

"I can assure you that the use of DU ammunition is not and never has been authorised at Cape Wrath range. MOD has no intention of changing this policy". The MOD also clarified their own decision to cut back on the use of DU and replace it with tungsten rounds in the RNs Phalanx weapons. They said:

"The reason that tungsten rounds have been brought in to replace DU rounds for the Royal Navy's Phalanx system is because the tungsten round offers improved performance over the DU round for the specific role involved, and not because of a long term threat of pollution".

The MOD however are being disingenuous and the replacement of DU with tungsten rounds (which have been available for two decades) for RN vessels probably has more to do with heading off potential radiation exposure claims from RN personnel similar to those already lodged by Army staff.

DEADLY THREAT LAY DORMANT FOR HALF A CENTURY

A minefield laid just weeks before the end of World War 11, almost sixty years ago, was the source of an incident in which a Northern Ireland fishing vessel, the MFV Rebecca Elizabeth, was involved.

The Celtic League had written to the MOD asking for details on the incident in which the explosive device was dredged up just West of the Isle of Man almost exactly on the coordinate where the minefield was laid.

The incident highlights once again the problem and danger posed by the failure of the Ministry of Defence to attempt to locate and destroy explosive munitions it has laid or disposed of in the Irish Sea.

Paradoxically, during the height of the Cold War the area around the south of the Isle of Man was used regularly by the Royal Navy and other NATO navies for minesweeping exercises during which exercise mines were laid! It is apparent that these navies could have been carrying out a more realistic exercise in identifying and removing a real threat which still exists.

The MOD have told the Celtic League that the mine recovered and destroyed in the MFV Rebecca Elizabeth incident was a British World War 11 Mk. 17 buoyant mine. It was one of a number in a series of small minefields laid between October 1944 and the end of the European war in May 1945 off the west of the Isle of Man to counter "snorkelling U-boats in inshore waters". This particular device is thought to have come from a field of 160 mines laid in an area 10-15 miles to the west of the Calf of Man. If anything this shows that the device had not moved far from its original location.

The League will be writing again to the MOD urging that action be taken to attempt to identify any further redundant munitions hazards in the area.

J. B. Moffatt

Celtic League Press Releases

Those who would like Celtic League press releases via Electronic Mail can subscribe (free of charge) to the mailing list at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league

CARN DOUBLE ISSUE

Due to falling behind schedule in producing Carn, it is proposed to combine the next two issues into a double issue. A special plea to members to put pen to paper and to send in articles, letters, book reviews and lots of photographs. Longer articles, dealing with matters in-depth would be especially welcome. Please send material to reach me no later than 1st August.

Apologies to members and subscribers for the delays in the production of the last two issues.

Editor



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CELTIC LEAGUE AGM 2002

*This year's AGM will be held in Mannin
on the weekend July 27th / 28th. For
information about venue and
accommodation please contact
Cristl Jerry, the Mannin Branch
Secretary. See address on this
page.*

Celtic Calendar

The production of the Celtic Calendar is a significant
long-standing contribution by the CL American
Branch to raising Inter-Celtic consciousness.

Each month contains an illustration, by artist Mike Kaluta, of a scene from Celtic mythology or history, and a short text description of the event depicted. The calendar contains the months and days of the week in English and one of the six Celtic languages, with anniversaries of dozens of Celtic events noted in brief. Also included is a Celtic folk saying for each month.

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CELTIC CALENDAR 2002



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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: Éire €16; Stg£12; Breizh €20; US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe: Stg£15 (airmail); Outside Europe: Stg£18.00 (airmail).

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Articles for *Carn* may be sent on disk preferably in Microsoft Word/Works, faxed to + 353 1 - 458 9795 or e-mailed to the Editor.

Material for the next issue of *Carn* should reach the Editor by 1st August 2002. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Celtic League.

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