

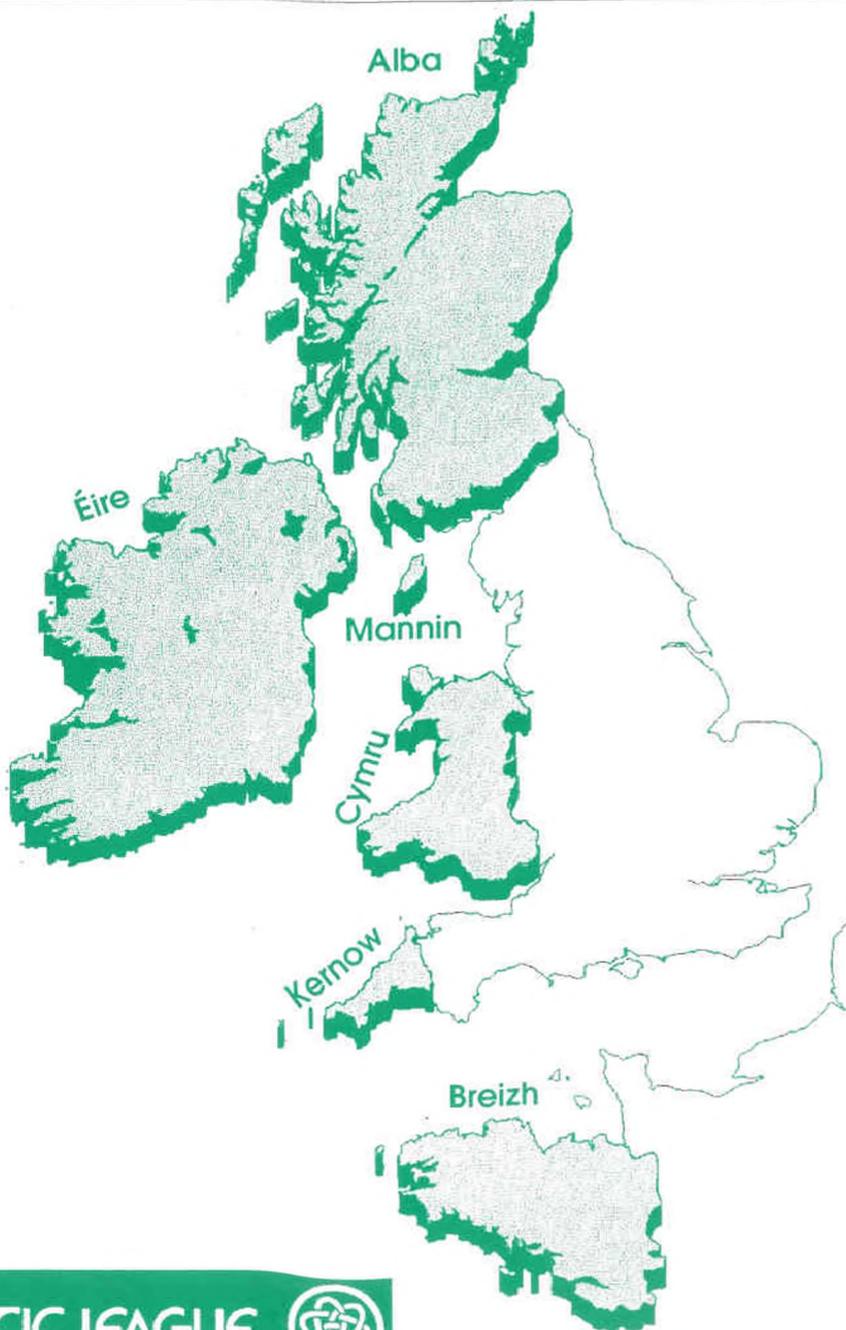
# COMANN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 121

Spring/Summer 2003

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- SNP Ready to Seize Power
- Support for Breton
- O! Tyn y Gorchudd
- Crisis in Irish Peace Process
- St. Piran's Flag Wins!
- State of Manx Nation
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**ALBA:** COMANN  
CEILTEACH • **BREIZH:** KEVRE  
KELTEK • **CYMRU:** UNDEB  
CELTAIDD • **ÉIRE:**  
CONRADH CEILTEACH •  
**KERNOW:** KESUNYANS  
KELTEK • **MANNIN:**  
COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



# CANANAN 'S MAR A THIG IAD BEO

Ghairm am Prionnsa Tearlach àir na Albannaich, "Taing don Achd Aonaidh (1707) chan eil Alba ach na roin de Shasainn ... agus sin agad an fhirinn".

Bhon a cheannsaich Sasainn on am sin chan eil e iongantach gun do shuidhich iad a' chànain chruaidh Shasannach oirn. Taing don Achd Foghlaim 1872 aca bha a h-uile sgoil Ghàidhlig àir an dùnadh. Tha sinn a' stri an diugh an aghaid an ana-ceartas seo, agus a' suidheachadh sgoiltean Ghàidhlig far a bheil teagasg tre na Gàidhlig. Ach eadhoin an seo chan eil teagasg tre n Gàidhlig ach tearc sna àrd-sgoiltean.

Bha Carol Zall a' sgrìobhadh san colbh Gàidhlig anns a' phaipear 'An t-Albannach' (12.2.03) Nochd I gun robh a' chànain Yap sa Chuan Seimh/Pacific Ocean le 8,000 ga bruidhinn ach tha an teanga aca tèarainte. Carson? Bhon a tha taic fhreagarrach on riaghaltas aca.

Mas seo an fhirinn a thaobh Yap 's ann a tha e dìreach ceart a thaobh aiseirigh na Gàidhlig feadh Alba gu tur.

Far a bheil sgoil Ghàidhlig ann an Glaschu no ann an DùnEideann Tolcrois chì sinn clann a' fàs fileanta sa Ghàidhlig ged a tha

parantan aca gun fhacal Ghàidhlig idir.

Air an aobhar sin feumaidh sinn a bhi stri air son teagasg tre na Gàidhlig a-mhàin feadh a h-uile sgoil o cheann gu ceann na h-Alba.

Bhiodh daoine ag ràdh, air an laimh eile, nach eil ar cànain na cainnt dligheach na h-Alba. Mata, chì thu dealbh bho, 'The Companion to Gaelic Scotland', deasaichte le Derick S. Thomson (Blackwell Reference) a' nochdadh ach dhà ainmean-àite Ghàidhlig agus tha tuilleadh ri fhaighinn mar 'loch' agus sin air adhart.

Gun teagamh bidh feadhainn eile - a' faighneachd, 'Dè mu dheidhinn a' Bheurla Ghallda?' Agus bhiodh iad ceart gu leoir. Carson nach eil paipearan ard-ìre/Highers ri fhaighinn sa Bheurla Ghallda? Chan urrainn dhuinn ga teagasg tre na Beurla oir bhiodh sin a' ciallachadh gur e a' Bheurla Ghallda a bha ceart is suarach. Bhiodh iad ag ràdh gun robh sin ceart taing don ascair/apostrophe, mar eisimpleir ... 'i the wa' ... Air an aobhar sin, bhiodh e fada nas fheàrr ga teagasg tre na Gàidhlig mar ... 'air an taobh a-staigh den bhalla' seach 'in the wall'.

Rud eile, feumaidh sinn a' bhi toirt litreachas is bàrdachd Shasannach agus an

eachdraidh a-mach as na sgoiltean do oilthighean. Ach bhiod neach sam bith comasach Beurla Shasannach a dh'ionnsachadh tre na Gàidhlig anns an sgoil.

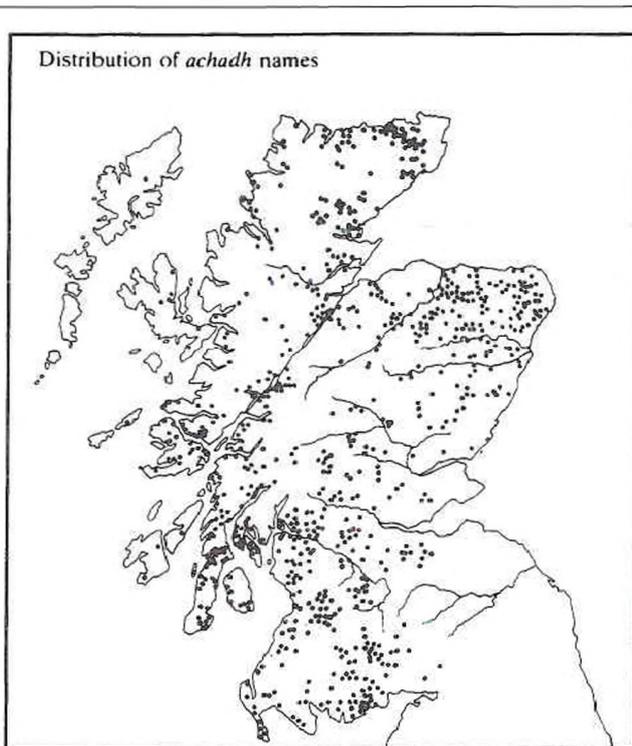
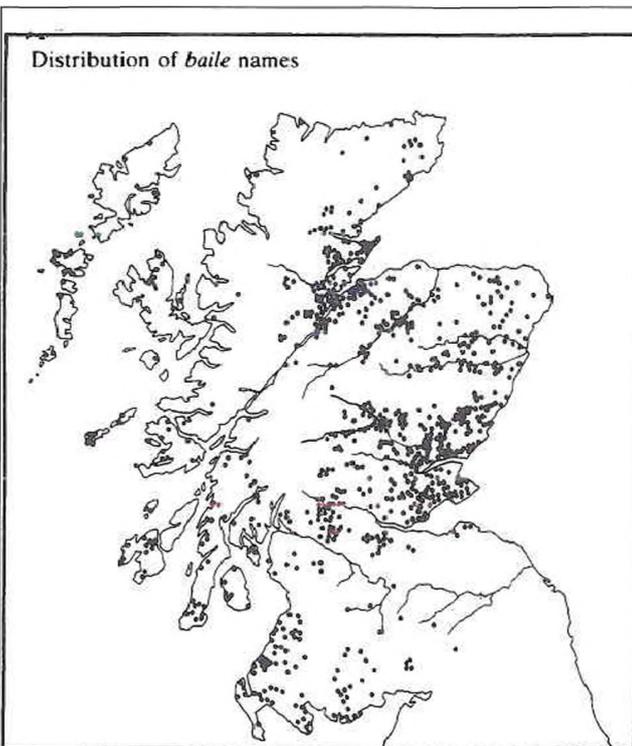
Chan eil dùthaich san Roinn Eorpa far a bheil iad a' teagasg sna sgoiltean tre na Beurla no a' teagasg litreachas is bàrdachd is eachdraidh Shasannach an sin. Cha bhi sinn nar roinn den Shasainn nuair a bhios ar sgoiltean gu tur tre na Gàidhlig!

A leughadair, rach feadh gach dùthaich neo-eisimeileach san Europa agus lorgaidh tu gu bheil teagasg tre'n chànain nàiseanta mar Phortagailis anns a' Phortagail, Eadailteis san Eadailt, Ungaireis air feadh Ungaraidh. Poileis anns a' Pholainn, Seiceis anns an t-Seic agus mar sin air adhart!

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich**  
**Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig**

### Summary

*Bonnie Prince Charlie in his manifesto to the Scottish people declared that the 1707 Act of Union made Scotland a region of England. This can be seen by the 1872 Education Act which closed all Gàidhlig medium schools and gave English the monopoly as the language of teaching. What is more parents were punished for not sending their children to these English medium schools. Only now, well over a hundred years later are we starting to be able to fight back with Gaelic medium schools. But if we are to save our own Scottish language we must have Gàidhlig the sole language of teaching instead of through English as it is at the moment in most Scottish schools. How can we say that Gàidhlig is the national language in Scotland? In proof it is suggested one examines the incidence of only two Gàidhlig place names in the diagrams shown here, and there are many more, like 'loch', than them.*



GÀIDHGLIG - THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE OF SCOTLAND

# SNP Ready to Seize Power

*'It is time for Scotland to take control. It's time for the SNP. It is time for Independence.'*

This was the message Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) Leader John Swinney, MSP, delivered to the nation as he kick-started the SNP Parliamentary election campaign, which is being conducted vigorously in the weeks leading up to polling day on 1<sup>st</sup> May. *Below we highlight aspects of Mr Swinney's speech calling for independence.*

'Never in our history have we been so ready to take on and defeat Labour. Never have we been so ready to govern - and we are ready now - today - to do just that. One thing is clear. This is going to be a hard-fought campaign. And I give our opponents notice - look out - because the Scottish National Party is up for it. In every campaign - no matter how tough - we are sustained by our values. And the SNP's values are Scotland's values. Values of fairness, honesty, equal opportunity and the rewarding of endeavour and hard work. But over the last four years those values have disappeared from Scotland's government. On 1<sup>st</sup> May we will reclaim government FOR the people FROM the Labour machine. Labour has abandoned Scotland and our values and it is now time that we abandoned Labour. I want government to be driven by the need to make this country more prosperous and just. I want government to be returned to the people. I want in short, government - not to suit the politicians - but government to suit the people - it will be democratic government. That's what I've got to say about Labour. But what does Labour have to say about us?

Do you know what they say we'll do in Government? They say we'll wrangle with London. And do you know what I say: You're dead right we'll wrangle with London. Under Labour Westminster walks all over Scotland. But as your First Minister I won't be selling out Scotland. I'll be fighting for Scotland.

But to release our potential we must reclaim our Parliament for the people. Four years ago when Winnie Ewing famously reconvened the Scottish Parliament she did so amidst a wave of national optimism. Those were the emotionally charged days of the birth of a new democracy. When expectations were high that we would soon be living in a better Scotland. Four years on those heady expectations have not been met. This much is clear. People have been disappointed.

As First Minister I will make sure Holyrood acts like a national Parliament. I give notice: the days of Tony Blair's parish council Parliament will be over. Within the limited powers of devolution we can make a start. Despite devolution, London controls our monetary policy; London controls our tax policy, London controls our trade policy. In fact London controls virtually all of the economic policies that affect our country.



*Scottish Nationalist Party Leader John Swinney, MSP delivering an historic speech to the nation at the start of the SNP Parliamentary election campaign*

And the result of handing control to London? Westminster has failed Scotland. It always has. It always will. We can't wait any longer.

*'It's time to take control. It's time for the SNP. It's time for Independence.'*

And only the people of Scotland have the ability to give our Parliament the powers it needs to deliver on the people's expectations. The SNP offers the opportunity to move on. The opportunity of Independence brought about by a democratic referendum.

The economy is one of the defining issues that divides the SNP from our opponents. We believe Scotland should have the powers to compete; they do not. And there is another fundamental dividing line. A dividing line that sums up the choice voters will face on May the First. It was crystallised by the First Minister recently when he said: "International affairs is a matter for the UK Parliament at Westminster. That's as it should be."

That's as it should be? Well I've got a message for the Labour leader. You may want to keep Scotland in her place; to SEPARATE us from the rest of the world; to DIVORCE us from the international community. This party is different. This Party will place Scotland at the very heart of the international community. A Scotland with a place at the United Nations will be a voice for peace and international law. That voice was heard in Glasgow when tens of thousands marched to stop war in Iraq. I am proud that the SNP was out in force that day. I am proud that we were shouting out loud and clear to George Bush and Tony Blair: *Not in our name.*

Too much happens that is not in our name. Trident nuclear missiles on the Clyde - *Not in our name.* Arms sales to brutal foreign dictators - *Not in our name.* An asylum policy that borders on the racist - *Not in our name.* All of these decisions - taken by London on our behalf. But they're not in our name.

Well, I want to start doing things that ARE in our name. I want to remove the obscenity of nuclear weapons from our land and our waters. I want to argue for peace in the UN. All those things would happen in our name - in the name of the people. But they will only happen with Independence.

There is a clear choice at this election. We can settle for four more years of the same. We can stand still. Or we can move on. We can release the potential of our people. And Scotland, our country, IS our people. We've all waited too long to see a better Scotland. The hour is now at hand. It's time - to move on.

## SNP ADDS ITS VOICE TO DEPLETED URANIUM CONCERNS

In February this year, a total of 192 depleted uranium (DU) rounds were fired into the north Irish Sea as part of renewed testing from British military bases in SW Scotland. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) say that trials are now complete and no further tests are planned although they refuse to rule out a permanent moratorium.

The MoD maintain that comprehensive monitoring has revealed that the testing does not pose a significant risk to marine life, members of the public or site personnel.

The Celtic League had protested to the MoD about the firing and has consistently campaigned against pollution caused by munitions fired from coastal sites or air dropped over sea bombing ranges in the area. We have also urged the Irish and Manx governments to be more proactive in opposing such activity

Now the Scottish National Party (SNP) has added its voice. The Party's Galloway and Nithsdale MSP, Alasdair Morgan, has demanded that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) be subject to the Radioactive Substances Act. This is legislation that controls the disposal of radioactive material and the MoD currently has an exemption.

Speaking to the Scots Independent (newspaper of the SNP) and commenting on MoD assurances about the testing Mr Morgan said, *'If the Ministry of Defence goes looking for a clean bill of health - it is no surprise that they find one. There has been considerable public disquiet over the use of DU since the last Gulf war - with concerns that it is possibly linked to Gulf War Syndrome.'*

*'The MoD has long said that there was no environmental risk resulting from the DU tests. Now however we find that their survey results are based on the desire to prove nothing is wrong, rather than discovering the truth. That is an outrageous approach to environmental testing and proves that New Labour spin has now seeped into all departments of government - including the MoD.'*

**Bernard Moffatt**

# Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba

We have been waiting so long for a significant development at the political level, that you would think that the Gaelic community would accept the least step of progress with unfettered jubilation. But it is a sign of how the Gaelic beast has become hungrier and more adept while becoming leaner, rather than losing energy and determination, that this is not the case anymore.

Instead of welcoming the appointment of Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba without demur or critique, the greeting was more lukewarm and questioning than might have been expected.

It was like the night of the referendum on the Parliament, when the BBC in London sent up some poor reporter to report on how the cold streets of Edinburgh were heaving with grateful happiness. They were empty. It wasn't that kind of delight, but more a business-like relief that at long last the next step had been taken despite every obstacle and stumbling block that had been placed in the way.

The new Board is after all only the means by which a National Plan for Gaelic will be achieved, and no matter how good or bad the Board members might prove to be, the Gaelic cause is today on a higher rung.

Without any personal criticism of any of those who benefited from the Executive's selection process – headmaster Duncan Ferguson as convener, the singer Arthur Cormack, student Ceit Anna MacLeod, consultant Agnes Rennie, senior teaching lecturer Boyd Robertson and education officer Rosemary Ward – the appointment of the Board immediately provoked a range of public criticism of weaknesses and skulduggery.

But the most persistent of the criticisms was that the Board had no-one to represent Gaelic learners. It reveals the new understanding of the importance and of the New Gaels in developing and expanding the Gaelic community. But the objection didn't come from Cli.

We are aware that the New Gaels have a number of good, proven friends on the Board. Also, Arthur Cormack from Portree in fact did learn his Gaelic, and Islayman Duncan Ferguson, no less, had to relearn his (though the head start they had would be a luxury to most learners).

But more importantly, the Board does not represent anyone. No one ever voted for them; that's not how the system works. And if someone was put in place simply because they had learnt Gaelic, how could he or she

represent the disparate views and experiences of the broad church of Gaelic learners? It would be an affront and a nonsense to say that they form a single homogeneous group.

If the Board works to the meaningful betterment of the language we will be satisfied. It now has a chief executive, Allan Campbell who was at Comunn na Gàidhlig, and it has already made a start at travelling the country listening to the views of local communities. It is up to the New Gaels and others to invite it to your area. Wherever in Scotland. Or elsewhere!

*Cothram 35, courtesy Cli – The New Gaels, [www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk)*



cànan nàiseanta - a national tongue

**Clì gus:**

- currasa: hadh is inbhe nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh
- fòsachadh air Gàidhlig is cùisean Gàidhlig a spòrleach
- beachd luchd ionnsachadh is luchd labhairt neo-dhualchasach na Gàidhlig a chur an cèll



**Clì 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

mention **Càrn** and get a **FREE** bilingual magazine & details of all learning materials, classes & courses wherever you are

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[www.gaelic.net/cli](http://www.gaelic.net/cli) [cli@gaelic.net](mailto:cli@gaelic.net) +44 (0) 1349 854848

## Census Reveals only half the Picture

The census compiled by the General Registrar Office Scotland gave official notification that Gaelic is dying. The numbers speaking the language, according to information gathered two years ago, has fallen to below 60,000. It has been claimed that if that figure was to fall by a further 10,000, Gaelic is dead.

Despite this news, many people involved with the language are showing great confidence in the future of the tongue once spoken throughout Scotland. Gaelic has never been short of prophets of doom ready to bury it on the basis of "half the picture". It also attracts enmity from its "dead language" enemies. The census will fuel criticism of the Scottish Executive's annual 13 million spending on the language.

Like all the other Celtic Languages Gaelic is also no stranger to persecution. Two generations ago, Gaelic-speaking children were beaten by teachers into learning in English, yet Gaelic survived. However, tides turn, and according to Gaelic's champions, the language is not just surviving but prospering.

Many believe the arithmetic of the census presents only half of the story of modern Gaelic. It will not, for example, indicate that Glasgow Gaelic School, the only educational establishment dedicated to learning entirely in the language, is too small to cope with demand three

years after it opened. It will not reveal that 60 per cent of parents who send their children to 63 primary Gaelic units in places as diverse as Kilmarnock and Cumbernauld do not speak the language themselves. This, say Gaelic's supporters, is the surest indication that the language is no longer "ghettoised".

The census will not identify a huge increase in adults learning from sources such as learndirect Scotland's Internet partnership with Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye. And it will not take account of the "Runrig factor" - an explosion of cultural self worth driving Gaelic into mainstream entertainment and making the language "cool" again. That pride is reflected in the arts and television, where the current affairs programme Eorpa attracts three times more viewers than Newsnight Scotland and Speaking Our Language was watched by 100,000 more people than BBC's River City. John Angus Mackay, the director of the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee, said: "History drove Gaelic to the margin, and 20 years ago I despaired. It was an idiosyncrasy on the edges. "But there is a tremendous hunger for it now as Scotland finds its feet, and we examine our identity." Donnie Munro, the former Runrig singer, and director of development at Skye's Sabhal Mor Ostaig college, said: "The numbers won't look

encouraging, but the crucial element, and the turning point, is the underlying trend. "There is an upward movement in the young learning, and we're involved in projects with learndirect Scotland. "There's a way to go; a shortage of teachers for one thing, but no shortage of learners. Most importantly, Gaelic is now recognised as a national language, a tremendous commercial asset in defining modern Scotland.

## Gaidhlig is now available worldwide

If one cannot get Radio nan Gaidheal on MW990kHz or FM 103.5 - 105 MHz, ones Currie or Dixon type of electronics shop should be able to advise as to how one can get access to it on Sky 90. 'The Scotsman' Saturday magazine, and 'The Stornoway Gazette' can be consulted as to programmes. Another rich source of access is the Gàidhlig College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sléite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach IV44 8B. Their 'Short Courses 2003' is just out offering Gàidhlig language learning and in the same tradition, songs, step dancing, playing a variety of musical instruments, painting and Gàidhlig for Irish speakers. They can also be got on the phone +44(0) 1471 8 240, fax +44(0) 1471 8 001, e-mail [cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk) and on the web <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/smo/cg>

# Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill Falls

A last moment attempt to win official recognition for Gaelic before the end of the first session of the new Scottish Parliament has failed. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill was introduced as a member's bill by the Nationalist MSP Michael Russell in November 2002. Based on the Welsh Language Act 1993, the bill stated that Gaelic and English should be treated on a basis of equality within certain public bodies in Scotland.

The principles of the bill won support from the Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Parliament and the bill was passed at stage 1 with support from all political parties. The bill failed to progress to stage 2 or 3, however, due to a lack of Parliamentary time and it will not, therefore, become law.

Gaelic activists have criticised the Scottish Executive (Scottish Government) for failing to lend Executive support to the bill and for failing to find Parliamentary time to ensure the bill's passage.

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill initially caused a great deal of controversy within the Gaelic community as its provisions were intended to apply only to the Highlands and not to Scotland as a whole. The bill later won widespread support from Gaelic groups and campaigners, however, when its proposer and the Parliament's Education, Culture and Sport Committee recommended that the Bill should be applied throughout Scotland.

In a surprise move, on 31 March 2003 the First Minister Jack McConnell announced that the Labour Party would introduce a Gaelic Language Bill if re-elected in the Scottish Parliament

Election on 1 May. This brings Labour into line with the SNP who have long had a commitment to legislate for Gaelic.

## A9 Controversy

Gaelic roadsigns have once again been a subject of controversy in recent months. Early in 2003 the Scottish Executive gave long awaited orders for bilingual signs to be erected in many trunk roads in the Highlands. This decision was overshadowed, however, by the news that the Executive had refused Highland Council's request that bilingual signage be erected on the A9 – the road running from Wick to Inverness and Perth and by far the most significant and busiest trunk road in the Highlands.

## An Leabhar Mòr - *The Great Book of Gaelic*

*Edited by Malcolm Maclean and Theo Dorgan*

Canongate Books, *Proiseact Nan Ealan*  
Edinburgh / New York 2002  
ISBN 1 64195 249 4 Stg.£35  
www.canongate.net

*An Leabhar Mòr / The Great Book of Gaelic* brings together the work of more than 200 poets, visual artists and calligraphers from Scotland and Ireland to create a major contemporary artwork in the form of a visual anthology.

The 100 Gaelic poems (with English translations) have been nominated by leading poets and writers such as Seamus Heaney, Hamish Henderson and Alistair Macleod as well as the contributing poets themselves. The selection features work from almost every century from the 6th to the 21st and includes the earliest Gaelic poetry in existence.

Gaelic signage is to be erected on the following roads:

- A87 Skye Bridge to Uig
- A87 Invergarry to Skye Bridge
- A887 Invermoriston to A87
- A830 Fort William to Mallaig
- A835 Ullapool to Dingwall/Tore
- A828 Ballachulish to Connel Bridge
- A85 Tyndrum to Oban
- A83 Tarbet to Kennacraig / Campbeltown
- A82 Tarbet to Inverness

This will be in addition to the existing Gaelic signs on the A87 on Skye and the western section of the A830 Mallaig road. The signs will be introduced over a five-year programme.

Uilleam MacCaluim

Comedy, tragedy, love, death, the spiritual and the bawdy are all represented in poems by Sorley MacLean, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, Iain Crichton Smith, Caitlin Maude, Kevin MacNeil and Cathal Ó Searcaigh.

The 100 visual artists – 50 from each country – were commissioned to respond to the poetry in a variety of media. The artists include Alan Davie, Rita Duffy, Will Maclean, Brian Maguire, Frances Walker, Anna Macleod, John Byrne, Shane Cullen, Alasdair Gray, Noel Sheridan, Calum Colvin and Alastair MacLennan.

A small team of calligraphers and typographer Don Addison worked in collaboration with the artists to integrate the key lines of poetry and the artist's images.

The resulting book is an extraordinary celebration in words and pictures of Gaelic culture from the earliest times to the present day.



Independent Scots read the  
'Scots Independent'

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The visual art (Daphne Wright and Reiltin Murphy) accompanying the poem 'Oilithreachr' by Caitlin Maude.

# Breizh

## “Prezidant ar Vretoned” e Kembre

Evit ar wech kentañ eo bet prezidant Kuzul-rannvro Breizh e Kembre hag eno en deus gwelet Rhodri Morgan, kentañ ministr Kembre evit komz eus ar pezh zo boutin d'hon div vro. Kemeret o deus perzh o-daou en ur c'hendiviz aozet e Skol-veur Kerdiz diwar-benn ar politikerezh hag an digreizen-nañ e Breizh-Veur hag e Frañs. Embannet e oa bet, en degouezh-se, frouezh al labour kaset war-raok gant ar c'helenner Alistair Cole, eus “Skol ar Studioù europat” e Kerdiz. Studiet en deus Alistair Cole an “devolution” e Kembre hag an digreizen-nañ e Rannvro Breizh. Hervez an aotrou Cole ez eus kalz traoù boutin etre Breizh ha Kembre ha “kalz e c'hellfe an eil bro deskiñ digant eben evit a sell ren hec'h aferioù”. Daou vloaz eo padet ar studiaden, zo diazezet war goulennaouegou graet ouzh 1 000 den e pep bro ha war pennadoù kaoz niverus graet gant tud e karg. Ur brezegenn en doa distaget Josselin de Rohan, prezidant Kuzul-rannvro Breizh, e Skol-veur Kerdiz, dirak kannaded Bodadenn Vroadel Kembre ha skolveuridi. Enni e lavaras e oa bet “adkreizennet” ar galloud er Stad

C'hall abaoe lezennou 1982 war an digreizen-nañ hag e oa bet kollet emrenerezh gant ar rannvroioù en ugent vloaz diwezhañ. Gant gouarnamant Jean-Pierre Raffarin, eme Josselin de Rohan, e vo adroet galloud d'ar rannvroioù, o reiñ an tu dezho da gemm reolennoù zo hag o kempenn reizhiad an tellerezh er Stad C'hall evit o gounid. Hervez Josselin de Rohan n'eus rannvro all ebet er Stad C'hall ma vije bet prederiet ha labourret kement ha ma voe graet e Breizh da-geñver ar “Manifesto evit an digreizen-nañ”. Lavaret a reas ivez e fell da Guzul-rannvro Breizh kaout muioc'h a c'halloud war tachennoù zo, evel ar skoliata uhel hag ar stummañ, gwarez an endro hag an dour, ar porzhioù-mor, ar sevenadur, an touristerezh... En e brezegenn e lavaras ur ger bennak ivez diwar-benn ar brezhoneg : “We wish decentralisation to be the occasion to consolidate upon the existence of the regional languages, in a secure legal framework” (=C'hoant hor befe e rofe an digreizen-nañ an dro da gadarnaat bezañ ar yezhoù rannvroel, en ur framm bonreizhel asur).

Disklêriañ a reas Josselin de Rohan c'hoazh e felle dezhañ diazezañ ur c'henlabour etre Kuzul-rannvro Breizh ha Gouarnamant Bodadenn Vroadel Kembre, diwar ar veaj-se. Salv ma roy Kembre mennozhioù d'an dilennidi a Vreizh ha ma roy c'hoant dezho da gaout muioc'h a c'halloud.

Courtesy of bremañ

### Summary

For the first time ever Josselin de Rohan, the President of the 'Brittany' region met with the Chief Minister of Wales, R Morgan, at Kerdiz University.

This was thanks to A. Cole who studied devolution in Brittany and Wales for the last two years. He organised this meeting in order to explain his work.

In his speech, the Breton President started from the first stage of the french decentralisation in 1982. The Gaullist President told the audience that the Regions lost a lot of financial responsibilities since then.

J. de Rohan asks for more power for the lander = regions in the manifesto. In it he mentions universities, environment, water, ports, cultural activities and tourism. Otherwise he wishes to consolidate the existence of the Breton language.

PS : Words sound nice, but the 15,000 demonstrators on March 22nd know that it will be a long way to Devolution. The 2nd part is on track, but the 3rd part is missing – Right now, Breton politicians from both sides need to work hard with their Welsh counterparts to be as good as the other landers in Europe

G.K

## Fylmow Kernow/Filmoù Kernev Veur

Drefenn y vos sewen meur warlyna, an Goel Fylmow Kernow a vydh synsys yn blydhenyek may hyllyn diskwedhes an fylmow gwrys yn Kernow ha gans Kernowyon. An Goel 2002 veu synsys dhe Aberfal, ha dell wayt an ordenoryon, y fydh ow mos ena arta rag 2003. Warlyna, y feu moy es tri ugens fylm gwrys yn Kernow, dres henna, yth esa nebes ow kul meur a dros yn bys fylm. 'Hwerow Hweg' o a-vri awos bos fylm hir yn Kernewek, ha 'Cheap Rate Gravity' o fylm berr sci-fi. Kyns an goel hevlyna (13ves - 15ves mis Kevardhu) res vydh dhe'n ordenoryon kavoes lywydh rann-dermyn. Mar kyll'ta gweres, pellgews 01872 322886. Yma kedhlow pella der: [www.cornwallfilmfestival.com](http://www.cornwallfilmfestival.com)

Trugarez d'e verzh bras warlene, Gouel ar filmoù Kernev Veur a zeuo da vezañ bloaziek evit ma c'hellfe bezañ diskouezet ar filmoù graet e Kernev Veur ha gant Kerneveuriz. Degouezhet voe ar Gouel 2002 e Aberfal, ha spi o deus an aozerien da vont eno adarre er bloaz-mañ. Warlene e voe mui eget tri-ugent film graet e Kernev Veur ha dreist-holl, darn anezho a rejont trouz bras e bed ar sinema. Etrezo 'Hwerow Hweg' (c'whery c'hwec) a oa brudet peogwir e oa ur film hir e kerneveureg ha 'Cheap Rate Gravity' ur film a skiant-faltazi. Araok ar Gouel er bloaz-mañ (13-15 a viz Kerzu) ret e vo d'an aozerien kavout ur rener hanter-amzer. Ma fell deoc'h skoazellañ, pellgomzit d'an niv. 01872 322886. Evit gouzout hiroc'h: [www.cornwallfilmfestival.com](http://www.cornwallfilmfestival.com)

### Summary:

The Cornwall Film Festival was a great success last year. There were more than 60 films made in Cornwall or by Cornish people. 'Hwerow Hweg', a full-length film in Cornish was extremely popular. Now this film festival is looking for a part-time organizer, so if you want to help, please contact: 01872 322886 or [www.cornwallfilmfestival.com](http://www.cornwallfilmfestival.com)

Courtesy 'Nowodhow Kernow', translation into Breton by José CALVETE.



Fylm der an taves Kernewek/Film kerneveurek : Hwerow Hweg

# HUGE DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF BRETON

In 2002 the State Council [Conseil d'Etat] decided that DIWAN schools could not join the Public State Schools [E.N.] because the second article of the Constitution states that: "The language of the Republic is French"...mainly thanks to the trade-unions [CNAL & Co] who fight hard against DIWAN's integration in the E.N. These lobbies are very republican and very traditionalist. They are strongly opposed to the right for people to be "different" inside state bodies. Therefore, they are also very opposed to the Devolution of the state in the landers (= regions) as well as in E.U. The French State is *GOD* for those traditionalists.

## DIWAN's PROBLEMS

The Lincoln-Team, (the previous board) had only one Goal: E.N. The new leader, Anne Le Corre, and her team face severe financial problems: a 200000 debit in 2002 and a loss of a State subsidy [205000] in 2003. This year they are working hard to meet the other regional schools of France: Alsaz, Basque, Corsica. In Brittany they



decided to meet the parents in every single school, with the will to build a new policy for the next AGM at the end of April. We'll Wait & See.

## BIGGEST EVER:

### 15000 demonstrators . . .

In the meantime, Kuzul Sevenadurel Breizh [KSB], the most important cultural lobby in Brittany, organized a demonstration on the 22nd of March, with the help of the three bodies who teach Breton in schools (DIWAN+DIHUN+DIVYEZH [=E.N.]), 15.000 people took part in the "*SPRING OF*

*THE BRETON LANGUAGE*" demonstration in front of the Breton Parliament [Breurjoù Breizh] in *Roazhon*, to ask the French state to "*RESPECT U.N. RECOMMENDATIONS*. In 2002, UNESCO stated that it considers the Breton language to be in "*Great Danger*"... to disappear.

Most of the demonstrators came from the schools and pipe-bands. 80 buses, 500 pipe-bands marched behind the cultural and political leaders from both the left to the right wing - except J. de Rohan, the Gaullist president of Brittany.

We were also happy to see well-known musicians such as Alan Stivell, Denez Prigent and Gilles Servat. I noticed a few flags from the Celtic nations as well as flags from the south of Europe. Obviously "*THE SPRING OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE*" was a personal success for Patrick Malrieu, the new President of KSB. He is known as less "political" than the previous president. Therefore, more schools or Bands joined the "professional" demonstrators of the Bretons' causes.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Patrick Malrieu will feel stronger to ask for an *ORSEC-PLAN* for the Breton Language at different levels of power. The first one is obviously the lander one, because the Gaullist President J. de Rohan excluded the language in the Breton devolutionary process.

The second level is the Prime Minister, JP Raffarin, who is in favour of experimentations in the regions. Then last but not least is the E.U. First of all KSB must ask the French State to respect E.U. (& U.N.) *Recommendations for the Breton language*.

At the same time, Breton cultural lobbies must have people working full-time in Brussels, because E.U. needs to work with the regions of Europe to gain some power. Ireland, Scotland and Wales are much more efficient than us in this field.

## FUTURE . . .

This huge demonstration is a new start for a new century. Hopefully, Patrick Malrieu, the new President of KSB will be able to develop actions with the old and new lobbies in order to give more hope for the Breton language and a Breton Future...

GI KELTIK

## STEPS TOWARDS DEVOLUTION?

Non-political families as well as right-wingers have some hopes in the governmental process of Devolution. JP Raffarin (French Prime Minister) put this goal on the top of his own agenda. Unfortunately, major Gaullists fought against this project. Therefore, the second part of the French Devolution will be tiny... by 2005 we will know more about the reality. It looks like; here in Brittany people are willing to help JP Raffarin's plans.

On the left wing, there are also people, like Y-B. Thomin from the Breiz, who are willing to build a programme for Brittany. Unfortunately, their own party, the Socialist Party [PS], is still on the Old Labour line. As you read in Carn 110 {Summer-2000}: DIWAN v. E.N., the French Socialist Party is not yet on the way to the New Labour.

## BUSINESS & CULTURE

Otherwise, Patrick Malrieu [KSB] took an important initiative towards the business world. 450 businessmen signed in favour of the campaign "YA, d'ar brezhoneg". This new action is held by the institutional body: *OFIS AR BREZHONEG*. The success of this campaign as well as the success of the logo "Produit en Bretagne" shows that the businessmen and their workers are now concerned with their own culture. Therefore, this new century, we have new demonstrators involved in the process of the Breton Language. Is Brittany on the way to the Scottish dynamics? Wait & See!

GI KELTIK

# CELTIC NIGHT, second edition

Celts! Celts, in... Paris? This news seem incongruous when the city has seemed, for centuries, to revel in its own adulation, doubled with universal pretensions that look too much like ideology to be honest.

However, aren't things changing in this France that, for a long time, thought itself only moulded out of a Greek and Latin heritage?

For the second consecutive year, Celts have settled, for a long night, near St Denis, a stone's throw from the graves of the Kings of France, and of Anne's remains, the last Duchess of Brittany and twice Queen of France, to celebrate St Patrick's Day:

After the extraordinary success of the two nights of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2002, the team of JP PICHARD, General Manager of the Inter-Celtic Festival (FIL) in Lorient and President of the Inter-Celtic Company 3C, specialized in the creation of great happenings, associated with the team of Pascal Simonin, General Manager of the French stadium (ScF), one of the largest Olympic stadiums in the world, to renew the bet and the magic. PICHARD in Paris, it's like Brennos in Rome, as this night, now a ritual and a must, strikes like a revenge from the forgotten ones, from the defeated ones over their conquerors.

The 2002 event, so conclusive with its 100.000 spectators, has been converted into what is becoming a true institution. JP Pichard's press conference in Paris, first at the Halles, then at La Vilette, in the beginning of the '90's, had gone a long way.

It is now the whole "great tribe" of the capital city and beyond! - which gathers, in a festive atmosphere, to sing PATRICIUS' praise, this britto-roman from Dumbarton, just near Hadrian's Wall, who converted Hibernia to the lights of the "true faith". But this historico-legendary character fades away in front of this tremendous conviviality, this identity that now asserts itself serenely.

"After having conquered the USA", St Patrick's Day has now spread throughout the whole of France, not as a National Day, but as an international festival of conviviality, freedom and a "way of life", says the Master of Ceremonies.

## A PRESTIGIOUS STAGE

The stage of the 2003 edition was nothing less than prestigious. The tunes of Alan Stivell's telenn blended with the enchanted shrills of Carlos Nunez's gaïta, with the deep tones of the gwerz, masterly interpreted by Denez Prigent, and with Sinead O'Connor's powerful bewitching voice. Shall we have said it all when we have added Liam O'Flynn, Irish uilleann-pipe virtuoso, André Le Meut, penn-soner of the Ronsed-Mor bagad, the symphony orchestra of the InterCeltic Festival, or even the mythical bagad of Lann-Bihoue, the only bagad of the French Army for 52 years?

Then, last but not least, this year, the 9,000 square meters of the lawn were open to those whose legs traditionally itch for a few steps of an-dro or gavotte! 20.000 on a wooden floor especially laid for the circumstances. That is to say, probably the most gigantic Fest-Noz ever organized.

But, in March, in Paris, night temperatures fall lower than in Lorient, in August. Instruments go wrong and the public grows numb. How to combine the heat of the Celtic ceors with the rigours of the climate? A challenge to take up in the future for JP PICHARD:

What does it matter? On St. Patrick's Day, from now on, in Paris, Celtia celebrates!

Free at last...at least of its hang-ups!!!

Thierry JIGOUREL

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St Patrick's Day in Paris

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# O! Tyn y Gorchudd

Dyma sgwrs a draddodwyd gan Angharad Price mewn cyfarfod Cymuned yng Ngheredigion, Hydref 22. Yma mae'n esbomio sut y bu Cymuned yn ysbrydoliaeth iddi wrth ysgrifennu O! Tyn y Gorchudd, cyfrol y fedal ryddiaith yn Eisteddfod Tyddewi 2002.

"Fe ysgrifennais y gyfrol O! Tyn y Gorchudd yn hunangofiant i Rebecca Jones, chwaer fy nhaid, ac i'w theulu yn ystod yr ugeinfed ganrif. Yr ysgogiad mwyaf amlwg oedd y ffaith i dri o frodyr fy nhaid gael eu geni'n ddall. O ganlyniad bu'n rhaid iddynt adael eu cartref yn blant ifanc, a mynd i dderbyn eu haddysg mewn ysgol i'r deillion yn Lloegr. Addysg fonedd, Anglicanaidd a thra Seisnig oedd yr addysg honno. Yn hunangofiant Rebecca Jones roeddwn am drafod y tensiwn rhwng yr addysg honno, a bywyd Cymreig, Anghydfurfiol, amaethyddol y teulu yng nghwm Maesglasau. Meirionnydd. Cofnod o hanes personol oedd yma i fod.

Syndod i mi, felly, oedd darllen sylw un o feirniaid y Fedal Ryddiaith mai 'hunangofiant ardal' oedd yma yn anad dim, sef ardal Dinas Mawddwy. Eto, erbyn meddwl, roedd hynny'n wir. Er bod hanes fy ewythrod yn un anghyffredin, nid hynny fu'r sbardun i fynd ati i ysgrifennu'r gyfrol ar yr adeg hon. Y prif gymhelliad - fel y sylweddolaf erbyn hyn - oedd cofnodi hanes bywyd yng nghefn gwlad Cymru wrth i mi weld y bywyd hwnnw'n dod fwyfwy dan fgythiad. Mae Dinas Mawddwy - o bob man - fel llawer i le arall, wedi gweld Seisnigo brawychus yn ystod y ddau ddegawd diwethaf.

Yn y misoedd cyn ysgrifennu'r gyfrol roedd clwy'r traed a'r genau wedi rheibio nifer o gymunedau amaethyddol Cymru, ac wedi peri i'r dirwasgiad ym myd ffermio fynd o ddrwg i waeth. Ar yr un pryd roedd Cymuned wedi dod i fodoli, wedi tynnu sylw at effeithiau mewnfudo ac allfudo ar gymunedau gogledd a gorllewin Cymru, ac wedi dod yn ffocws i deimladau a phryderon pobl yn y bröydd Cymraeg ers blynyddoedd. Roedd hyn i gyd yn flaenllaw yn fy meddwl pan oeddwn yn ysgrifennu O! Tyn y Gorchudd.

Beirniadwyd rhan olaf y gyfrol gan rai adolygwyr am fod yn 'rhy uniongyrchol ei neges', ac am fod yr elfen wleidyddol yn rhy amlwg. Ond pryder am ddyfodol eu cymunedau eu hunain sydd yn fwyaf blaenllaw ym meddyliau a sgysiaau pobl fel Rebecca Jones erbyn hyn. A'r gwir amdani yw na fyddai'r gyfrol fel y mae hi yn bodoli oni bai am yr ymwybod â sut y mae pethau yng nghefn gwlad Cymru ar hyn o bryd. O safbwynt yr argyfwng presennol yr ysgrifennu

nwyd hanes cenedlaethau'r gorffennol yng nghwm Maesglasau. Yr ymwybod a'r presennol sydd wedi llywio'r gyfrol o'r dechrau i'r diwedd.

Wedi'r cyfan, perthynas teulu ac amgylchfyd a bortreadir ynddi, ac mae i'r amgylchfyd hwnnw nodweddion diwylliannol ac ieithyddol, yn ogystal â nodweddion ffisegol. Yn yr iaith Gymraeg, a thrwyddi, y mae cwm Maesglasau wedi bodoli ers i'r teulu ddechrau ffermio yno - medden nhw - yn 1012. Os bydd yr iaith Gymraeg yn darfod yn ardal Dinas Mawddwy, bydd cwm Maesglasau yn darfod hefyd. Mae'r tawelwch sydd yn agor ac yn cloi O! Tyn y Gorchudd yn dawelwch daufiniog: mae'n golygu heddwch sydd y tu hwnt i ddydd a'i iaith, ond mae hefyd yn golygu marwolaeth.

Rydw i fy hun yn rhan o'r hapus dyrfa sydd wedi gadael ardal fy magwraeth yn Arfon ac wedi mynd i weithio i Gaerdydd. Oherwydd amgylchiadau personol, mae'n debyg mai felly fydd hi am y tro.

Mae'r profiad o fyw yng Nghaerdydd, a mynd adref yn rheolaidd i Fethel, ac i weld y teulu yn Dinas Mawddwy, yn brofiad sgitsoffrenig braidd. Prin fod diwrnod yn mynd heibio heb i mi glywed pobl yn siopau Treganna yn brolio eu bod yn dysgu Cymraeg, neu'n ymhyfydu bod eu plant yn mynd i ysgol Gymraeg. Mae Canolfan Dysgu Cymraeg yn y coleg yng Nghaerdydd bron yn methu â dygymod a'r galw am wersi Cymraeg, ac mae'r myfyrwyr ail-iaith o'r cymoedd yn adran y Gymraeg yn frwd dros yr iaith ac yn optimistaidd ynghylch ei dyfodol.

I'r sawl sydd yn byw yn ne ddwyrain Cymru mae'r Gymraeg yn iaith sy'n ffynnu, y Cymry Cymraeg naturiol yn bobl ddosbarth canol a chanddynt swyddi proffesiynol, a'r 'dyfodol dwyieithog' y mae'r Cynulliad mor barod i'w bedlera yn rhywbeth credadwy. A chan nad oes gan y mwyafrif brofiad o fyw yng ngogledd neu orllewin Cymru, mae datganiadau mudiadau fel Cymuned ynghylch argyfwng y Gymraeg yn creu dryswch ac anghrediniaeth lwy. Mae'r anwybodaeth, a'r diffyg gwybodaeth, ynghylch sefyllfa bröydd Cymraeg y gogledd a'r gorllewin yn rhemp, ac mae llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn atgyfnerthu'r tueddiad hwn trwy gael cabinet mor dde-ddwyrain-ganolog.

Dagrau pethau yw bod rhai newyddiadurwyr a gwleidyddion yn bwydo ar yr anwybodaeth honno er mwyn rhoi tân i'w hagenda wrth-Gymraeg. Trwy unffurfio unrhyw gymuned mae'n hawdd ei rheoli, ac mae'n hawdd cyfluro ymatebion pobl tuag ati. Mae newyddiadurwyr fel Paul Starling yn ei

erthyglau yn y Welsh Mirror yn portreadu cymuned unffurf o Gymry Cymraeg yn seiliedig ar batrwm Cymry Cymraeg Pontcanna, ac yn defnyddio'r unffurfiaeth honno wrth drafod pob siaradwr Cymraeg yng Nghymru gyfan. Carfan unffurf o bobl ddosbarth canol, freintiedig a chanddynt swyddi breision yw'r Cymry Cymraeg gan Starling a'i debyg, ac mae'n defnyddio elfennau'r portread hwnnw i danio rhagfarn ddofn ymhlith ei ddarllenwyr tuag at yr iaith Gymraeg yn ei chyfanrwydd. Felly y daw ymadroddion fel 'Welsh speaker' yn dermau stigma digon sinistr. Oherwydd y diffyg gwybodaeth am gymunedau Cymraeg yn rhannau eraill o Gymru, ac oherwydd bod y Gymraeg yn iaith rhwydweithiau mewn ardaloedd fel Caerdydd, neu'n iaith sy'n perthyn i agweddau penodol ar fywydau pobl yn unig, mae tactegau fel hyn yn gweithio.

Dyna pahan, yn fy marn i, y mae'n holl bwysig bod Cymuned yn bodoli ac yn parhau i weithredu ac i dynnu sylw at yr argyfwng economaidd a diwylliannol sy'n wynebu llawer o'r bröydd Cymraeg. Yn sicr, mae angen datblygu polisiau a strategaethau sy'n trafod yr iaith Gymraeg ar lefel genedlaethol, yn rhywbeth sy'n perthyn i Gymru gyfan. Ac mae angen llawer iawn mwy o addysg a gwybodaeth er mwyn magu dealltwriaeth ymhlith yr holl Gymry o'r problemau gwahanol sy'n wynebu'r iaith o ardal i ardal.

Ond cyfraniad mawr Cymuned yw ei fod yn fudiad sydd hefyd yn pwysleisio'r lleol ac yn gweithredu'n lleol. Dyna pam mae sefydlu'r tair cangen leol yng Ngheredigion yn ddatblygiad o bwys, fel y mae canghennau Gwynedd hefyd yn gweithredu fwyfwy ar lefel leol, yn ogystal â chenedlaethol.

Nid tansellio cymuned Gymraeg Caerdydd y mae'r sawl sy'n gweld yr angen i warchod y Gymraeg yn ei bröydd cynhenid, fel ardal Dinas Mawddwy, neu Arfon, neu yma yng Ngheredigion. Mae i gymuned Gymraeg Caerdydd ei phwysigrwydd yn sicr. Ond mae angen sicrhau dyfodol ardaloedd lle mae'r Gymraeg yn iaith naturiol trwch y bobl, yn iaith y gymuned yn ei lluosogrwydd, ac yn iaith y norm amlddiwylliannol sy'n bodoli pan fo cymdeithas yn un a chanddi dai a gwaith angenrheidiol i'w haelodau. Dim ond mewn cymunedau felly y ceir y continwmm cymdeithasol angenrheidiol i allu gwrthsefyll yr ymdrechion - ymwybodol ac anymwybodol - i unffurfio'r Cymry Cymraeg, boed hynny i'w rheoli, eu hymylu, eu stigmateiddio ac - yn y pen draw - i'w tawelu.

## Summary

*This is the text of a talk given by Angharad Price at a meeting of Cymuned last year. She explains how the campaign of Cymuned (against colonisation) inspired her to write O! Tyn y Gorchudd, the work that won the Prose Medal at the 2002 National Eisteddfod.*

# STATISTICS, STATISTICS, AND LIES!

## *The census results do not reflect reality The Welsh Language in the 2001 census*

The official figures for the number and proportion of the population of Wales, who can speak Welsh, from the state census taken in 2001, have been now released. For the first time since records began in 1891, when a majority of the population could speak Welsh, the percentage increased slightly from the previous census of 1991, from 18.3% then to 20.5%. The 'increase' was expected since all school pupils now have to study Welsh up to the age of 16 and many non-Welsh speaking parents, particularly those who have moved into Welsh-speaking areas, put down their children as being Welsh-speaking since this is now more prestigious, and in some cases colons feel that claiming their children as Welsh-speaking is some sort of justification of their presence. But all who use the language daily can see that these census figures hide the reality, just as the census figures for Irish-speakers in the 26 counties greatly swell the real numbers, and that the number of people who actually use the language is still declining. In particular, the Mewnlifiad or inflow of English into the Fro Gymraeg or naturally Welsh-speaking areas is rapidly reducing the number of communities where Welsh is the daily language and without which Welsh will become a language spoken only by those particularly interested in it in two or three generations.

The figures are given by county in order of percentage, with the 1991 figures in brackets. The stark difference between the census figures and the looming fate of the language can be seen by comparing with figures of the percentage of primary school children who speak Welsh at home, obtained in a survey in 2002.

It can be seen that only in Gwynedd are the Cymry Cymraeg a clear majority, and that the percentages in the counties where Welsh is extensively spoken are still declining, a picture looking worse when considering the percentages of primary school children speaking it at home. The use of Welsh in the home can be seen to be holding up better in Gwynedd than in the counties where the decline in general is further advanced such as Ceredigion, and the decline in heavily colonised Conwy and Denbighshire is even worse. It is significant and disappointing that in English-speaking counties where there have been many children in bilingual schools for decades such as Caerffili and Rhondda Cynon Taf, the number of children native speakers is still minimal, suggesting that hardly any of the ex-pupils of the Welsh medium schools still in the area speaking Welsh to their children. And the idea that 9% of very Anglicised Monmouthshire are Welsh-speakers, up from 2% in just 10 years, is a joke.

Robot ap Tomas

Administrative county (as since 1996) (1991 figure in brackets)	Percentage of Welsh speakers (acc. to Census 2001)	Percentage of primary school pupils speaking Welsh at home
<b>Gwynedd</b>	<b>68.7 (72.1)</b>	<b>53.7</b>
<b>Ynys Môn</b>	<b>59.8 (62.0)</b>	<b>33.8</b>
<b>Ceredigion</b>	<b>51.9 (59.1)</b>	<b>28.3</b>
<b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b>	<b>50.1 (54.8)</b>	<b>20.3</b>
<b>Conwy</b>	<b>29.2 (30.6)</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b>	<b>26.1 (26.7)</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b>	<b>21.5 (18.3)</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Powys</b>	<b>20.8 (20.5)</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Castell Nedd - Port Talbot (Neath - Port Talbot)</b>	<b>17.8 (17.8)</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Maelor (Wrecsam)</b>	<b>14.4 (13.7)</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b>	<b>14.1 (13.5)</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Abertawe (Swansea)</b>	<b>13.2 (13.3)</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b>	<b>12.3 (9.0)</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Bro Morgannwg (Vale of Glamorgan)</b>	<b>11.1 (6.9)</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b>	<b>10.9 (6.6)</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<b>Caerffili</b>	<b>10.9 (6.0)</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Torfaen</b>	<b>10.7 (2.5)</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Penybont ar Ogwr (Bridgend)</b>	<b>10.6 (8.2)</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Merthyr Tudful</b>	<b>10.3 (7.5)</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Casnewydd (Newport)</b>	<b>9.6 (2.3)</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>9.1 (2.2)</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b>	<b>9.0 (2.1)</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>CYMRU</b>	<b>20.5 (18.7)</b>	<b>6.0</b>

# CYMDEITHAS RESPOND TO CENSUS FIGURES

Cymdeithas yr Iaith said that the 2001 Census results, and the enthusiasm of the authorities proclaiming the increase, remind one of the efforts of the Tory governments to play with unemployment figures. The census may show an increase in the number of individuals claiming to 'know' Welsh, but this does not reflect the true condition of the language as to its use and its situation as a living community language. In the long run the best measure of a language's health is not the number of individuals who 'know' it, but the social use that is made of it.

Huw Lewis, chairman of Cymdeithas yr Iaith, said: (translated)

*"Perhaps this 'increase' gives a boasting opportunity to the government and the language quango and enables them to put on a bit of positive 'spin', but the reality that is facing Welsh in communities across Wales is very different.*

*Following publication of the Census 2001 results, it is clear that the people of Wales must make a definite choice. We must accept that only through operating far-reaching holistic policies in the housing, planning, status, education and transport will it be possible to safeguard and develop Welsh. Fragmented support here and there will not suffice; one cannot half-save a language.*

*We can start on this new holistic approach tomorrow with a directive from the National Assembly that 'safeguarding the language and Welsh-speaking communities' is to be one of the key factors of the new Community Strategies of the county councils - one that extends into every department".*

The government have announced an increase in funding for the language, which is far short of what is required.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith believes it essential:

to ensure that everyone has a meaningful right to use Welsh. Only through passing a New Language Act that acknowledges the right to use Welsh in dealing with a public body or private company can this be achieved. A symbolic increase in the budget of the language quango will not be sufficient.

to safeguard and develop viable Welsh-speaking communities. Only through acknowledging the need to intervene in the competitive housing market - e.g. with a Property Act - can this be done. A small increase in schemes to help purchase of homes is not enough.

to ensure that everyone has a chance to learn Welsh. Only through providing sufficient finance for every sector of education

(Continued on page 11)

## CYMDEITHAS RESPOND TO CENSUS FIGURES

(Continued from page 10)

can this be achieved. An increase for one sector only – in this case the nursery level – is not sufficient.

The response of Plaid Cymru President Ieuan Wyn Jones AC to the 2001 census figures:

*"The census figures clearly show that after four years of a Labour Government there are more people in Wales out of work and a higher rate of people suffering from poor health. The results also reveal that Wales has some of the worst levels of people without qualifications. These statistics clearly underline the failings of Labour and demonstrate the choices facing the people of Wales at the National Assembly elections. Plaid Cymru has a radical programme that will ensure a better future and spread prosperity throughout Wales.*

*We welcome the fact that there has been an increase in the number of Welsh speakers throughout Wales. Despite this, in some areas the Welsh language is in a very precarious situation. Plaid Cymru is the only party committed to a truly bilingual Wales. A Plaid Cymru Government will ensure that a comprehensive programme is implemented to protect the position of the language and ensure a further and more rapid increase in the number of Welsh speakers."*

## National Assembly Government objects to Ceredigion UDP

Ceredigion AC Elin Jones, Plaid Cymru, has welcomed the news that the Assembly Government has lodged objections to the draft Deposit version of Ceredigion's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), joining 5000 other formal objections to the UDP.

In response to a letter by Ms Jones, Environment Minister Sue Essex states, 'the Assembly Government has lodged objections to the Deposit Ceredigion UDP, in particular requesting further clarification on the housing projections'

This news is a vindication of Elin Jones AC's opposition to the housing forecast in the UDP, where the Council is recommending to develop 6,000 new homes. Ms Jones has argued strongly against these plans claiming that no research was done at grass roots level into the local need for these homes, and that such growth could be detrimental to the Welsh Language and culture of Ceredigion.

Elin Jones said:

"The County Council must now see that its housing projections are way over the top and need to be reviewed. Thousands of individuals and organisations have

# Wales in Brief

## National Assembly election

The second general election for the National Assembly of Wales takes place at the beginning of May. Labour, three seats short of an overall majority, have governed Wales in coalition with the Liberal Democrats since the first election in 1999. Plaid Cymru, the second largest party, are the main challengers to Labour's attempt to gain an overall majority this time. There is a general view in Wales that the Lab./Lib. Dem. administration has been so unimaginative and subservient to London that it has brought the institution itself into disrepute.

## Cymdeithas condemn school closures

Cymdeithas yr Iaith have condemned the education minister's decision to confirm the closure of more naturally Welsh-speaking schools, this time in Carmarthenshire. It seems that unionists, supposedly trying to save money, are purposefully trying to cut the

heart out of Welsh-speaking communities, as the school at Henllan Amgoed is full beyond its capacity, and the ombudsman acknowledged that the council had misled a public enquiry about the closure of the vigorous schools at Alltwalis and Llanfihangel-ar-Arth.

## 'Iaith Pawb' criticised

The language movement have applauded the Elin Jones AC's criticism of 'Iaith Pawb', the weak proposals for the language published by the government (in Cardiff) in February. Calling for a new language act, she said that they are not doing enough for the younger generation. The plan vaguely wishes for an increase in the numbers of younger people who speak Welsh. But how do the young like to communicate these days? Mobile phones and computers? And these are excluded from the present language act. There is no requirement for Microsoft to provide software in Welsh, and no mobile phone companies provide a Welsh service though service is available in several other languages. In the very fields that interest the young, service is available in English only.

## Councils disregard language policies

A Flintshire man, Dewi Jones from Treffynnon/Holywell, is refusing to pay for parking in a car park until Flintshire council erect bilingual signs in the car park. The council are supposed to have a bilingual policy, but correspondence sent to Mr Jones has been in English only. And in Cardiff, the local Cymdeithas cell is planning a campaign against the numerous English-only signs still being put up by Cardiff county council. Council circulars about street closures etc. are regularly in English only.

## Glyndŵr Stamps

The Post Office have yielded to pressure and agreed to produce a set of postage stamps commemorating the 600th anniversary of Owain Glyndŵr's uprising from 1400 to c. 1415 by which Wales regained her independence for a few years. However the denomination on the proposed stamps ("1st", "2nd") is in English only, unlike that on standard Welsh definitive stamps.

## New radical weekly paper

A new radical weekly tabloid has appeared, called SEREN ("star") – Socialist, Environmental, Republican News. Launched in April, it claims to be independent of any organisation or party, and a taste may be had by visiting [www.serencymru.org](http://www.serencymru.org).

RaT

# Éire

## stán cornach anallód

Nuair a dúnadh an mhianach stáin dheireanach sa Chorn, mianach South Crofty ag Pool sa bhliain 1998 tháinig deireadh le traidisiún mianadóireachta stáin a bhí ann le 3,500 bliain. Mar is léir ón bhfianaise seandálaíochta bhí an Corn ina dhúiche mianadóireachta stáin ó c.1500 R.Ch. anall. tráth dá raibh - ar feadh tréimhse 400 bliain - d'iompraíodh mairnéalaigh Fhéiniceacha ón gCartaig agus ó Gadir stán Cornach go dtí an Mheanmhuir.

Cumhacht mhór san anallód ba ea an Chartaig a raibh loingearas mór aige. Pobal iad na Féiniceigh, muintir na Cartaige, a raibh a sibhialtacht bunaithe ar an tráchtáil.

Ní mór a choinneáil in intinn gur ar muir seachas ar talamh a dhéantaí an chuid is mó den taisteal go háiteanna i bhfad as baile. Ní haon iontas é mar sin go mbaineadh longa Fhéiniceacha cósta an Choirn amach agus go dtéidís i mbun trádála ansin.

Cé go bhfuil na Féiniceigh imithe de dhroim talaimh leis na cianta maireann iarsmaí dá dteanga ar tháibhléid chré, ar leachtanna cuimhneacháin agus ar chlocha. Go deimhin bhí tionchar an-mhór ag an aibítear Fhéiniceach, aibítear 22 litir, ar fhorás na scríbhneoireachta. Meastar gur tháinig na Féiniceigh ó dheisceart na hAraibe i dtús báire agus gur leath siad soir tríd an Liobáin. Tá an teoiric sin ag teacht leis an bhfianaise theangeolaíochta. Bhunaigh na Féiniceigh cathair-stáit ar nós Ugarit in aice le Ras Shamra sa tSiria, Tarabulus (Tripoli sa lá inniu), Biblos (san áit a bhfuil Jubail anois) agus Sidon ar ann dó fós faoin ainm Saida chomh maith le Tyrus (Tyre inniu).

D'adhráidís dia na gréine, Baal agus bhí seisean ina dhia na toirní, na tintrí agus an uisce acu freisin. Ba í Astarte nó Ishtar an bandia mór acu. Ba í siúd bandia na gealaí agus na torthúlachta agus d'fhéadaí a rá gur réamhtheachta í don Mhaighéan Mhuire. Bhí an tríú mórdhia acu, Melkart, a raibh an cabhlach faoina choimirce. Bhí dlúthcheangal idir adhradh na trionóide seo agus cúrsaí talmhaíochta. Rinne na Féiniceigh ceiliúradh ar theacht agus imeacht na séasúir agus léiríodís meas ar arán, uisce, bainne, mil agus ar thairgí talmhaíochta eile. I dtús ama dhéanadís íobairt de leanaí in ómós do Baal agus Astarte ach d'imigh an nós sin in éag ach lean siad d'íobairt a dhéanamh ar ghabhair, ar chaoirigh agus ar uain.

Thagair Ramses III do 'mhuintir na mara' arbh as dúiche na Mara Duibhe iad ó dhúchas, b'fhéidir. Deirtear gur uathu siúd a d'fhoghlaim na Féiniceigh na scileanna teic-

niúla a bhain le tógáil bád agus le loingseoireacht. Go dtí thart fá 1200 R.Ch. dhéanadh na Féiniceigh scoltóireacht feadh an chósta ach ansin tháinig fóras ar a gcuid long sa chaoi is go seoladís caol díreach trasna na Meánmara. Bhunaigh siad coilíneachtaí agus ionaid trádála thart (impeall na farraige sin. Agus chuaigh siad siar thar Charles Ghiobráltar amach ar an Atlantach mór. Thart faoi 1100 R.Ch. bhunaigh siad Gadir - Cadiz i ndeisceart na Spáinne anois - agus dealraíonn sé gur dún nó cathair a bhí ansin ó is é sin is ciall le 'gadir' san Fhéiniceis. Bunaíodh an Chartaig féin c.814 R.Ch. ar mhuarasgall na Tuinéise. Ciallaíonn an Chartaig 'an chathair nua' agus ba í sin láirionad mór na bhFhéiniceach feasta ó b'éigean dóibh teicheadh roimh na hAisirigh, na Babalónaigh, na Peirsigh, na Gréagaigh agus na Rómhánaigh.

Bhí éileamh mór ar stán le haghaidh earraí cré-umha ar fud réigiún na Meánmara agus tháinig na Féiniceigh i dtír ar an éileamh sin. Bíonn cré-umha déanta as mheascán de chopar agus de stán (sa choibhneas 9:1). San anallód dhéantaí gléasanna troda, uirlisí, monaí gréithre agus ornáidí as. Ar feadh i bhfad ba í an Spáinn an fhoinsé ba mhó stáin a bhí ag na Féiniceigh ach tar éis tamaill níorbh leor sin leis an margadh a shásamh. Ansin chuathas ar lorg foinsí eile.

Más fíor do Pliny (AD 23-79) in Naturalis Historia sheol mairnéalach Fhéiniceach, Himilco, ó thuaidh san Atlantach ar thoir stáin c.550 R.Ch. Thaisteal sé fá chósta thiar na leithinse Ibéirí agus na Gaille chomh fada leis an mBriotáin. Uaidh sin sheol sé go dtí na Silí. B'in tús leis an trádáil Fhéiniceach leis an gCorn. Ní amháin go n-íompraíodh na Féiniceigh an stán Cornach ar muir ach tá fianaise ann go dtugtaí é ar thalamh trín mBriotáin chomh fad ó dheas le Marseilles.

Ní trádáil aon bhealaigh a bhí ann. Dhíol siad earraí criaga, salann, copar, uirlisí, monaí agus gléasanna troda de réir dealraimh.

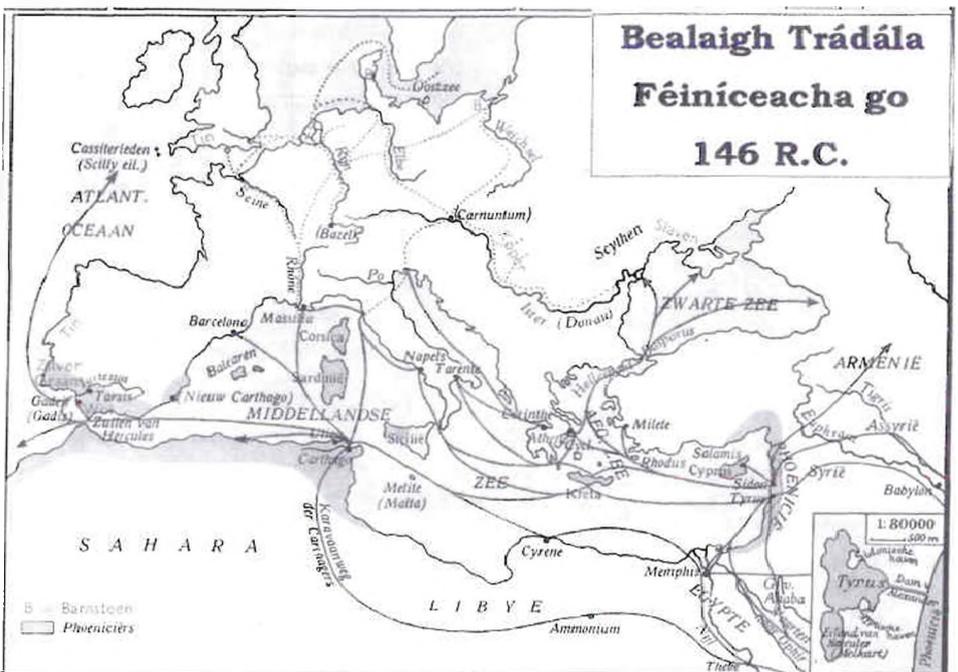
Tharraing na Féiniceigh éad agus saint na Rómhánaigh orthu féin agus scrios siad siúd an Chartaig sa bhliain 146 R.Ch. De réir a chéile ghabh an Róimh na hionaid trádála ar fad a bhí ag na Féiniceigh. Faoin tráth a shroich na Rómhánaigh oileán na Breataine bhí sé ina dhlí san impireacht go raibh ceadúnas ón impire de dhíth le mianadóireacht stáin a dhéanamh.

Leanadh den mhiandaóireacht sin sa Chorn. Chomh déanach le 1850 bhí 50,000 mianadóirí stáin agus copair fós sa tír. De réir mar a dúnadh na mianaigh thug na mianadóirí Cornacha a scileanna leo go dtí an Afraic Theas, an Astráil agus na Stáit Aontaithe. Is beag nár mhair an mhiandaóireacht sa Chorn go dtí an mhílaois úr ach, faraor géar, tá an traidisiún sin ar lár anois.

Taighde, Aad van der Geest, Netherlands.  
Athscríobh, C. de Faoitte

### Summary

This article describes the Phoenicians and their trade routes in the centuries before Christ. Due to the demand for tin in the Mediterranean region these trade routes brought them as far as Cornwall.



# The Crisis in the Peace Process

*With the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis just complete, March 28 to 30, and the party reaffirming its stance in relation to the Good Friday Agreement, policing and the suspension of the institutions, newly-elected Sinn Féin TD and Ard Chomhairle member Aengus Ó Snodaigh writes on the crisis in the peace process.*

The Peace process is in crisis, the institutions are suspended and there is not yet an acceptable policing service or a representative criminal justice system nor is there equality. On May 29 Assembly elections will take place in the shadow of the crisis in the peace process. While the past year has predictably been one of ups and downs for republicans with the high point of the year marked by the election results in the 26 Counties, the next two months will be a crucial period for republicans.

The British government suspended the political institutions on 14 October 2002. In doing so they were acting at the behest of the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party and in clear breach of the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. People will make their own judgement as to the bearing of the forthcoming election battle between the DUP and the UUP in the decision to suspend. Later in October the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, came to Belfast and admitted that his government had not fulfilled their obligations with respect to the Agreement. He went on to call on all parties to the Agreement to engage in what he described as Acts of Completion.

Sinn Féin has consistently called for both governments to produce a comprehensive implementation plan to address all the broad range of issues required to bring about the full implementation of the Agreement.

Sinn Féin set out for all the parties our view on all the issues that needed to be addressed.

#### *These included:*

The political institutions and the democratic rights of all sections of the electorate; Equality and Human Rights; Victims of the Conflict; The Irish Language; The use of flags and emblems for public purposes; The issue of arms; Demilitarisation; Policing and Justice; Transfer of powers on policing and justice; Prisoners.

While Sinn Féin was in touch with both governments throughout October and November this current negotiations phase did not begin until the start of December and negotiations picked up pace in early January and since then we have been involved in intensive discussions on all the issues with all the parties, but particularly with the two governments and their officials.

One session of negotiations in Belfast between Sinn Féin and the two governments on the 20th of February lasted 15 hours.

During March 2003 significant progress was made, particularly on policing and justice issues, but unionists' focus has remained the exclusion of Sinn Féin from Ministerial office, from government and from the political institutions.

Sinn Féin is of the view that the more progress we make the more intense will become the efforts of the opponents of change.

The suspension of the institutions by the British government has of course been central to this current crisis. Nor indeed is this suspension crisis new. It is the 4th time this has happened in breach of the Agreement. The British government arbitrarily took this power onto itself. Sinn Féin is confident that, as a result of its endeavours, that it will go.

Recently the issue of sanctions outside the terms of the Agreement has become a part of the story, part of the crisis. To be clear on this at the Ard Fheis Sinn Féin reiterated that it would not be held responsible for any

words or deeds other than our own. The Sinn Féin electorate should enjoy the same democratic rights, entitlements and treatment as all other sections of the electorate. Sinn Féin is totally opposed to all sanctions outside the terms of the Agreement.

Progress has to date been made on Policing, Justice, Human Rights, Equality and on the Irish Language and on other issues.

#### *Policing*

In the most recent discussions, commitments have been secured for new legislation regarding democratic accountability, in addition to the raft of legislative amendments we secured at Weston Park, we have additional amendments which requires the British Secretary of State to consult with the Ombudsman, the Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission on the key areas of policing objectives. Change has also been forthcoming in relation to Codes of Practice over which the British Secretary of State formally had a blank cheque.

Other areas that have been addressed range from demilitarisation of the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland), to the defortification of police stations and to the objective of an unarmed police service, and the creation a human rights ethos.

Outstanding issues which we continue to press on, are the future role and power of the Special Branch, the issue of plastic bullets and the achievement of representativeness in line with our and the people's demand for a new beginning to policing.

The British government has also agreed in principle to the transfer of power on policing and justice from the British Government to the Assembly and the all-Ireland Ministerial Council, though we are awaiting a defined time frame.



*Martin McGuinness addressing the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis.*

## Criminal Justice

The whole issue of criminal justice has been reopened and there is a commitment to new legislation covering a Judicial Appointments Commission; the need for the Director of Public Prosecutions to refer to the Ombudsman any matter which indicates criminal offences by the police; a new independent mechanism to deal with specific complaints against the DPP and other issues relating to criminal justice agencies.

Commitments have been given by the British and Irish Governments to speedily resolve the issue of people on the run as a result of the conflict and we are looking forward to their return home to their families. While on demilitarisation discussions are not closed.

On Human Rights and Equality issues it is now expected that momentum will be given to the Bill of Rights and there will be increased powers and resources for the equality Commission and the Human Rights Commission.

Sinn Féin had in the renewed negotiation called for a renewed focus on tackling sectarianism and the regeneration of areas of greatest need.

## Irish Language

On the Irish language it is expected that the outstanding commitments in the Good Friday Agreement be fulfilled in respect of the fund for Irish-language film and TV production and the availability of TG4; the reversal of the Irish government's recent cut-backs of Foras na Gaeilge's funding.

Sinn Féin has reiterated its call on the Irish government to expedite the implementation of the recommendations to provide representation in the Oireachtas for Irish citizens in the north through their elected representatives. It is important that all Irish citizens are encouraged and enabled to play an active role in the democratic life of the nation. The Irish Government, obviously, has the primary responsibility for achieving this democratic development and we call on the government to expedite the process to do this.

Anything less would be unforgivable!

## LATE NEWS

In mid April the IRA issued an unpublished statement to the Irish and British governments on its position. This statement would only be published when the two Governments made public their blue print for their proposals for reinstating the Executive and the Assembly. At time of going to print the position is that they are both saying that clarifications sought and provided did not satisfy them. What this means really is that the Ulster Unionist Party leader Trimble whose has to face another meeting of his council many of whom want any excuse to lock Sinn Féin out of the Executive does not have enough to save his neck!

Ed.

# OUR GREATEST HUNGER

by Pat Burke

"Talk of famine is greatly exaggerated. We all know that Irish men can live on anything, and there is plenty of grass in the fields, even though the potato crop should fail". - the Duke of Cambridge, Jan .1846. "Ireland is in your hands. If you do not save her, she cannot save herself. I solemnly call on you to recollect that I predict with the sincerest conviction that one fourth of her population will perish unless you come to her relief"- Daniel O'Connell, at Westminster, 1847. The Great Famine has affected the course of Irish history like no other similar occurrence. Even today, the thought of over 1 million Irish people starving to death and another million and a half emigrating still shocks us. What caused the "Curse of Black '47" to leave such an indelible mark on the Irish nation? For the years 1845 to 1849 appear to have brought a level of death and despair so terrible, that by 1851 old Ireland was changed utterly!

Though, over many centuries, famine, disease and destitution were regular visitors to the emerald isle. The Black Death reached Ireland in 1348. In a few weeks, the ports of Drogheda, Dublin and Dalkey were totally destroyed. The mortality rate in the towns of Ireland was 'terrific' and there was a great flight into the country!

Fr. Clyn of Kilkenny described the plague as, "so contagious that those who touched the dead or persons sick, were straightway infected themselves and died." At the end of the 16th century, following the Desmond and O'Neill wars, the Elizabethans carried out what we now call 'total war' in Munster, the Midlands, Connacht and Ulster. The historian Lecky spoke of towns, villages, farmhouses and castles being razed to the ground!

After the 1641 Rising, the Old Gaelic clans were dispossessed. The 'Curse of Cromwell' brought 17th century ethnic cleansing to Ireland. Slaughter and transportation reduced the population by 20%. There was a dreadful potato famine in 1740 and '41. Accounts tell of ditches filled with corpses, of whole villages destroyed by fever. Death toll estimates were as high as 400,000. There were widespread typhus and smallpox epidemics. A Cork physician, Dr. Rogers, estimated that two out of every eleven cases was fatal. George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne, predicted that, "The Irish nation will probably not recover from the incredible havoc of this famine for a lifetime". None of these disasters, great as they were have had an effect on the Irish psyche like the Great Famine. Strangest of all, perhaps, there seems virtually no folk memory of the calamitous famine of the 1740's. Why? What is rarely commented upon, is that the Great Famine coincided with a hurried communal language shift among the Irish peasantry. As a result of an unnaturally abrupt break with their past, a poor starving people found themselves in a cultural social vacu-

um! In this new situation, for the first time, a demoralised and disoriented race began to emigrate, in their hundreds of thousands. Since early Irish history, old manuscripts have alluded to the anguish of leaving Ireland. Until the late 18th century, emigration as we now know it, did not exist. Those leaving were young men studying for the priesthood or those who volunteered in Catholic European armies. They were both political and religious exiles. Most Irish people were unwilling to leave home, having a deep and sentimental attachment to quote the Evening Post of June 20th, 1816; "One of the peculiarities which distinguish the character of the native Irish is a vehement and in many cases absurd attachment to the soil on which they were born. This applies more to Catholics for the principal emigrants are the Presbyterians of the North ". The years following the Napoleonic wars saw a large population increase, especially among the rural poor of the west and southwest.

The subdivision of land into minute uneconomic holdings was a cause of concern to some in the British administration and more so to many charitable bodies. So much so, that several emigration

schemes were launched. But in the heartland of Gaelic culture the prospect of leaving Ireland was not favourable. For William Forbes, in his book "Ireland and Irish emigration to the New World from 1815 to the Famine", noted the bind of the people to the land as a considerable difficulty in Connacht and Munster when they were offered emigration. That bind was to be broken forever when the Great Famine struck. The spalpeen, the cottier and small tenant farmer were all but wiped out in that five year period. In 1841 there were over 300,000 small holdings of 1-5 acres, in ten years they had been reduced to just over 88,000. In this maelstrom, the native Irish, now, a confused, leaderless, mass of people broke with tradition. Acting out of character and in unison, they entered the workhouse and fled the land! Like the Ulster Scots before them, they crossed the ocean to America. Large congested areas of the country were soon denuded of people. Emigration and migration to the towns and cities became the norm. Folklorists have noted that despite our rich treasure trove of Irish song, there are virtually none relating to the Great Famine. That is the haunting folk memory of the "Great Hunger". A state of depression, guilt and shame affected those who survived and continued to live in Ireland in its wake. Rural communities saw their brightest and best leave as quickly as possible. Later and fewer marriages with a consequential low birth rate meant that Ireland's population continued to decline.

Between 1861 and 1914, a staggering 3 million emigrated. Alcoholism, mental ill-

(Continued on page 15)

## OUR GREATEST HUNGER (Continued from page 14)

ness and chronic depression showed a marked increase in the latter half of the 19th century. The stereotypical image of the 'fightin', drunken Irishman, speaking his peculiar Hiberno-English patois became commonplace in this period. It was only when the 'Celtic Renaissance' occurred that the Irish nation began to recover. It says something for those involved that they not only helped reconstruct a battered and bruised Irish nation, but that having restored some of the pride and self-respect that had formerly existed, they then led their country to independence. Which at least slowed down emigration and helped alleviate the Great Famine's effects. The 'Shadow of the Famine' had a terrible influence on Irish life. Unlike any previous catastrophe, the lack of leadership at the time, the loss of self respect and the breach with their traditions by the mass of the people set this particular cataclysm apart to cause it to be regarded as our "Greatest Hunger".

## A Defective Bill – little real support for Irish

The so-called language Bill was due to come before the Senate in early April. This weak Bill, which is drafted in such a way as to leave far too much up to the discretion of the Minister, contains some provisions which could actually weaken the constitutional status of the Irish language. Senators have put down some forty amendments. One of the most controversial provisions objected to by Irish Language organisations, which two Senators have proposed be deleted, is that which would prevent a citizen taking a civil case if the State had not lived up to its obligations under the Act. Other amendments strengthen the requirement for public bodies to provide a scheme to ensure services in Irish for citizens and would oblige companies to continue a correspondence initiated by a citizen in Irish through Irish.

Another amendment would require companies to give equality to Irish on all stationery and signage. One of the most important amendments of the many from Senator Joe McHugh is that which would change 'can (do)' to 'will (do)' – this would mean the Minister would have an obligation for certain actions. A further amendment calls for the appointment of a Language Commissioner within three months of the passing of the Bill.

Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (Coordinating Body for Irish Language Organisations) expressed dissatisfaction with Minister Ó Cuív's attitude to the amendments. An Comhdháil stated that not only was the Bill not granting rights but it taking away the long standing right of TDs and Senators to speak in Irish in the Dáil and Senate. The latest version of the Bill confirms that service in Irish will only be available at the will of the Minister and the State, which has long been evading its responsibilities. It called on the Minister to rethink the structure of the Bill and to give proper leadership to the Gaeltacht and Irish language communities.

## One Step Forward and Two Steps Backwards

In the last issue of CARN we reported the measure introduced by Galway County Council, on foot of a motion by Councillor Pól Ó Foighil, not to allow building of houses in the Connemara Gaeltacht for people not fluent in Irish. This measure might have had some effect in stemming the colonisation of the area by monoglot English speakers with its consequence adverse affect on the Irish language in schools and in community life.

Unfortunately the same County Council has now reversed this decision. Not only that but the requirement in the previous 1997 County Development Plan for a Language Impact Statement for all planning applications has been abandoned (retained only for housing schemes). It should be mentioned of course that the County Council never enforced that requirement in any serious way. Indeed the Council itself did not submit one for a housing scheme in the middle of the Gaeltacht, in An Cheathrú Rua, leading to the striking down of the planning permission for that scheme in the High Court.

That political parties can not be depended on to protect the Gaeltacht is clear as the policy in relation to Connemara was formulated by the seven councillors from the area before it was passed by the overall council. The new policy on rural housing in theory allows building only by locals, those working in the area and returned immigrants. The practice has shown that there are many in the Gaeltacht already who have no compunction in proposing for profit large housing schemes which will have an extremely detrimental effect on the remaining weak fabric of Irish in an embattled Gaeltacht. Another chance lost alas to stem the tide!

## Irish Language Spell check

Microsoft launched an Irish Language spell check software package in February. It was developed in cooperation with Trinity College University, Dublin and Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (Irish Linguistics Institute). It can be downloaded free from the website of Microsoft, Ireland. It can be used with Office XP and is aimed at a range of Irish Language users from learners, writers and academics to those working through Irish. It is a significant step in the development of Irish and all associated with it are to be congratulated.



*Bhí sléibhte Derbyshire i Sasana beo le cabaireacht i nGaeilge san Earrach. D'cagraigh 'Coláiste na nGael' deireadh seachtaine do Ghaeilgeoirí agus bhí ranganna, léachtaí agus siúlóidí ann trí radharcanna áibhëile. D'fhreastaíl seasca duine ar an ócáid. Bhain Liam Ó Cuinneagáin as Oideas Gael agus Údaras na Gaeltachta fíorshult as casadh le Gaeilgeoirí agus foghlaimoírí na teanga. Duirt Liam:*

*'Chomh fada agus atá grúpaí ann a cagraíonn imeachtaí samhlaíochta tá todhchaí ag an Ghaeilge. Is féidir le díograiseoirí in Éirinn, i Sasana nó in áit ar bhith eile, tacaíocht chumachtach a thabhairt dár dteanga dhúchais.'*

*Imeachtaí eile: Coláiste na nGael, Durham 5-7ú M.F. // Lá Fhéile Iris Meán, St Albans, 20ú M.F. // Féile Idirnáisiúnta Teanga na Gaeilge, An Isiltír 25-27ú D.F. Tuilleadh eolais: Dónal +44 (0) 208 348 5016.*



# Kernow



## NOWODHOW DA RAG AN YETH KEMBREK

Towl an governans Kembrek henwys 'laith Pawb' (yeth pubonan) a dhispleg y fydh spenys moy mona poblek yn blydhynow ow tos rag krevhe an yeth yn teyluyow hag yn trevow, ri spas dhe voy tus dhe dhyski Kembrek ha gul dhe dhiwyethogeth bos degemmers yvel ewnder yn bywnans poblek an pow.

Der an teyr blydhen y fydh spenys 40 milvil a Euro rag an Kembrek : 14 milvil rag an dyskys, dres oil rag skolyow-meythrin, 16 moy rag *Offis an Kembrek* ha 2 rag dyllans lyvrow Kembrek.

Dyllys yw a-dro dhe 600 lyver yn Kembrek pub blydhen. Gwerthys yw a-dro dhe 1200 dasskrif a bub lyver. Gwayn war werthas an lyvrow a vydh res dhe Gonsel an Lyvrow may hallo skrifysi dyllo lyvrow gans yalghasow a-dro dhe 10,000 peuns. Y'n maner ma y fydh dyllys moy lyvrow yn Kembrek hwath ha war destennow nebes studhys po dyllys yn Kembrek bys y'n eur ma. Mona a vydh res ynwehdh rag gwruthyl bagas-gwari rag gwariva genedhlek yn Kembrek.

Mes nyns yw lowen pubonan yn Kembra gans kynnigow an governans. Rag *Cymdeithas yr Iaith* (Kowethas an Yeth) yma edhomm a lagha nowydh rag Kembrek. Res via beghya gweythvaow privedh dhe wul devnydh an yeth kenedhlek a'n pow, henn yw an yeth Kembrek. Res yw gwitha ranndiryow may ma Kembrek kewsys erbynn bushys a Sowsnegoryon na yvnoo dyski Kembrek. Toellys yw an UCAC (kesunyans lavur dyskatoryon) na vo gwrys gwelheansow lowr wosa an skol-veythrin ha na vo dyskys dyskatoryon dhe dhyski dre Gembrek.

José CALVETE.

*Dhiworth erthygel Iwan Kadored-Bremañ/Courtesy Bremañ*

### Summary

*According to the project of the Welsh Assembly, laith Pawb (Everyone's Language), public money will be spent (40 million) to improve the status of the Welsh language and to make bilingualism a legal right.*

## RYDH VYDH AN MENHIRYON YN BRETEN VYGHAN!

Ervirys veu gans barr menystrel Naoned (hanow tre Nantes yn bretonek) degynsow yn mis Genver dhe nagma dhe dowl tornyasel henwys 'Menhirland' yn Karnag (hanow tre Carnac yn bretonek). Sevys veu an towl ma nans yw unnek blydhen. Menyster a-barth gonisogeth Pow Frynk, *Jean Jacques Aillagon* o erbynn an towl ynwehdh. War-lergh an menyster, re gostek o an towl, a-dro dhe 15 milvil a Euro. Annedhysi rann-dir Karnag hag eseli kowethas 'Menhirs Libres' (menhiryon rydh) o erbynn an towl, ha lemmyn lowen yns gans an ervirans ma ha gans aga thrygh!

José CALVETE.

*Dhiworth Bremañ/Courtesy Bremañ*

### Summary

*In January last the administrative tribunal of Nantes in Brittany decided to cancel the 'Menhirland' project in Carnac - a tourist project initiated 11 years ago. Even the French Minister of Culture, Jean Jacques Aillagon was against it, as it was too expensive and out of date. The inhabitants of the Carnac area and the members of the association 'Menhirs Libres' are happy with this decision and their victory!*

## OBITUARY: ROYSTON GREEN, R.I.P.

### International Socialist and Committed Supporter of the Celtic League

"Royston Green, the first Secretary of the Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League, passed away on the 5th October 2002. Roy, who was in his early 80's was Branch Secretary from 1962 to the early 1970's and kept in contact with Branch activities until his death.

Fortunately, in September 2002 all Branch documents and papers in Roy's possession relating to the activities of the Cornwall Branch during his time as Secretary, were passed on to be archived at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, where they are now kept, along with other material from the Celtic League. As Roy commented back in September, he was pleased that a resolution he had made in the 1970's, to archive material from all Branches in one place, was finally being implemented.

Below are some extracts from the funeral address given by Fr. Ian Tucker, Team Vicar, Redruth Ministry at the burial of Roy at Carnmenellis Churchyard on Friday 11th October 2002, along with some additional information that Roy passed on to me at our last meeting.

Roy was raised in Somerset and Dorset into a farming family. He was a pupil of Yeovil Grammar School and then moved on to Exeter where he gained his degree.

Roy loved Cornwall and regularly visited his relatives near Bodmin as a child and a young man and always wanted to live there. In fact some of Roy's first memories was as a child in Cornwall.

In 1946 he married his wife Blanche, his lifetime companion who died in 1999 with whom he shall be laid to rest with his son David who died some 20 years ago.

As a young man, Roy's interest in politics led him to join the Communist Party, of which he remained an active and devoted member all his life. Roy was instrumental in forming the Cornish Branch of the Communist Party.

In the post war years, Roy became a teacher, a profession to which he was completely dedicated. So much so, that family holidays often included invitations to boys from underprivileged social backgrounds in the north, to join Roy, Blanche and their two children for holidays in Scotland and Ireland.

Roy and the family returned from living in St Helen's, Lancashire to Cornwall in 1959. Here in Cornwall he taught Geography at Cornwall Technical College. His love of Cornwall and its traditions, history and culture must have been instrumental in Roy studying the Cornish language of which he became a Bard of the Gorsedh in 1964.

Roy's Bardic name was Trevesyk or "Countryman". Roy was active within Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall as well as the Celtic League, the subjects of which were passions of Roy.

In 1972, Roy and Blanche travelled to East Germany where he taught English until his retirement in 1976.

Roy loved Ireland and in 1961 bought a cottage there. He last visited Ireland in March this year, but didn't get to visit as often as he would have liked to.

Roy died at his house, aptly named "Tranquilla", in Carnmenellis, Cornwall and leaves a daughter, Jenny and a grandson, Michael who still live in Cornwall"

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot

In addition to Roy's work for the Cornish branch and also his lifelong dedication to the International Socialist cause he also carried on an active role on the League General Council holding the post of Treasurer for many years. It was in this role that I, initially as Assistant Secretary General and subsequently got to know Roy. His commitment to the Inter Celtic cause was unswerving and he was very much to the fore just prior to his death in reviving the Celtic League branch in Cornwall.

He will be sorely missed.

Bernard Moffatt

# Campaign for St Piran's flag wins through

On the 19th November 2002, Paddy MacDonough was fined £300 Stg and a Community Service Order was imposed on him, for the criminal damage of the brown tourist signs, which can be widely seen throughout Cornwall.

When arrested towards the end of summer 2002, Paddy MacDonough admitted to the police that he had sprayed over the Tudor Rose symbol on all signs throughout Cornwall and had replaced it with the flag of St Piran.

He later justified his actions by saying that he felt the Tudor Rose was a visual symbol of English imperialism in Cornwall and that he believed that direct action had become the only option open to him in his pursuit of justice.

Paddy MacDonough said that he was frustrated by the lack of action on the part of the Council in Cornwall, to change the Rose symbol to the flag of St Piran. The flag of St Piran was the suggestion made by a majority of people who entered a Cornwall County Council run competition to decide a suitable alternative to the Rose symbol. Despite the results of the competition, announced early last year, the Council remained unresponsive and seemed determined to avoid the issue passing the responsibility for the decision over to the Westminster Government, claiming that the Home Secretary needs to ratify the change of symbol on the sign for it to be officially used.

Like increasing numbers of people in Cornwall, Paddy believes that the Westminster Government is a remote institution that is archaic in its democratic outlook and unsuited to Cornish governance in the twenty-first century. If decisions, as simple as deciding what symbol should be put on a brown tourist sign, are made by one person, is it any wonder that people like Paddy are becoming increasingly frustrated by the English democratic system?

Below is the statement (unpublished) he made to the press, as to the reasons why he felt democracy had failed:

*The people of Cornwall have as much right as anyone in these islands to demand good governance, vital facilities and equal opportunities ... Currently, in Cornwall, [the poorest place in Britain] young people emigrate in their droves and for many reasons, mostly never to return.*

*Our fishing, farming and mining industries*

*are either in terminal decline or have vanished. Tourism offers badly paid and seasonal work and the lack of affordable housing means that homes are out of the reach of most local people.*

*Cornwall has had to accept second best for too long.*

*Our present institutions of governance are inadequate. Therefore Cornwall needs a powerful political vehicle - our own Assembly, so we can make the real changes*



*necessary to revitalise our economy. I believe this will give our young people the opportunities they deserve and to give them hope for the future.*

*Despite over 50,000 people signing a DEMOCRATICALLY PROCURED petition for an Assembly for Cornwall and the Prime Minister's word that "Assemblies will be implemented where there is popular demand" the wishes AND RIGHTS of the people of Cornwall have been dismissed. Instead, the Government is trying to swallow Cornwall up into a huge amorphous South West region, where we will have little, or no, say.*

*On behalf of those 50,000 people...and one of the people responsible for organising the petition, I feel it is my duty to protest in the strongest of terms at the total lack of democracy on this subject.*

*I have written to over 600 MP's, hundreds of overseas Politicians, County Councillors and even Human Rights groups in Europe, to no avail. I have organised and participated in demonstrations against the imposition of a South West Assembly - spent nearly a year on the streets of Cornwall with the petition, helped collate and hand over the petition to Tony Blair - all to ensure that the voice of Cornwall is heard. But I feel I have been ignored.'*

*I believe that democratic change will be a long and fitful process for Cornwall, unless individuals like Paddy, organisa-*

*tions like the Celtic League or a constitutional body like the Cornish Stannary Paliament dare to act in an independent and thoughtful way, through meaningful acts of civil disobedience along constitutional lines.*

*I hope that democracy one day will succeed in Cornwall, but I get the feeling that it won't be under an English democratic system.*

**\* Cornwall's Councillors have finally succumbed to pressure and have agreed that the Tudor Rose symbol should be removed from the Brown tourist signs in Cornwall and replaced with the flag of St. Piran.**

**In a letter to the Celtic Congress, Peter Moore, from the department of**

**Planning Transportation and Estates at Cornwall Council stated that "this process took a considerable time, but was worthwhile in that it gave us a very clear result in that the most acceptable theme was undoubtedly the flag of St. Piran".**

*The winning design came from a schoolgirl from Marazion and featured a St. Piran's flag waving in the wind.*

## Victims of State Persecution in Cornwall

Members of the Cornish Community are offering their financial support to people who are prosecuted by the State of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, for democratic actions of civil disobedience.

Pawl Dunbar, Managing Director of Gynn ha Du in Lyskerry, started collecting money when Paddy MacDonough was fined £300 for the criminal damage of the brown tourist signs, late last year.

The money collected will be put into a proper fund with trustees, under a legal framework. Any advice or ideas (especially on keeping such funds safe from sequestration) should be sent to Gwynn ha Du, 4 An Arked, Stret Veur, Lyskerry, Kernow, PL14 3JB or telephone 01579 347373. In addition to this, any contribution towards the setting up of this fund should also be sent to the above address.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## End of Solidarity?

At their AGM in March 2003, Cornish Solidarity questioned their ability to carry on as a Cornish pressure group. In a short meeting, members were informed that Solidarity had met all its initial aims and that the Chairperson had decided to stand down. However, the Chairs position and several other key positions within the organisation had not been filled. Consequently, the organisation could not viably carry on in its present capacity.

It was suggested that the forum would meet up again in the next couple of months to decide for certain how Solidarity will develop, if at all.

In recent months, Cornish Solidarity had developed into a discussion forum, bringing together members from different organisations to discuss common issues of concern to all.

## Sense of Place

A new project is being spearheaded by Cornwall LEA "to link schools, communities and local history in a creative way and help Cornish school children grow up with a strong sense of their own culture and heritage."

Will Coleman, the Director of the project, commented that, "*Cornwall is a distinctive place. We have a fascinating history and a rich and diverse cultural heritage. We would like our children to have an understanding of their special place in the world*".

## Schools ethnicity census

Towards the end of 2002 in Cornwall (and elsewhere), the Department for Education and Skills and Cornwall County Council ran an ethnicity census on students in Cornwall's educational establishments. Unfortunately, Cornwall County Council failed to include a *Cornish* ethnicity tick box, despite having the opportunity to do so.

Calls are now being made to the DfES to re-constitute the Pupil Ethnic Background Monitoring Survey, so that Cornish ethnicity can be registered. (Contact [celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com](mailto:celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com) for copies of more detailed correspondence between Cornish activists and the Dfes and Cornwall LEA)

## MK joins with the EFA

Mebyon Kernow-the Party for Cornwall have been granted observer status of the Democratic Party of the Peoples of Europe - European Free Alliance, DPPE-EFA, for a year, as a precursor to becoming full members.

The DPPE-EFA is a European political party that unites nationalist, regionalist and autonomist parties in the European Union in order to work towards practical initiatives at a European level.

## Kernow Branch donates money to Skoazell Vreizh

At the Kernow Branch meeting of the Celtic League on Wednesday January 2003 our members agreed to donate a sum equivalent to £50str, from Branch funds, to Skoazell Vreizh / Breton Aid. This was agreed to in recognition of the good work that Skoazell Vreizh does for the Breton POW's (and their families), held in captivity by the French authorities.

Members of our Branch of the Celtic League are kept up-to-date with developments and our members are encouraged to maintain contact with the prisoners.

Sue Bowen, Branch Secretary, said, "it's about time that the Bretons were released by the French authorities. Holding the prisoner's for this amount of time cannot be justified and more should be done by all Branches of the League to aid their plight."

## Cornish villages over-run with second homes

There are now 10,787 second homes in Cornwall, according to 2001 census data just released. This means that almost 1 in 20 homes in Cornwall are owned by people from outside and used only for holidays.

This has seriously undermined the viability of local schools, shops and bus services in some communities and has largely contributed to the dramatic rise in house prices in recent years. This has meant that in winter months, some villages are virtually lifeless, as young people become completely priced out of the market and rented accommodation has become increasingly scarce.

Unfortunately despite efforts being made by the local authorities, things can only really change in Cornwall if legislation is passed in the Westminster government restricting the sale of properties.

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot



Candidates of Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall, gathered in Fraddon, Cornwall on Sunday 23rd February for a photo shoot, ahead of the May 2003 district council elections. Mebyon Kernow are putting up over 25 candidates in the elections - which is a record for the Party.

Dick Cole, the leader of the party said: "Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall has a strong team of talented local candidates throughout Cornwall. People throughout Cornwall now have the opportunity to vote for a Party whose priority is the people of Cornwall - not political point scoring or reporting to party headquarters in London. With Cornish self-government high on the political agenda, we will continue to use every option at our disposal to push this campaign forward and that includes these very important local elections."



## IMPIROILEE YN EASH NOA

Bunnys lieh-cheead blein er dy henney as ad gobbraghey dy follit marish ny Frangee as ny h-Israellee, hoie ny Sostnee er yn Ammyr Suez dy gheddyn greimurree. V'ad corree er y fa dy row Nasser, fer-toshee ny h-Egyptee ec y traa v'ayn, er ve daaney dy liooar yn Ammyr Suez y ashoonaghey son y cheer echey hene. Heill ram sleih sy Vretyn Vooar dy row shen slane scammyltagh. Va Arabee nyn rifanyn sollagh, fo-leih nagh dod oo cur treisht erbee ayn. Smooinnee reilys Hostyn (marish y daa reilys elley) dy jinnagh ad goaill yn Ammyr 'erash' er egin, as hug ad sidooryn stiagh. Va'n Vretyn Vooar scoltit eddyr adsyn v'ayns foayr jeh shoh as adsyn va noi echey. (Va foddey ny smoo ayns foayr jeh sy Vretyn Vooar eisht na adsyn t'ayns foayr jeh smaghtaghey yn Earack ec y traa t'ayn.) Haink meeillaghyn dy leih er ny straiddyn - son as noi. Va mish my studeyr ayns Lerpoyll ec y traa v'ayn. Myr poblaghtagh aeg va dy bollagh noi'n Impiraght Ghoaldagh, hooill mee ayns Lerpoyll marish ymmodde sleih elley dy hoilshaghey dy row shin noi'n toiaigh impiroilagh er yn Egypt. Adsyn v'ayns foayr jeh, v'ad gyllagh stoo goll rish 'Woggy'n baney Nasser!' noi ainy'n, soilshaghey yn kynneeghys ta goll er greinaghey ec yn impiroilaghys dy mennick.

Va'n reilys Americanaagh noi 'n toiaigh er Suez as begin da ny Goaldee, Frangee as Israelee tayrn ergooyl. Bleeantyn lurg shen, huit yn impiraght Rooshagh veih my cheilley, as shimmy peiagh va smooingaghtyn dy row eash ny h-impiraghtyn ersooyl dy bollagh. Agh cha row noadyr: va'n Impiraght Americanaagh cheet rish.

Dynsee mee lessoonyn scanshoil ayns lhing Suez, as dynsee mee lessoonyn elley mysh daa vlein yeig er dy henney, tra va mee foast gobbraghey ec Scoill Ylcheirdagh Lerpoyll as va'n chie'd Chaggey-Gulf fo raad. Hug reilys America yn Scoill Ylcheirdagh er list doo: dooyrt ad dy row Rhey'n Jeshaghteyrys Lectragh gynsaghey da studeyrin Earackagh yn agh dy jannoo fiooseyn ry hoi culleeyn cheshveanagh! Va shoh cho ommidjagh as dy row sleih sy Scoill garaghtee. Agh cha row ad garaghtee tra dooyrt reilys America nagh dod y Scoill Ylcheirdagh goaill ymmyd jeh culleeyn Americanaagh erbee, goaill stiagh co-ear-rooderyn as cooid vog. Va'n Scoill er ny dooney sheese, bunnys.

Hirr skimmee yn Scoill cooney er reilys y Reeriaght Unnaneyssit, ren gra nagh row shen red erbee bentyn roosyn (!). 'Gow-shiu dys y Consul Americanaagh ayns Manchuin', dooyrt ad. Shen na va jeant. Dooyrt y Consul, 'Cha noddym hene jannoo veg. Gow-shiu dys leighderyn ayns New York.' Shen ny red ad, as deec y Scoill meeillaghyn dy phunt dy scapail veih list doo

va currit ry cheilley ec bonkany'n. Begin da ny Goaldee croymmey sheese roish niart Americanaagh.

Y red smoo haink magh ass y skeeal shoh: va'n Reeriaght Unnaneyssit er ve aym jeh'n Impiraght Americanaagh rish bleeantyn dy liooar, as foddey yn reilys Americanaagh jannoo red erbee t'eh laccal sy Reeriaght Unnaneyssit, bunnys. T'eh jeeaghyn dy vel Tony Blair toiggal shoh feer vie as t'eh jannoo e chooid share myr guilley-drid y reilys Americanaagh. T'ad loayrt dy daaney as dy caggoil ayns ny Steatyn Unnaneyssit nish mychione yn Impiraght oc as yn agh nce ad smaghtaghey cheer erbee nagh vel biallagh roosyn. Son shickyrys, she sleih meen as onnoroil y chooid smoo jeusyn Americanaagh, agh t'ad goll er reill nish ec possan keoi.

Bentyn rish yn Earack, ta sleih ennagh er ghra dy lhisagh ny Celtiee ve neuchommeeagh - cha lhisagh ad pohldal my h-Americaaneec as cha lhisagh ad pohldal ny h-Earackee. Agh cha nel eh cho aashagh as shen. Ta ram jeh ny h-Earackee er ve caggey son y seyrnsys oc hene as cha nce son y jaghteyr

agglagh shen Saddam Hussein. Goll rish millioonyn dy leih elley, ta ny h-Earackee er ve surrannse rish sheellogheyn as sheellogheyn kyndagh rish yn impiroilaghys. Lhisagh ny Celtiee ve noi'n impiroilaghys neesht - she red olk t'ayn ren jannoo assee mooar da ny Celtiee as nyn gultooryn as jengaghyn. Myr shen, cha nodmayd ve neuchommeeagh. Ga dy vel Celtiee dy liooar er ngoaill aym ayns cur yn impiroilaghys er e hoshiaght ayns ny bleeantyn t'er ngoll shaghey (dy mee-arryltagh, ny keayrty'n), ta caa ain dy ve er y cheu chiert bentyn rish yn impiroilaghys nish. S'treih lhiam gra dy vel yn impiroilaghys shen cheet voish reilys America son y chooid smoo. Agh shen yn agh lesh impi-raghtyn - ta'n niart kiart, ta sleih berchagh cheet dy ve ny s'berchee as ta sleih boght cheet dy ve ny s'boghtey. Gyn ourys erbee, shimmy Americanaagh mie ta gearree sharaghey yn seihll liorish geddyn rey rish jaghteyryn, tranlaasee, torchagh, meechairys, as myr shen. Agh cha nod oo jannoo shen liorish marroo ram sleih oney, stroie cheeraghyn elley as torchaghey sleih ta noi ayd. Shegin dhyt ve surransagh as prowal cul-tooryn elley y hoiggal syn ymmyd jeh aghtey dy sonnaasagh. Yn agh ren ad soie er yn Earack, hug eh er Earackee va noi Saddam caggey er e hon.

Eer ayns Mannin raad ta sleih dy liooar credjal ny ta screcut ayns ny pabyryn-naight Sostnagh yn Daily Mail as y Sun, va (as ta) ymmodde sleih noi soie er yn Earack. S'treih yn red eh nagh vel Mannin ny h-ashoon neuchroghagh as dy vel shin fo smaght y



*A section of the 100,000 strong anti-war demonstration in Dublin.*

Reeriaght Unnaneyssit bentyn rish cooishyn eddyrashoonagh.

As lhisagh reilys Nerin goaill nearey dy lhig ad da etlanyn-caggee Americanaagh goaill ymmyd jeh purt-aer Shannon as ad goll dy hoie er yn Earack. Bee eh doillee dy ghra dy vel Nerin neuchommeeagh nish, ga dy vel Arabee dy liooar coontey ram jeh ny Yernee.

T'eh jeeaghyn nagh dynsee Bush as Blair veg veih caggaghyn elley, goll rish y caggey ayns Nerin twoaie er y gherrid. Ayns ny pabyryn Sostnagh t'ou dy mennick lhaih cre cho mie as ta armee Hostyn er y fa dy row ad caggey ayns baljyn ayns Nerin twoaie - 'cha nel shin goll rish ny h-Americaaneec bolvaneagh shen nagh vel cliaghtit rish caggey ayns baljyn'. Agh cha nel oo lhaih stoo goll rish. 'Ren shin ooilley ny reddyn aggairagh ayns Nerin twoaie. Hooar shin lessoonyn gonnagh ayns shen: neemayd ymmyd jeh shen syn Earack ... graih veen, cha lhisagh shin er ngoll stiagh!'

Kyndagh rish Ossama Bin Laden, Bush, Blair as Saddam Hussein, ta'n seihll ny smoo gaeagagh na v'eh, as ta shen goaill stiagh Seihll Beg ny Manninee myrgeeddin.

### Summary

*Concerning the conflict in Iraq, some people have said that the right policy for the Celts is to be neutral. But, while not supporting Saddam Hussein, it is surely right for Celts to take an anti-imperialist stance, if only because of their history.*

Brian Stowell

# Phil Gawne Seeks Election to House of Keys

On May 15th there will be a bye-election in the Rushen constituency, in the south of the Island, for a single seat in the House of Keys. (Manx Parliament)

Well-known Manx language activist, Phil Gawne, has put his name forward as a candidate in the election.

Phil is currently employed as *Yn Greinneyder*, (Manx Heritage Foundation's Manx Language Development Officer) and has been a Rushen Parish Commissioner for the past two years.

Phil Gawne, 38, lives in the heritage village of Cregneash with his wife Anne Kissack and young children Ewan and Catreaney, who were reared as Manx speakers. Along with others, Phil established the Moonijer Veggey playgroups around the Island, where more than 100 pre-school-aged children now learn Manx.

Phil has lived most of his life in Rushen, spending a short time at the University of Liverpool where he gained an honours degree in Biochemistry.

Having just returned to the Island after studying at Liverpool University, Phil went to work as a trainee accountant and one of the first experiences he had was assisting in the



Savings and Investment Bank liquidation in 1981. This showed him very clearly the less savoury aspects of an industry which was poorly regulated.

During the late '80s Phil was involved with FSFO - a non-violent nationalist group. The FSFO campaign arose from a feeling that politicians were more influenced by business interests than the interests of their own people. The most significant issue was the lack of affordable housing and concern about the undue influence of the finance sector.

The campaign, which ended with an arson attack on an uncompleted luxury home in

Tromode in 1988, led to the imprisonment of three FSFO campaigners (one of them Phil Gawne) for eight months.

In announcing his intention to stand Mr Gawne said, 'I believe there are many significant issues facing the Isle of Man and I feel that with my background and experience I can contribute to a positive and successful future for our Island.

'I think that balancing the need for a sound economy and sustainable growth against the pressures to our infrastructure caused by unrestrained population growth, remains the most difficult challenge ahead.'

In his manifesto Mr Gawne lists the following core issues that he would be committed to should he be elected -

- Strong, Secure, Sustainable and Diverse Economy
- More Manageable Population Increases to Protect Our Way of Life
- Imaginative Solutions to Affordable Housing
- Quality Education and Health Services
- Support and Protection for Manx Culture and Environment
- Workable Solutions for Faltering Traditional Industries - Farming, Fishing and Tourism
- Support for Initiative and Enterprise in and out of Government
- Less Administration and More Action
- Engagement with Young People

## Manx Government's Language Policy Two Faced?

At the start of this year the Manx Government included increased support for the Manx language in its policy statement [Isle of Man Government Plan], which identifies *Positive National Identity* as a central aim of Government. Then, in early February it went a step further, reaffirming its support for Manx by signing up to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. At this stage the government has opted to sign Part Two of the Charter, and Chief Minister Richard Corkill, MHK has indicated that the government will keep the question of Part three under review.

The Charter as it will apply to Manx commits Government to basing its policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

1. The recognition of Manx as an expression of cultural wealth;
2. The need for resolute action to promote Manx in order to safeguard it;
3. The facilitation and / or encouragement of the use of Manx, in speech and writing, in public and private life;
4. The provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of Manx at all appropriate stages;

Only days after the Manx Government



Mr. Bill Henderson, MHK.

pledged enhanced commitment to the language Bill Henderson, MHK, (Member of the House of Kcys) was barred from using Manx by Tynwald's President, Mr. Noel Cringle.

In a bid to boost national pride Mr Henderson, also a member of the

Celtic League, decided to translate a much-used phrase into his native tongue for the sitting. When asked to table questions members normally state 'I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name'. Mr Henderson used the Manx translation 'Ta mee shirrey kied yn 'eisht y chur ta fo m'ennym'.

Mr Henderson was astounded when, after using the phrase for two questions, Mr Cringle instructed him not to use the Manx language.

Mr Cringle referred to standing order 3.23(5), which states 'a term or expression in another language cannot be used in conducting the business of Tynwald'.

In a press release following the ban Mr Henderson said, 'I am absolutely astounded that there are still prohibitive, antiquated rules in existence that clamp down on Manx culture stemming back to colonial days. It is a national disgrace and I vow to change this.

It's no wonder national pride is not as

strong as it should be when parliamentary procedures are not seen fit to change in order to promote our culture. Manx politicians should be leading our Island's identity and cultural promotion at all costs, not hiding away, acquiescing to the ancient wishes of Westminster.

Mr Henderson immediately wrote to Tynwald's standing orders committee demanding the rule is reviewed as a matter of urgency as he felt that the rule was in conflict with government's policy of promoting Manx culture via its policy statement and under the European Charter.

Mr Cringle later said that he was sympathetic to the increasing use of Manx in Tynwald provided it is limited to set titles and phrases. Indeed, he argued, a rigorous application of standing order 3.23(5) could rule out the use of titles such as Eaghtyran (President) and Shirveishagh (Minister), as it makes clear that English is the only language for sittings of Tynwald. Mr Cringle felt that it was important to bring to members attention that full sentences in Manx breached Tynwald rules.

Following extensive media coverage and public support for Bill Henderson's stance, Tynwald's Standing Orders Committee are reviewing this matter.

Clearly Tynwald's 'rules' do not comply with the spirit or indeed the requirements of the European Charter. If the Government's pledge is to be taken seriously it should drop the archaic rule and by its actions enter into the true spirit of the Charter.

# STATE OF THE NATION

## WE HAVE GROWTH - WE HAVE WEALTH

### - WE LACK POLITICAL DIRECTION

When the Isle of Man Chief Minister, Richard Corkill MHK (Member of the House of Keys), chose to speak out recently on the 'State of the Nation' it was no surprise that he addressed his comments to a 'business breakfast' rather than deliver them directly to the Manx Nation.

An alternative view is set out below.

By his action the Chief Minister was, albeit inadvertently, reinforcing the view amongst the wider Manx public that they are divorced from the political process and its decisions.

Manx public opinion was critical sixteen years ago when the old post-colonial administrative structures of government were swept aside and replaced by a new Ministerial system.

Despite the criticisms the new system did have the potential to deliver what its predecessor had not i.e. a coherent and cohesive link between governments and those they serve. The Ministerial system was also well placed to capitalise on the new wealth, which the Island was starting to generate from financial services business and ensure this prosperity was channelled for the good of all. Indeed, the government of the day seizing the initiative indicated that its objective would be to do just that by creating a 'Prosperous and Caring Society' implicit within which was shared wealth and social cohesion.

However, when the current Chief Minister rose to address his chosen audience (the select of the business community) it was clear that this early vision of Ministerial government, shared wealth and social justice, had not and cannot be achieved by the processes inherent in the current system.

Were the Chief Minister honest about the 'State of the Nation' he would have had to admit to serious shortcomings.

Social divisions are exemplified by a government policy to retain low wages, keeping statutory minimum wages set at a derisory level particularly when matched against the salaries of the Chief Minister's chosen audience at his 'breakfast brief'.

In addition the Isle of Man's appalling housing record obvious ten years ago is only now starting to be addressed. However it is too little and too late and in any case the accelerated construction programme is less directed towards alleviating the suffering of those, a Social Services Chief recently admitted were, 'living in tents' and more towards stimulating the demand of incoming residents, fuelling Island population growth.

Growth itself is no bad thing particularly for a community that in the immediate post-war period endured great privation. The income generated through growth,

used wisely in tandem with social programmes, can deliver much that is good. However, the architects of that initial Ministerial government's 'Prosperous and Caring Society' could not have appreciated that the endgame of their social experiment would have been, in part, so negative.

They also promised improved Social legislation and rights for working people. These are now, a full decade and half later, starting to materialise. But in all honesty the Isle of Man still falls short of either United Kingdom or European social legislative provision as with reform of Human Rights each step towards equality and justice is conceded grudgingly.

This cycle of negativity could be broken. What the Island needs is vigorous, critical but positive debate, particularly in the corridors of power.

However, does the Chief Minister really think that he contributes to that process by pontificating on the 'State of the Nation' to a chosen few at a secluded rural hotel?

The 'Political Health of the Nation' is directly correlated with the 'State of the Nation' and in that regard our political health is critical!

An intellectual vacuum exists at the heart of Manx politics, best evidenced by the poor turnout at elections for both local and National government. What solution does the Chief Minister advance to resolve this crisis? None!

Could (should) the Island's media do the government's job and sell Manx politics to an increasingly disillusioned electorate?

A senior print journalist suggested to me recently that Manx politics and the utterances of politicians 'don't sell papers'.

The one area where there is significant coverage i.e. the Islands radio station, would also probably ditch its political coverage commitment if it was not for the significant financial subvention which keeps it afloat. However, is anyone listening or more pertinently does anyone believe what they hear?

The political vacuum that is Manx politics is enlivened occasionally when 'maverick' MHKs attempt to expose the shortcomings of the system. However, any encouragement or confidence this might engender has been neutralised by the manner in which this occasional breath of fresh air is trashed by the Council of Ministers (CoMin).

CoMin also reduces political life to its lowest common denominator by the manner in which it attempts to control elections to Tynwald's (the parliament)

upper chamber, the Legislative Council. Such chicanery leaves a political 'bad taste in the mouth'.

So what of the State of the Nation? Our Nation!

We have growth, which although reduced from its peak in recent years is still the envy of other States. We have wealth, generated by this growth. However, we do not have a clear idea of how these advantages can be used for the good of all.

We lack political direction!

**Bernard Moffatt**

*(President of the Isle of Man Trades Council and a prominent member of Mec Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Party)*

## GAOL FOR TREASURE LOOTERS - BUT BRITISH INSTITUTIONS ARE WORST CULPRITS

In an almost breathtaking example of hypocrisy the United Kingdom Culture Ministry is to introduce a Bill - The Cultural Properties (Offences) Act - to crack down on the trade in stolen artefacts and antiquities. They are threatening to gaol those who profit from the trade and sale of ancient treasures.

The move, whilst welcome, in addressing the International trade in such items once again however highlights that some of the worst examples of cultural theft and expropriation have been undertaken by the British government itself and the Institutions its Culture Ministry oversees.

As the new legislation is unveiled a member of the Manx Tynwald (parliament) accused the United Kingdom of cultural theft. Bill Henderson, MHK, is supporting the long-standing campaign by the Celtic League to have artefacts looted by British institutions from the Celtic countries returned to their countries of origin.

Mr. Henderson has also pledged to continue the battle throughout the next twelve months if necessary forcing a debate on the issue of such cultural theft. The Celtic League sincerely hope that Mr. Henderson's campaign is taken up by National Parties in Scotland and Wales and also that political parties in Ireland seek restitution of items expropriated during the years of British rule there.

**Bernard Moffatt**



# Celtica



## THE BANNING OF ALL THE POLITICAL EXPRESSIONS OF THE BASQUE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

### THE NEW STRATEGY OF THE RIGHT WING SPANISH GOVERNMENT

Recently, the process to ban the political party BATASUNA by the Spanish government has been the news in the newspapers and media, all around the world. A supposedly "democratic" state was trying to ban a political party that was the second force during the last local elections in the Basque country. A political party with a considerable support in the Basque country (around 15 MPs in the Navarra Autonomous Government and the Basque Autonomous Government, an MP in the European Parliament and more than 60 Local Mayors, - Batasuna doesn't participate in the Spanish Parliament elections-). A political party that represents the political expression of the masses of the Liberation Movement and motor for a democratic change in the Basque Country. After four days of deliberations (of the 20 days allowed), the Spanish Supreme Court unanimously ordered the outlawing of the party.

Why has the Spanish government promoted now, after 25 years, the banning of Batasuna?

First of all, we must say that Batasuna is not the only organization that has been banned.

To understand the present situation, we must remember that, in April 1995 ETA spread a peace proposal, known as the "Democratic Alternative". This proposal was sent to the Basque Country for the discussion of the masses and to the Spanish government to analyze it. The proposal expressed the ETA's goodwill to achieve peace through a democratic process and dialogue. In so far as the conflict is political, it is necessary to solve the political matter pending; the Basques' voice should be respected, the Basque people should be given the right to speak. It is from this democratic starting point that the Basque people through a democratic and participative process will be finally able to freely choose what kind of relations we want between us and between the Spanish and French governments.

The Spanish Popular Party (a right wing party whose Honorary President is Mr. Fraga Iribarne former Security Minister during the Franco dictatorship and whose present President Mr. Jose Maria Aznar's father was also member of the fascist movement) simply ignored this offer. In addition to this,

they closed any way towards understanding. In 1997, putting pressure on the Government of the Dominican Republic, three political refugees were expelled from this country, refugees who had been appointed as ETA's official spokesperson in the "talks in Alger" in 1989, between the Government and ETA and who were deported in this republic just after they failed.

The aim of the Popular Party has been and is to destroy the whole liberation movement, not only ETA (a political organization which has used the armed struggle since it was formed in 1958) but also all the different expressions of the Basque Patriotic Left. In that way, in 1997, the government prosecuted, detained, and jailed the whole leadership of Batasuna (23 members) after being accused of "having links with terrorism". The only thing they had done was to attempt to spread a video with the peace proposal "Democratic Alternative". The Spanish Supreme Court sentenced them to four years of prison. This sentence was denounced by the majority of the Basque people, even by the parties of the Spanish state (United Left), several political parties and MPs in Europe and all over the world, various Nobel Prizes and intellectuals, and human rights organizations.

But in 1998 after some meeting and an agreement with the Basque Nationalist Party (a Christian democratic party) and EA (a little nationalist party) ETA announced a cease-fire for more than 20 months, where they asked the Spanish government to respect the aims and decisions of the Basque country. There was only one meeting (in Switzerland) between the delegates of ETA and the government. The will of the government was clear when they arrested the representatives of ETA in the talks.

In 1998, the government started a criminal process against different organizations of the liberation movement, arguing that all of them are part of ETA. All the movement is a terrorist group; we even speak of a daily newspaper, a human rights organization, or a group that promote the civil disobedience.

The process started as we said in 1998, arresting members of the political organization KAS, later called EKIN (this is a Marxist inspiration political organization whose objective is the Independence and Socialism and whose cadres are usually members of

different organizations of the liberation movement). The organization was declared illegal arguing EKIN and ETA are the same organization. Later, during the same year the Spanish government arguing the same banned the daily newspaper EGIN, the radio EGIN, and the magazine Ardi Beltza, arresting the editors and directors. Then, it was the youth league of the liberation movement HAIKA, later called SEGI, and their leadership was also arrested. Askatasuna, a human rights organization that support the release of the more than 600 political prisoners and their families, and that acts against torture, was banned too. There are more: the Judge of the Special Antiterrorist Court acted against some cultural organizations, an Internationalist organization, a group that supported the civil disobedience... At the moment more than two hundred people are prosecuted by the Spanish Antiterrorist Special Court in Madrid. Many of them are still in prison and all of them are waiting for the trial.



*Demonstration against banning of Batasuna.*

It is in this context and after September 11th that the government decided to use all his capacity and change the Political Parties Act. This question is important because we can see that the government is not using only the criminal process against Batasuna. To do that, it was not necessary to change the Political Parties Law, just to declare that Batasuna and ETA are the same and introduce also Batasuna in the big process that we have explained. They need to change the act so that they are sure it is not going to be possible for the patriotic left to participate in the next elections. The new act bans all political organizations that are and work against the values of the Spanish Constitution. One of these values is Spanish Unity. Also, it is possible to ban a political organization if this organization doesn't condemn a terrorist attack. But what is a terrorist attack? Are all the liberation struggles terrorism? Who decides if an attack is terrorist or not? Not to condemn an action can be morally blamed but not to say something can't be a reason to ban an organization. We are not speaking of supporting an

attack but not condemning it. But the important question is that this act is an ad hoc act, promoted with the only objective of banning the National Liberation movement. That is its objective, no other.

This act has been criticized by the majority of the Basque people, the majority of the Basque political parties, intellectuals, some Spanish parties (it has even the absolute support of the Socialist Party) and human rights organizations like Amnesty International.

The act passed in July and in August the government started the process of banning, a special civil and non-criminal process. But it was not enough; the government is in a hurry. The sentence banning Batasuna by the new Political Parties Act would only be on the next March.

So, in August, the Judge Garzon -the same judge that in the process 18/98 has ordered several indictments against the different organizations- started criminal law proceedings to stop activities of Batasuna attributing Batasuna to allegedly have a part in the terrorist network led by ETA-KAS- EKIN.

The judge has ordered Batasuna's activities to be stopped temporarily for three years and for its premises to be closed. Also, it is not possible to Batasuna to organize any marches, meetings, press statements, posters with the logo, interviews....

At the end of August, police forces went into Batasuna headquarters in different cities to carry out the order issued by the judge to close the premises. The supporters who tried to avoid the closings were beaten, not only by the Spanish police force but also by the Basque autonomous police.

Marches against the banning were forbidden, even when they were not promoted by members of Batasuna. The Police broke up a demonstration of more than 40.000 people behind a slogan calling "Up Basque Country". Amnesty International, who asked for freedom of expression, condemned this action.

At this moment, only the elected members of the parliaments and city councils can continue working -as individuals, not as members of Batasuna- in political affairs. It is clear that the Spanish government is not going to accept any new party that the government can consider is representative of the liberation movement.

We expect that, in the coming weeks, more people will be arrested. The recent detention of five members of the NGO Askatasuna, which supports the struggle of the political prisoners, is an example.

If we add to this situation the increasing use of arrest and torture, it is clear that the minimum democratic conditions for the development of political activities have disappeared in the Basque Country and that we are living one of the greatest anti-democratic phases since the death of the dictator Franco, by the hand of the neo fascist right wing Spanish State.

But, as the revolutionaries all around the world have taught us "there is no easy walk to freedom".

Office Of International  
Relations of Batasuna



Paperback - 696 pages (23 May, 2002)  
Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis  
Books Ltd.  
ISBN: 0-41528080-X

This is the new and first time paperback edition of a very interesting book providing a very useful and convenient overview of the linguistic features of the whole range of Celtic languages.

This book describes in depth all the Celtic languages from historical, structural and sociolinguistic perspectives, with individual chapters on Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Manx, Welsh, Breton and Cornish. It is arranged in four parts.

**Part One 'Historical aspects'** covers the Continental Celtic and Insular Celtic, P and Q Celtic, this chapter deals with the origin and history of the Celtic languages, their spread and retreat, present-day distribution and a sketch of the extant and recently extant languages. The contributors to the Part One are *James Fife, Joseph Eska and D. Ellis Evans* and *Karl Horst Schmidt*.

**Part Two 'The Goidelic Languages'** describes the structural detail of each of the Goidelic languages, i. e. Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Manx, including their phonology, mutation, morphology, syntax, dialectology and lexis. The contributors to Part Two are *Gearóid Mac Eoin, William Gillies* and *George Broderick*.

**Part Three 'The Brythonic Languages'** describes the structural detail of each of the Brittonic languages, i. e. Welsh, Breton and Cornish, including their phonology, mutation, morphology, syntax, dialectology and lexis. The contributors to Part Three are *T. Arwyn Watkins, Janig Stephens* and *Ken George*.

**Part Four 'The Sociolinguistics'** provides wide-ranging sociolinguistic detail, such as identifying areas of usage, maintenance and each language's prospects for survival. The contributors to this part are *Máirín Ó Murchá, Kenneth Mackinnon and Robert Owen Jones, Humphrey Lloyd Humphreys, Ken George* and *George Broderick*.

This book is an invaluable reference tool for both students and teachers of linguistics, especially those with an interest in typology, language universals and the unique sociolinguistic position, which the Celtic languages occupy. Each chapter is accompanied by a substantial bibliography and there is a good index of names and subjects. It will also be of interest to those concerned with the sociological aspect of linguistic minorities and linguistic difference and particularity.

This book has just one shortcoming - it has not been updated. The figures and census, found in it, are dated of the beginning of the 90's whereas some Celtic countries have experienced some drastic changes such as the Welsh and Scottish devolutions and whereas according to the last census of 2001 some languages have suffered decrease in the number and percentage of speakers such as Scottish Gaelic whereas Welsh shows encouraging signs of growth. The picture however is much more complex than it at first appears. In Scotland whilst decline has continued it is not as rapid as that in the previous decade and there is some cause for optimism that the recent boom in Gaelic medium education may ultimately arrest and reverse the decline. There are also indications that the language is now starting to acquire a more general spread across the country. In Scotland, the 2001 census confirmed that the language is still in decline. The number of Gaelic speakers fell by 11% over 10 years to a figure of 58,650. This is the first time that the number has fallen below 60,000, bringing Gaelic close to the figure at which it is thought a language can no longer survive.

That situation was mirrored in the more encouraging statistics from Wales, which showed that more than 20% of people in Wales now speak Welsh. Figures revealed that 20.5% - more than one in five - of the population are Welsh speakers. This compares with 18.5% of Welsh speakers in the 1991 census. In addition, more than 28% were able to understand Welsh. Figures indicated an increase in those speaking Welsh, but the breakdown of data shows that the language is losing ground in its rural heartland, while gaining strength in urban areas.

José CALVETE

American Branch Internet Site

[www.celticleague.org](http://www.celticleague.org)

# The Celtic Fact

## New States On The Way

It is presently fashionable to describe nationalism as outdated and a thing of the past however commentators, especially in Western Europe should know better. Apart from the rise of many new nation states in eastern Europe during the 1990s it would appear that the Basques and also the Scots are particularly determined to establish their own sovereign states in the next decade or so even though this wasn't supposed to happen.

The Basque Government is proceeding with steps on a referendum for independence while the Scottish Nationalist Party is clarifying and outlining the steps that will be taken on the road to independence. Catalonia is at present governed by a pro independence government but is moving more slowly on the question.

From the Celtic perspective the implications of a new Scottish state are obvious. There would immediately be increased pressure to form sovereign Welsh and Breton states. We have already seen how nationalist sentiment has greatly increased in even the Manx and Cornish contexts. The United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Spain are the last great multinational states of Europe and may yet be fated to fragment as the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia did for similar reasons. We have absolutely no reason to suppose otherwise. Spain and the UK are particularly vulnerable but France will have a tough job containing its own Basque population if the Spanish Basque country gains independence as it very well may.

The fact of the matter is that multinational states such as these as well as Canada, Switzerland, Indonesia, India, as well as many African and middle eastern states have a built in instability which can only be settled by the establishment of smaller states which do not ignore the realities of language, tradition and history.

Likewise Celtic nationalism can no longer be dismissed as an eccentric fringe movement. If present trends continue we can expect a Scottish state, a united Ireland and very possibly new Welsh and Breton states within the next 10-20 years.

Stefan Merlot

## 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: Stg£12; €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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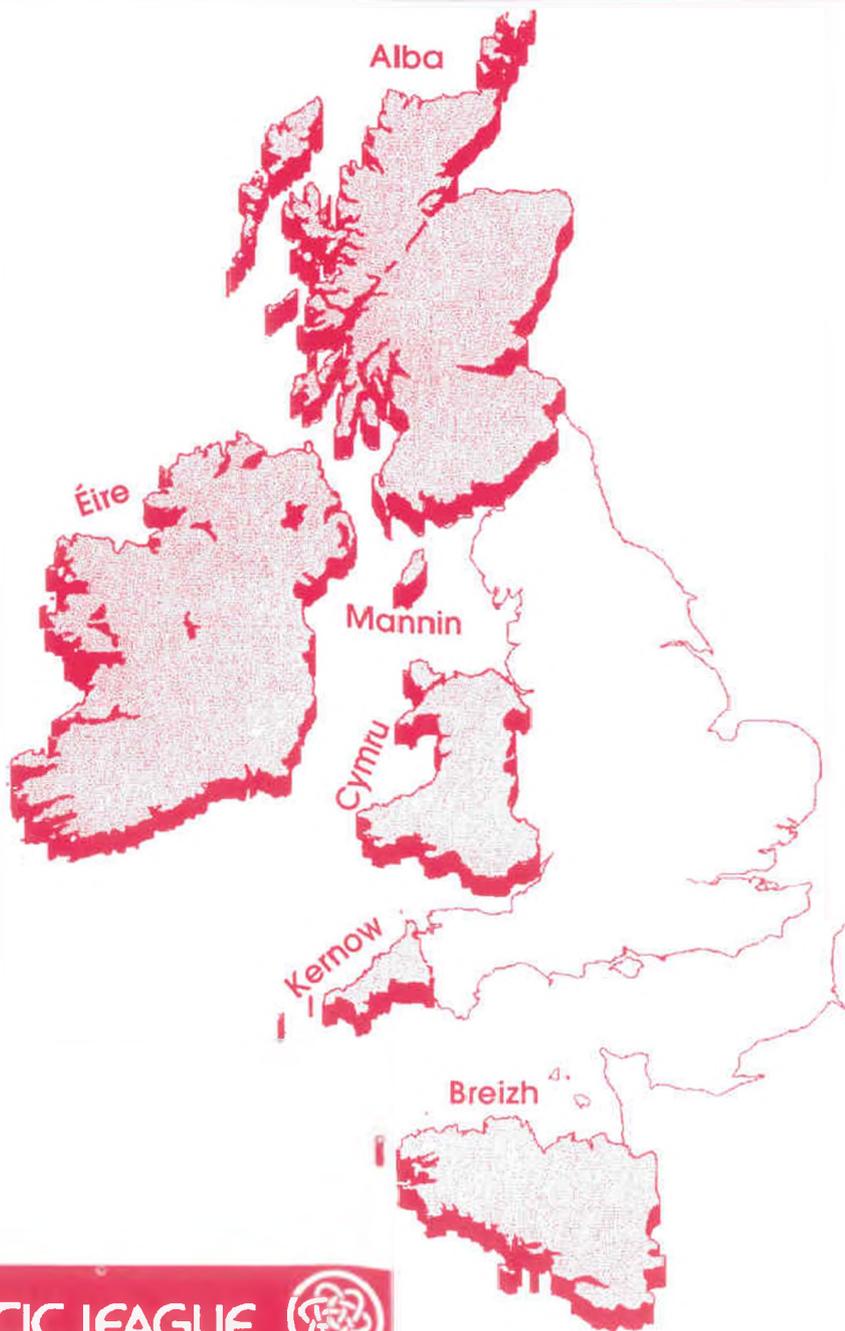
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# Alba



## TEAGASG TRE NA CÀNAIN AGAINN

Nan robh thu a' dol timcheall nan cuirtean-lagha sa prìomh bhaile den Danmairg. Copenhagen chitheadh tu uaireigin sgadagard fear-lagha air an robh deise dhubh agus bha an gairdean agus an lamh cli aige seargte.

Bha dà chuspair na cheann; sa chiad dol a-mach, an obair a bha e a' dèanamh air sgath na cuisirean no clients aige agus san darna aite, ciamar a bhiodh e comasach tuille cuisirean fhaighinn. oir b' iad an teachd-an-tir aige.

Latha de na làithean nuair a bha e a' tilleadh bho na cuirtean-laghad dh'ionnsaigh na oifis-lagha aige, de chunnaic e ach an oifis aig partaidh a bha cho fialaidh is bha e - fhein. Bha an t-ainm aig a' phartaidh air an t-sanas aig an doras a bha fosgailte. "Bithidh cuisearan gu leoir ri fhaighinn ann an partaidh poileataiceach sam bith." ar leis agus chaidh e a-steach.

Bha boirean ach caran boidheach na suidhe aig an deas agus chuir i fàilte air. Thug e a' chairt fìr-lagha dhi.

"Taing dhuibh," arsa ise. "bithidh an sodalan no snob, rùnaire a' phartaidh, shuas an staidhre cho toilichte gad fhaicinn agus sibh na fhear-lagha agus gun robh sibh cho seolta ri tighinn uair a thìde roimh chach."

Thuig e bhon a thuir i gun taghadh a bhi ann an sgrì ea bha am partaidh a' cumail thairis air iomadach bliadhna agus gu d'fhàinig e le tuiteamas uair a thìde roimh na h-uair shuidhichte nuair a bhiodh na daoine a' sireadh a bhi na thagraiche no candidate.

Se duine carach a bha an rùnaire a' phartaidh agus bha deise ghlas air. Ach dh'fhàs e cairdeil nuair an do nochd e gun robh Sgadagard na fhear-lagha...mar a bha 'athair...agus nuair a chuala e gun d'fhàinig a' mhuintir aig Sgadagard à Slesvig- -Holstein ann an taobh deas agus gun robh co-ogha aig Sgadagard an sin fhathast, dh'fhàs an rùnaire cho cairdeil ri bràthair.

"Dh'fhàg mo mhuintir an t-aite seo nuair a ghoid Bismark an t-aite agus chuir e," a-steach e don Gheumailt." arsa an rùnaire, "chuala mi gun robh ar cànain, Daineis, ann an droch staig bhon a bha iad a' teagasg tre na Gearmailteis.

Nuair a thuir Sgadagard gum bhiodh e fìr thoilichte Daineis a chuideachadh gu dùrachdach bhon a bha a' chànain Daineis anam na Danmairg, thuig e gun robh e soirbheachail. Bhiodh e na thagraiche air son na sgìre.

"Seo agaibh, a charaid, leabhar le freagairt de gach ceist a bhiodh duine ag iarraidh," arsa an rùnaire le snodha-gaire seolta. "Innsidh mi don fheadhann eile nuair a thig iad gun sgrìobh mi thuca (agus diultaidh mi iad san litir). Meal bhur naidheachd!"

Bithidh deagh fhear-taghadh no election agent agaibh agus bithaidh sibh soirbheachail, gun teagamh."

Bha an rùnaire sodalach ceart gu leoir. Dh'fhàs Sgadagard 'na bhall na Pàrlamaid Dhainmairgeach den sgìre sin.

Dh'fhàs e seann fhear-lagha, bodach aosda liath, ga chuideachadh san oifis agus sna cuirtean-lagha. "Sa chiad dol a-mach bha na làithean aige iongantach sa Phàrlamaid, ach, beagan is beagan, dh'fhàs e sgith de na deasbaireachdan air ciamar a bhiodh na buill eile a' deasbaireachadh mu phris nas fheàrr de mhucilheoil.....a robh iad comasach sgillinn tuilleadh fhaighinn air gach kilo?"

Dh'fhàs Sgadagard seachd sgith leis a sin agus thill e do na chuirtean no don oifis leis a' bhodach...seach nuair a bha votadh anns a' Phàrlamaid. Dh'fheumadh e taic a chumail ris a' Phartaidh aige.

Chordadh an samhradh ris, uamhasach math, nuair a bha na cuirtean-lagha agus a' Phàrlamaid le chèile air na saor-làithean aca Bhiodh Sgadagard agus a bhean Martha a' dol don airde deas, gu Slesvig-Holstein agus a' cur seachd na saor-làithean leis a' cho-ogha aige air antuathanas no feirm. Bha difir mòr eadar a cho-ogha, d'am b'ainm Hans agus Sgadagard. Bha iad ri fhaicinn gu tric a' coiseachd thairis air na h-achaidhean, a' bruidhinn air a h-uile cuspair.....Sgadagard tana leis a ghairdean is lamh chli seargte. Agus deise dhubh phroifeasanta air an fhear-lagha agus dungairidh air an tuathanach, a cho-ogha.

Latha de na làithean, co bha a' bruidhinn Hans air a cheist dhraghail aige. "Nach duine cumhachdach a tha annad agus thusa ball den pharlamaid againn ann an Copenhagen," arsa Hans.

"Na bi gòrach...se cul-bheingearan no back-bencher gun chumhachd sam bith mise." fhreagair am fear-lagha. "gun chumhachd sam bith."

"Mata, san sgoil, tha iad a' teagasg tre na Gearmailteis agus chan eil an fheadhainn...chan eil iad deònach Daineis a bhruidhinn a chaoidh. B'fheàrr leo Gearmailteis bhon is l sin, cànain na sgoile...leis a sin tha Daineis a' dol a dhol-laidh an seo."

"Ni mi mo dhicheall ach mar chul-bheingear chan eil cumhachd agam." Arsa Sgadagard.

Cha do dhi-cuimhnich e na faclan seo idir agus dh'innis e a h-uile cail mu dheighin teagasg tre na Gearmailteis anns an sgoil nan leanaban aig Hans do Labhraiche no Speaker na Pàrlamaid nuair a thill e dhachaigh gu Copenhagen.

Ged a bha an Labhraiche daingeann nuair a bha sin feumail bha e mar athair gradhach do gach ball na pàrlamaid. Thuir e gum biodh Sgadagard a' bruidhinn ris a' Phàrlamaid dìreach an ath Di-h-Aoine.

An deidh óraid an fhear-lagha a bhi seachd mu thuir Hans agus teagasg a' chlànn aige tre na Gearmailteis, dh'aontaich a h-uile ball gun robh Hans ceart agus dh'fheumadh teagasg aca tre na Daineis. Air Di-luain dh'innis an Labhraiche do Sgadagard gun do dh'ordaich am ministear cein gum biodh an tosgaire no ambassador

Daineach anns a' bhaile Bonn a' bruidhinn ri Ardanaar a bha na riaghladair na Gearmailt an Iar, sna làithean sin.

Seachdain an deidh sin dh'innis an Labhraiche do Sgadagard gum biodh Daineis na cànain teagasg sna sgoiltean far an robh Hans, an deidh saor-làithean an samhraidh.

"Nach do ghoid ar Bismark, Slesvig-Holstein?" arsa Ardanaar.

Mu dheireadh thall fhuair Sgadagard cosnadh leis a' chomunn a tha an diugh na European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages mar Basque no Gàidhlig agus seo far an do thachair mi ris. Bha sin nuair a bha Dr Iain MacCarraig a' bruidhinn mu'n Cumhnant Naiseanta nuair a fhuair e an darna millean ainm ris, ag iarraidh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba.

"Cha bhi Alba saor neo neo-eisimeileach gus am bi a' Ghàidhlig an aon chànain theagasg feadh Alba uile ge leir, coltach ri Daineis ann an Danmairg." arsa Sgadagard rium.

"Ceart gu leoir," ar leam." feumaidh sinn teagasg tre Alba gu leir mar dùthaich Eòrpach eile. Chan eil dùthaich Eòrpach far a bheil iad a' teagasg tre a' Bheurla Chruaidh Shasunnach.

### Summary

*The morale of this true tale is that Gàidhlig should be the language of teaching throughout all Scotland as Danish is throughout Denmark. No country in Europe teaches through the English language.*

# Language News

## SUPPORT FOR GÀIDHLIG EDUCATION

Gàidhlig medium education is not the 'poor relation' of English education in Scotland. Education Minister Peter Peacock stated on the eve of Comunn na Gàidhlig's annual congress in Nairn, the Minister stressed the Executive's commitment to Gàidhlig medium education and highlighted some of the ongoing positive initiatives.

These include:

- Training more Gàidhlig teachers - 25 primary and 3 secondary teachers are expected to graduate this year - to meet demand.
- Good progress is being made with the delivery of Gàidhlig teacher training in the Highlands and islands, enabling teachers to train in their home area. The Scottish Executive has contributed £70,000 towards course development.
- Provision of quality Gàidhlig resources such as software that will be distributed to all Gàidhlig medium schools.
- Ongoing support for Gàidhlig medium teachers with resources, teachers network and online facilities.

Mr Peacock said:

*"These are exciting and encouraging times for Gaelic education. The number of pupils in Gaelic medium education is increasing at both primary and secondary levels and this*

*is great news for the future of the language. While we are advancing, I want to see further progress. I want Gaelic education to continue to flourish and am committed to ensuring that it remains a high priority for the Scottish Executive."*

Comunn na Gàidhlig was created in 1984 to promote and co-ordinate Gàidhlig development. The organisation works at local, national and international levels and the annual còmhhdail (congress) is an opportunity to discuss and develop national policies for Gàidhlig.

The number of primary pupils in Gàidhlig medium education has risen from 1859 in 2001-02 to 1925 in 2002-03. The number of secondary pupils in Gàidhlig medium education has risen from 352 to 375 while the number of pupils in fluent speaking secondary classes is up from 928 to 997. Currently, 19 secondary schools offer Gàidhlig medium education and a further 34 offer Gàidhlig for fluent speakers.

Learning and Teaching Scotland, in conjunction with Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, has recently completed Gaelic versions of some of its most popular software titles. The National Grid for Learning has provided £112,000 to fund the provision of complimentary copies of this software has been distributed to all Gàidhlig medium schools in Scotland.

## REGISTRAR BACKS DOWN IN DISPUTE OVER GÀIDHLIG

An attempt by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) to prevent a couple registering their child's name in Gàidhlig has resulted in a humiliating climb-down.

Austin Boyle had initially attempted to register his daughter's name, Aoife NicBhaoille, but was prevented from doing so by the GROS, which said Gàidhlig was classed as 'a foreign language'. However, following protests by language groups and threats by the family that they would risk prosecution, the GROS have relented and now the Registry have stated that there is no legal obstacle to registering in the form requested and that the register general has agreed that the registration should proceed accordingly. Whilst language activists are understandably pleased at the 'about face' by the official

body and see the issue as a victory for the language some are more circumspect about the episode.

Rob Dunbar, an active campaigner for the Gàidhlig language said that a number of lessons have to be learnt from the case. Speaking to Minority Languages news agency EuroLang he also said that this episode is the latest of a series in which obstruction of the Celtic languages has been demonstrated by official bodies in various countries. Two months ago attempts to use (Manx) Gaelic in Tynwald (the National parliament) were obstructed though a Select Committee in Mannin is now looking into the matter.

Bernard Moffatt

## TEACH ME! GAELIC

A new package designed to increase the number of Gàidhlig speakers will soon be available. *Clì - The New Gaels* cooperated with Cambridge Educational to create the package.

After six long months of work, *Clì* is now assisting a small German-based company to add Gaelic to its Teach Me series of multi-level learner class on CD-ROM and support materials.

For more information visit the *Clì* website at: ([www.gaelic.net/cli](http://www.gaelic.net/cli))

## BEUL-CHAINNT

*Clì* has recommended to the BBC that it produce a second series of the Gaelic television programme *Beul-Chainnt* in which Eilidh NicLeòid, who learnt her Gaelic, speaks to various people of different ages about the meaning and use of Gaelic words they use in their field of work or pastime. *Clì* wants the BBC to make more use of the programme to the benefit of learners and others by means of multimedia support.

## LEARNING TO TEACH

*Clì* has circulated information to all its members in the Highlands Council area about a new course, agreed between the Council and Aberdeen University, which provides part-time distance training to become a Gaelic-medium primary teacher.



cànan nàiseanta - a national tongue

Clì gus:

- ionnsachadh is inbhe nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh
- fiosrachadh air Gàidhlig is cùisean Gàidhlig a sgoileadh
- beachd luchd ionnsachadh is luchd labhairt neo-dhualchasach na Gàidhlig a chur an cèll



Clì 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

mention *Càrn* and get a **FREE** bilingual magazine & details of all learning materials, classes & courses - wherever you are

Clì, 62 Àrd Shràid, Inbhir Ghòrdain IV18 0DH, Alba  
[www.gaelic.net/cli](http://www.gaelic.net/cli) [clì@gaelic.net](mailto:clì@gaelic.net) +44 (0) 1349 854848

## NATIONAL LANGUAGES IN CARN

A subject that frequently crops up is the translation of Carn articles from the national languages into English. Not many of us can understand more than one of the national languages and this leaves some people to feel that they're missing out on articles written in a language they can't readily understand.

I feel that the current situation is the right one, however, whereby the author supplies a short précis. There are several reasons for this, which can be divided into two groups of principle and practical.

On the point of principle, I think that if we are to be seen to treat the national languages as equal to English and French, we should let them stand on their own without translation.

Also, the size and nature of the précis is in the hands of the author and, as his or her work, we should not be dictating to them on how they present a translation into what, for many, is a foreign language.

Those who are learning a language will learn so much better if they are forced to do a bit of work. If a full English translation were to be supplied, I don't believe that everyone would studiously read the entire article in the national language before going to the English translation. This further undermines the value of the authors' work.

This also brings us to the question of the Bretons who may not understand English too well either. Should we then say that Breton articles be translated into French?

On the practical side, we have the space consideration. Full translations would add a full six pages to Carn and those of you who have been at any AGM will know the production limitations and implications of extra pages.

We would also have to ask authors to spend even more time supplying a translation and most writers of Carn articles don't have a great deal of that to spare.

As have already been mentioned, we should not presume that everyone has a good command of English and we should not expect authors to supply more than they themselves feel comfortable with.

I cannot read any of the national language articles except the ones in Manx but it doesn't stop me from looking through the articles and the précis is just enough to give me a taster. Few of us will ever master more than a couple of languages and if we accept and promote linguistic diversity, we must accept some inconvenience as a result.

Mark Kermode

## ROB GIBSON ELECTED TO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Long standing member of the Celtic League, Rob Gibson, successfully contested the May election and won a seat representing the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency. Rob resides in Evanton and is a historian, musician, author, hill walker and traditional music festival organiser. He was born and educated in Glasgow, and attended Dundee University & Education College. Rob is a former Modern Studies teacher at Invergordon and Alness Academies. He joined the SNP in 1966, was FSN President 1970-3 and has been a member of the SNP's National Council, Executive, and the SNP's Cabinet. He is a former Policy Vice Convener and has helped shape current party policies on land-use, environment, energy, and health. Rob a District Councillor between 1988-96.

The SNP has twenty-seven MSPs led by SNP Leader John Swinney, MSP. As the second biggest party in the Scottish Parliament, the



Rob Gibson

SNP are the Official Opposition and the only serious challenge to the Labour Party.

The Celtic League wishes Rob all the best in his term of office.

## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION MAY 2003

### DISAPPOINTING RESULT FOR SNP

The Labour Party knew exactly what it was doing when it introduced a hybrid of the First Past The Post (FPTP) and Additional Member System for elections to the Scottish Parliament. FPTP retained an advantage for Labour while the list system, in allowing representation for any party polling around 15000 votes, was designed to deliver plurality rather than proportionality.

It was for this reason that the Scottish Nationalist Party badly needed to make progress in the constituencies. By this yardstick, it wasn't a bad night, winning 9 and coming within 1500 votes in 8 others. This made it the Party's best performance in terms of constituencies won since October 1974 despite the fact that in terms of votes cast, it was the Party's worst performance since 1987.

There was always a danger that the emergence of smaller parties could lead to slippage in our numbers. The drop in the SNP and Labour vote saw the Greens and SSP increase their representation, albeit at the expense of the SNP rather than Labour. In another of those ironies which politics occasionally throws up, despite the fall in SNP numbers there are now more independence supporting MSPs elected than there were in 1999.

There's no doubt that the overall slip in the SNP vote let Labour off the hook. However, the lesson from May is that where the SNP is well organised it can ride out the so-called national swings and deliver victories in Labour held seats

The route to success for the SNP relies on putting down stronger roots in our communities and improving the local organisations to better deliver the independence message. In doing so, the challenge is to continue linking the constitutional issue of independence with the condition of Scotland and her peoples. If the SNP can bring this about, Labour will have a serious fight on its hands in 2007.



Independent Scots read the  
'Scots Independent'

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# Breizh

## 5 a viz Meurzh... e Kerne-Veur:

D'ar 5 ar viz Meurzh e vez aozet bep bloaz ur gouel bras e aŋv ST PIRAN. Ar gouel-se a vez graet un tammig e pep lec'h dre ar vro gant dibunadegoù evit enoriñ ST PIRAN. ST PIRAN oa deuet eus enez Cleire, un enezenn vihan war zu mervent Bo Iwerzhon, e lec'h ma oa aŋvet Kelron. En un dremen eus ar gwezelek d'ar c'herne-veureg eo deuet a aŋv da vezañ PIRAN.

Ar Roue eo en deus kaset anezhañ maez eus Iwerzhon hervez ar vojenn dre ma lakae an dud war-zu ar relijion kristen. E zoare d'ober a ao kriz avat... Bontet eo bet ST PIRAN eus un tornaod, ur maen stag ouzh e gouzoug. Met dre ma oa ur SANT eo deuet a-benn d'en em denañ. Benn ar fin eo bet gwelet gant an dud, stag ouzh e vaen e-kreiz ar mor bras o vont etrezek KERNE-VEUR...

Den ebet ne oar penaos en deus douaret en ul lec'h aŋvet hiriv 'PERRANZABULOE'. Pezh a dalv ST PIRAN an Tevinier. Eno o deus savet ur iliz bihan tro dro 450 goude J.C. aŋvet 'TOWENS'. Goloet eo bet an iliz gant an traezh (=TOWENS). Morvat e, oa ST PIRAN war hent Breizh evel kalz a sent all pa oa bet bountet war an aod.

E-kreizh an navtegvat kantvet eo kouezhet an levenn hag an oratouer a oa dizolo. Dindan ez eus bet kavet daou relegenn hep ar pennoù. Ar vojenn a lavar e oa bet douaret ST PIRAN asambles gant ur mignon dezhañ ST VARZHIN. Eur renabl graet gant an iliz er bloavezh 1281 diskouezh mat e oa ar c'hor-poù-se re ar sent.

E-barzh ar arched all ez eus bet kavel un dant eus ST VARZHIN. Buan eo deuet al lec'h-mañ da vezhañ ul lec'h peririnaj evit an dud a kar o Bro. Kernent mañ a lako an dilennidi da serriñ ar chapel gant ur voger tro-dro. Memestra er bloavezh 1980 o deus an dud e-karg diviset ober ur c'hempenn d'ar chapel evit saveteiñ anezhi.

D'ar mare-se e oa Broadelourien KerneVeur o tihuniñ. Deuet ar chapel da vezañ ul lec'h emgav evito...

Bizitet e vez ar chapel bep 5 ar viz meurzh gant milerou a gerneveuriz. E-pad ar mintin-

vezh e vez aozet dibunadegoù e pep lec'h dre KerneVeur. Warlec'h ec'h en emgav an holl e TOWENS evit u gouel vras. ST PIRAN a zo anavezet evit bezañ un den louen da bakañ ur banne beer. Hiriv an deiz ez eus c'hoazh un dro lavar e Kerneveureg : 'Mezv e-giz ur piraner'. Ma hiriv an deiz e vez echuet ar gouel, en osteleriou, eo evit dec'he1 soñj eus ST PIRAN. Sevel a reont ogwer en ur lavaret: 'KerneVeur da viken' (=Kernowl oys vyken) ..muioc'h mui e vez klevet : Frankiz evit KerneVeur...

Courtesy Sue Bowen.

Gi Keltik

### Summary

March 5th in Kemow is annually celebrated as St. Piran's day. These celebrations take place throughout our country with marches and parades in honour of our national hero.

Legend has it that St Piran came from Ireland, landing at a place known to this day as 'Perranzabuloe' meaning St Piran of the Dunes. He built a church there in 450 AD. This church was later covered by the TOWENS - (Kernewek for sand dunes). In the mid 19th century the dunes shifted and the chapel was uncovered.

Then in 1980 the authorities decided to preserve the chapel that had become, with the re-emergence of Cornish nationalism, a centre of attraction.

The site is still visited on March 5th by thousands of Cornish people who hold a commemoration next to the 11th century Cross which still stands very close to church.

In the morning several parades are held throughout the country and then there is, mad drive over to the Towns for the celebrations. Many Cornish today, end the festivities in local hostelrys and in the spirit of our national saint, raise a toast: *Kernow bys vyken*, although increasingly another toast is beginning to creep into popularity - *Kemow Ryth*. (Free Cornwall).



### Kampagn skoazell Diwan 2003 evit dazont ar skolioù

#### LET'S KEEP BRETON ALIVE

In the five Breton administrative departments the Breton language is a strong cultural asset, which is an integral part of our identity. However if we don't do something - now - all together our language risks extinction.

Diwan schools have been using linguistic immersion in a growing number of Breton medium schools for the past 26 years. Pupils become bilingual by the age of 11 or 12: they are equally fluent in Breton and French and, 2 years later, are able to study other disciplines in a third language, usually English. This method contributes to the survival of the Breton language, of course, but it also helps children to value cultural diversity and to develop their open-mindedness.

The state rejection prevents and obstructs public recognition but in no way undermines our will to carry on the educational innovation and expansion of this cultural initiative.

Today we appeal to you to help us in our hour of need. This is indeed a turning point for the Breton language. We need everyone to contribute at this critical time. Join the population of Brittany, ex-pats and friends everywhere so that Breton may thrive!

HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET, SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRITAGNE

#### THERE'S NO BRITANNY WITHOUT BRETON

10,000 contributions of 50 Euro will allow 2,800 Diwan pupils to continue their education in Breton and the growth of the Diwan network. However little all contributions are welcome.

Cheque to be sent to: DIWAN BP 147 29411 LANDERNE BRITTANY  
<http://www.diwandbreizh.org/>

# A talk with Patrick Malrieu, President of the Cultural Council of Brittany

Patrick Malrieu is a very busy man. Formerly director of an important printing company in Lannion on the northern coast of Brittany, he has just taken charge of the Cultural Council of Brittany, an outfit which federates various people and organizations active in the field of Breton culture.

Burning issues are many on the Breton cultural front, especially regarding the struggle for the Breton language since the rejection by the State Council of the agreements signed in the Spring of 2002 by Jack Lang and Andrew Lincoln, then respectively Minister of Education and President of Diwan, the Breton-medium school system.

*T.J.*

**Patrick Malrieu, how would you present yourself in a few words?**

I have always been surrounded by people interested in Breton culture. I began very young, at about eight years of age, learning music and dancing. Then, when I was about six, my parents emigrated to Paris for professional reasons. There, I went on. In a sense, I was lucky because, in Paris, the Bretons met and recreated a kind of virtual village. My return to Brittany coincided with the setting up of Dastum, the association specialized in the collecting of Breton songs and music. Quite naturally, I devoted myself to that task for twenty-three years as President of the association. Due to my professional obligations, I had to reduce my involvement with Dastum. But, with retirement age drawing near, I wished to resume some activity within the framework of a Breton association. It was at that time that the Cultural Council, on whose Board of Trustees I had sat at some time, offered me to become its President. The Cultural Council is divided into a number of specialized sections, some of which have their hands full at the present moment, in particular those concerned with linguistic questions. We endeavour to sensitize the man in the street as well as the elected bodies to the necessity of doing something serious quickly and, at the same time, we multiply our appeals to international institutions such as the European Court of Human Rights, to react against the restrictive interpretation of the Toubon Act of 1995.

*T.J.*

**Can you tell us more on that Act?**

Well, it refers to Article 2 of the Constitution, a recurring leitmotiv dating back to 1789 according to which the language of instruction is French. But, the Toubon Act says that this should not be done to the detriment of



the regional languages. The State Council has read the first half of the sentence only, which shows to what extent it is independent from the political power!

*T.J.*

**You were seen to take position in favour of the Breton language on many occasions, not least during the demonstration to which more than 15.000 thousand people took part in Rennes on March 22nd. How should we go about giving its rightful place to our language in the years to come?**

In the first place, there is first one basic fight: the recognition of the Breton language. This, in turn, raises the question of altering Article 2 of the Constitution owing to which the European Charter for the Regional and Minority Languages was not ratified. France cannot indefinitely refuse to comply with all the international conventions regarding the rights of man.

Then, regarding the decentralization plans in the offing. Mr. Raffarin, Prime Minister, has mentioned a right to experimentation, particularly concerning teaching and culture. The snag is that the President of the Regional Council is a die-hard Jacobin who dismisses out of hand any kind of claim relating to those

very topics. Therefore, on the one hand, pressure must be brought to bear on the government to demand that devolution, and on the other hand, pressure must also be brought to bear on the people's representatives to induce them to persuade the Region to demand it.

Our third preoccupation is to bring back more serene conditions to Diwan where the decision from the State Council has caused infighting. If the appropriate steps are not taken in the near future, Diwan will go bankrupt.

It is obvious that the Bretons are not going to condone the deliberate scuttling of a twenty-five years old successful experiment. This is the main reason why so many people were present for the demonstration of March 22nd. The State Council's decision was felt by the Bretons as an unacceptable affront and as unbelievably unjust. Diwan is credited to be very successful indeed when it comes to student performance for the baccalaureate. Besides, their level in French is as good as in the monolingual schools. Clearly, this is a purely ideological decision and it is totally unbearable.

*T.J.*

**What are your possibilities of action?**

We consider that our action should be twofold. In the first place, we must put pressure on the people's representatives. In the wake of the demonstration of March 22rd, we have requested an interview with the Prime Minister regarding the constitutional matters and decentralization, and also with Mr. Aillagon, the Minister of Culture regarding the social aspects of the language. Indeed, we are of the opinion that the defence of the Breton language does not concern teaching only but includes social aspects, to wit, radio broadcasts, television and financial support for cultural activities at large. It is a well-known fact that regions that have a strong identity have the lowest crime rate.

Second, we must strive to foster more unity and cooperation within the Breton movement as a whole, because this is an all comprehensive fight. If we can achieve more visibility in the media, it will be beneficial for every one.

*T.J.*

**Just a word about our political leaders?**

Their inertia is phenomenal! Following the decision of the State Council, not the least protest was heard from their ranks. No backbone! Yet, through the opinion polls, they know that the people are attached to their own language. The fact that they dare not intervene raises doubts as to their credibility and also our particular brand of democracy. The situation is disturbing. There prevails in France an unbearable State terrorism.

*Interview conducted by Thierry Jigourel  
and translated by Marcel Texier*

# Douarnenez Film Festival



Last year the Festival took place from the 17th August to the 24th. It was the 25th one. It means that it is now of adult age. It was created in 1978. It was not obvious, when it was created, in 1978, that it would have succeeded or indeed last for so long. At the beginning it was called National Minorities' Film Festival. But many times, it was told by the Catalan or the Bask delegates that 'we are not minorities, but the majority in our own country'. Nevertheless, each year, the festival is dedicated to a nation, which is not wholly recognized or which is oppressed. But last year, because it was the 25th, a special year, it was dedicated to the globalization, through films, exhibitions, meetings and debates. Some societies distributing or producing films made in the poor countries had the opportunity to explain what they are doing. Each year, since the first edition, projected films made in Brittany, some of them being in Breton language.

The debates now attract a lot of people. These are not lectures, but true debates between the audience and individuals well versed in the subject for discussion. Last year, six debates took place during the Festival: - about: the consequences of a globalized economy, environment and minorities, alternative proposals to face the globalization, what do the people against globalization want, towards standardizing of the cultures and the solidarity networks as hopes of alternative ways.

Festival 2003 will take place from the 16th August to the 23rd. It will be dedicated to a definite nation, the Kurds. Once more the

Festival will be very close to the recent events. It is not the first time. It happened already in 1989, when the Festival was dedicated to the nations of China, just after the brutal repression of the democratic movement, in 1990 when it was dedicated to Palestinian people in the time of the first 'Intifada', or in 1992 when it was dedicated to Ireland, just before the talks, which led to the Good Friday Agreement.

This summer, Douarnenez will have its heart in Kurdistan, its eyes fixed on Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, without forgetting the big family of Kurdish Diasporas in Europe. There will be a selection of about forty films, among them films directed by famous directors like Yilmaz Güney, a Kurd of Turkey, Bahman Ghobadi, a Kurd of Iran, like Abbas Kiarostami and Samira Makhmalbaf, who are not Kurds but who shot films in Kurdistan. There will also be films shot by young and nearly unknown directors, very often of Kurdish origin, working in very difficult conditions in their country or in exile, and who are able to combine their search for identity with humour, their claims with poetry.

There will be fiction films taking their inspiration from the Kurd's history. There will also be documentary films and directors, Kurds, Turks or Europeans who, with their camera in hand, denounce things that the whole world does not want to see: the repression by the police, the Kurdish language gagged, the fortune of the stowaway immigrants. These films will also give evidence of the greatness of this Kurdish culture, of its

poetry and of its hopes. With images full of significance in these moments of war, like in a film by Kudret Günes about Leyla Zana, Member of Turk Parliament, but arrested, sentenced and put in jail because she mentioned her country, Kurdistan, in the Parliament.

And in addition to the films, there will be a lot of other ways to learn more about the Kurdish nation, and, among them, of course debates led by Kurds or people aware of the Kurdish realities.

Come to Douarnenez and see!

**Yves Jardin**

*For more information: 00.33.298.920.921 / [fdz@wanadoo.fr](mailto:fdz@wanadoo.fr) / [www.kerys.com/festival](http://www.kerys.com/festival)*

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Ond cenedl o fro-garwyr ydym ac nid oes angen i ni gael ein diffinio gan enwau unedau llywodraeth leol. 'Roedd enwau fel Llŷn, Eifionydd, Cwm Rhondda yma o flaen y Saeson ac maen nhw'n dal yma. Dywedwn fwy am hyn yn y dyfodol.

Robot ap Tomos

## Seisnigo Siroedd Cymru

Mac'n debyg bod ymgyrch ar droed i hybu adnabyddiaeth o "siroedd traddodiadol Prydain" fel y gwir unedau mae "ein gwlad" wedi'u rhannu iddynt, sef y siroedd oedd yn bodoli ym Mhrydain cyn ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol ym 1974. Yn Lloegr yn y flwyddyn honno, diddymwyd cynghorau sir rhai siroedd fel Westmorland, Huntingdonshire a Middlesex, crëwyd nifer o siroedd newydd fel Avon, West Midlands a Cleveland, a newidiwyd ffiniau llawer o'r siroedd eraill.

Yng Nghymru, yr oedd y newid yn fwy sylfaenol, gan i bob un o'r tair sir ar ddeg gael ei dileu fel sir weinyddol, a'u disodli gan wyth sir newydd. Diddymwyd Sir Fôn, Sir Gaernarfon, Sir Feirionnydd, Sir Ddinbych, Sir y Fflint, Sir Drefaldwyn, Sir Faesyfed, Sir Aberteifi, Sir Frycheiniog, Sir Benfro, Sir Gaerfyrddin, Sir Forgannwg a Sir Fynwy. Yn eu lle daeth Gwynedd, Clwyd, Powys, Dyfed, Gwent a thair rhan Morgannwg. Bu cwyno mawr ynghylch y newidiadau yn Lloegr ar y pryd, cwyno sydd heb ddarvoud yn llwyr hyd heddiw. Dywedwyd bod y newid wedi difetha sustem o rannu'r wlad oedd yno ers canrifoedd lawer. Creasid llawer o siroedd canol Lloegr adeg y brenin Alfred Fawr pan ail-goncrwyd gan y Saeson hen deyrnas Mercia oedd wedi cael ei goresgyn gan y Llychlynwyr. 'Roedd siroedd De Lloegr, yr hen Wessex ayb., yn hŷn eto, ac ambell un fel Gwlad yr Haf, â chysylltiadau a'r cyfnod cyn dyfodiad y Saeson. Gellid cydymdeimlo â phrotestiadau o ddiwreiddio ac esgeuluso traddodiad cenedlaethol pan ddywedwyd e.e. wrth bobl Caerfaddon ym 1974 nad oedden nhw'n byw yng Ngwlad yr Haf bellach, ar ôl dros fil o flynyddoedd, ond mewn sir newydd o'r enw 'Avon'.

Ond beth am Gymru? Oedd dileu'r hen dair sir ar ddeg yr un mor ddiinstriol a diystyriol o draddodiad y genedl? Yn sicr, yr oedd yr hen siroedd yn ganrifoedd oed. Crëwyd siroedd y Dwyrain fel Sir Drefaldwyn pan ymgorfforwyd y Gororau yng ngwladwriaeth Lloegr adeg y Ddeddf Uno ym 1536. Mae siroedd y Gorllewin a'r Gogledd yn hŷn - crëwyd y rhain yn y ddeuddegfed a'r drydedd ganrif ar ddeg wrth i goron Lloegr goncro'r rhannau o Gymru oedd wedi gwrthsefyll arglwyddi'r Gororau. 'Roedd rhai o'r rhain yn gysylltiedig â hen diriogaethau Cymreig, fel Ceredigion, y Seisnigwyd ei henw i 'Cardigan' ac ychwanegu 'shire'. Ond

'roedd rhai eraill yn mynd yn fwrriadol groes i'r teyrnasoedd Cymreig - 'roedd Sir Feirionnydd a Sir Ddinbych, a Sir y Fflint hefyd, yn gymysg o rannau o Wynedd a Phowys - er mwyn drysu hunaniaeth y darostyngedig. Endid Seisnig ydyw 'shire', a nod ein concwest ydyw 'shires' yng Nghymru.

Ond symud yn ôl tua'r hen enwau Cymreig oedd y newidiadau a gyflwynwyd ym 1974. Enw afon hynafol yw *Clwyd*, a roddwyd i'r sir o'i chwmpas. 'Roedd Gwynedd, Powys, Dyfed, Morgannwg (oedd yn rhy boblog i fod yn un sir), a Gwent i gyd yn diriogaethau cynhenid, a rhoi urddas i Gymru oedd eu gosod yn lle'r tair *shire* ar ddeg. Cyn bwysiced â dim, heblaw am Forgannwg, ni roddwyd fersiwn Saesneg ar enwau siroedd newydd 1974. Nid oedd Dyfed i gael ei galw yn *Demetia* yn Saesneg ayb. 'Roedd llawer o sŷn am ddatganoli yng Nghymru yn y saithdegau cynnar, ond y llywodraeth Doriaidd ar y pryd yn wrthwynebus, a rhyw fath o 'sop' oedd Cymreigrwydd enwau'r siroedd newydd.

Newidiwyd llywodraeth leol Cymru eto ym 1996, wrth gyflwyno'r cynghorau unedol. Fel ym 1974 yr oedd datganoli ar yr agenda wleidyddol a'r llywodraeth Doriaidd yn wrthwynebus. Ond erbyn hynny, unoliaeth ddi-gyfaddawd oedd biau hi, a dan ddylanwad yr ysgrifennydd gwladol David Hunt, cafwyd cryn Brydeineiddio ar enwau'r awdurdodau newydd - dim ond 4 o'r 22 enw gwreiddiol oedd heb fersiwn Saesneg. Adferwyd *shires* yng Nghymru - *Cardiganshire*, *Denbighshire*, *Caernarvonshire* & *Merionethshire*. Rhoddwyd enw Saesneg ar gyngor newydd Ynys Môn er bod yr etholaeth seneddol heb ddim ond enw Cymraeg ers yr 80au. Ail-gymreigiwyd ryw ychydig gan y cynghorau ar ôl eu hethol. Newidiodd cyngor *Cardiganshire* yr enw yn ôl i *Ceredigion*, a newidiodd *Caernarvonshire* & *Merionethshire* i *Gwynedd*, chwarae teg. Ond ymysg 'siroedd Hunt', y tiriogaethau y rhoddwyd enw Saesneg un dref arnynt ydyw'r mwyaf di-wreiddiau a di-urddas - *Caerphilly*, *Bridgend*, *Wrexham* ayb. - nad oedd dim traddodiad o arfer y fath enwau ar yr ardaloedd hyn o'r blaen. Buasai e.e. *Senghennydd*, *Ogwr*, *Maelor* yn gwbl ymarferol, yn ieithyddol haws ac yn Gymreig. Ond dyna wleidyddiaeth.

### Summary:

Following the conquest and Act of Union Wales was divided into 13 counties on the English fashion. These marks of conquest were replaced by counties bearing older native Welsh names in 1974, but the further changes of 1996 under a unionist Tory government tried to re-Anglicise the map of Wales.

## Yr Wyddfa, not Snowdon!

A campaign has started to persuade people to stop using the name 'Snowdon' to refer to Wales's highest mountain in English, and to use the native name 'Yr Wyddfa'. A similar campaign exists among the people of Nepal against the name 'Mount Everest', and the native Australians against the name 'Ayer's Rock'. The name 'Snowdonia', applied by the English to the surrounding area since the 18th century and now equated with the much older native name of 'Eryri' as the name of the national park, will also be opposed. The media often use 'Snowdonia' instead of the county name of Gwynedd, seen as too Welsh, in referring to things unconnected with the national park as such e.g. "an accident in Porthmadog in Snowdonia".

## Forestry Commission puts big business first

Protests have been held against the intention of the Forestry Commission to close a cafe and mountain biking centre in the Coed y Brenin forest near Dolgellau, which is run by local Welsh people, and replace it with an "all-inclusive" complex run by an English chain. The present business on the site at Ganllwyd was built up by and employs local people, but now it is successful the niche has become attractive to foreign big business whose colonial project will no doubt bring in more English as employees and take the profits out of the area.

# HALIFAX STILL SHOWING RELUCTANCE ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS

It is some years since the Cymru branch of the League called on the Halifax bank to introduce provision of statements in Welsh among other improvements to their language policy, a request that was refused. The Halifax is one of the biggest banks operating in Wales after the "Big 4" English banks (Lloyds TSB etc.), but language campaigners have regarded its provision of services in Welsh through the years substantially inferior to them. In March a Cymdeithas member in Aberystwyth was told that it was impossible to provide Welsh statements, and that no one had ever requested this before, a lie, and that they would not change this in the future. In April HBOS, the group that owns the Halifax and the Bank of Scotland held their AGM in Cardiff and this was picketed by the Cardiff cell of Cymdeithas on account of Halifax's attitude to the language. A written response to the picket included the following statements:

1. 19% of Halifax cash dispensers now offer Welsh and the rest will be completed by July (CL: The Big 4 cash dispensers have offered Welsh for years, but this is a step forward)
2. With branch signage Halifax are "ready

to embark on a full dual language implementation program". (CL: We'll believe this when we see it).

3. Leaflets and forms in Welsh would be "cost prohibitive" and "would involve a substantial increase in annual costs." (CL: This is nonsense. Translating everything might cost too much, but not a selection of the most frequently used pieces of paper.)
4. On customer addresses, "We only hold and use ... whatever address is provided by the customer." (CL: Up to now this is untrue. Their address software, on the basis of the postcode, translates customer addresses into English).

*(Os oes darllenwyr Cam yn mynychu cangen leol o'r Halifax, efallai yr hoffech edrych pam wir ydyw'r gosodiadau uchod. Buasai ysgrifennydd cangen Cymru yn falch o glywed am yr hyn a welwch.)*

The excuses used by the Halifax are those that have been used to deny Welsh-speaking customers a Welsh service for decades and are central to the necessity for a new Language Act that would include the private sector.

RapT

## Cymuned News

### Anti-colonisation concessions gained

A leading North Wales estate agent, Beresford Adams, have agreed, following meetings with Cymuned over the winter, to introduce a code for house sales that will make it easier for local people to buy houses. Cymuned had picketed the Beresford Adams branches in Pwllheli, Porthmadog, and Caernarfon every Saturday from August to December. A three-point code was agreed:

1. House sellers will be invited to advertise their houses only locally for three months, before they are advertised further a field and on the Net.
2. Every window card advertising property in the Beresford Adams branches in North West Wales, including Dinbych, Rhuthun and Abergale, will be bilingual.
3. Every member of staff for the company in north Wales will be offered Welsh lessons at the company's expense.

A Cymuned spokesman said that these concessions were a first step to a fair housing market, and that they would be pressing other estate agents in the Welsh-speaking areas to adopt this code. But there is a long way to go and time is short.

### Cymuned address United Nations forum

A Cymuned spokesman told a U.N. forum that Welsh-speaking communities were facing extinction due to market forces, and the Welsh government was unwilling to face the problem. Jerry Hunter travelled to Geneva in May to address the U.N. forum on minorities, which meets annually and reports directly to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. In response, the chairman of the forum, Mr Asbjorn Eide from Norway, was very positive saying "Your case is an interesting example of the conflict between economic forces and the need to respect cultural and linguistic rights. There is a special U.N. rapporteur for the right to homes, and we will draw his attention to this."

## Lack of Care Shown to Language in Health Sector

The chairman, Rhodri Williams, of the government's language quango, the Welsh Language Board, used surprisingly strong terms when addressing a conference on Welsh in the Health Service, organised by the National Assembly, in Cardiff on March 27th. Williams said:

"If I was to say that the condition of health sector service in Welsh is anything but "a cause for concern", then I would be misleading the Minister and the conference. Our monitoring work shows this clearly. Very simply, the sector is unable to cope with a service in Welsh - but it's not really trying either, and that's a cause for public concern.

"We might as well face the truth. The bulk of the health sector in Wales - whether bodies, whether professional workers, or managers or trainers - they carry on as if none of their patients spoke Welsh, that Wales isn't a bilingual country, that the 1993 Welsh Language Act does not exist, and that this has absolutely nothing to do with the Health Service. A second language is a nuisance - a distraction - for the health service more often than not. Such a position is not only inappropriate and of great concern, but it's also totally irresponsible, whatever the practical difficulties."

The conference aimed to bring representatives from all areas of Wales together to discuss what the health service needs to do to improve the situation, and tried to look at how the health sector, the quango, the National Assembly and other bodies can work together to ensure that services are available to patients in their chosen language.

The quango believes that the sector needs to change its attitude fundamentally and raise awareness regarding Welsh language services, and also recommends that a national strategy be developed to tackle the shortage of Welsh speaking medical staff. Williams also outlined practical steps such as sharing good practice, research and guidelines, and ensuring that a patient's language choice is included as standard information on their records in his speech.

However, most of the inadequacies highlighted at this conference also apply to the vast field of private sector controlled services in Wales, about the need for improvement in which the quango's voice is less often heard.

# LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY INTEGRAL TO EUROPE'S SUCCESS

## Language activist addresses E.U. conference

Regional and minority languages must be mainstreamed in future EU policy and not buried in the slipstream of majority languages. That was the message of the prominent language supporter John Walter Jones, Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board, speaking on behalf of all minority languages in Europe at a conference in Brussels on April 10th.

Organised by the European Commission, and building on the success of the European Year of Languages in 2001, the consultation conference on Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity, looks at the teaching and learning of minority, modern, ethnic and majority languages across Europe. Speaking on 'Strength in Diversity', Mr Jones said "Regional and minority languages in Europe should be treated on an equal footing

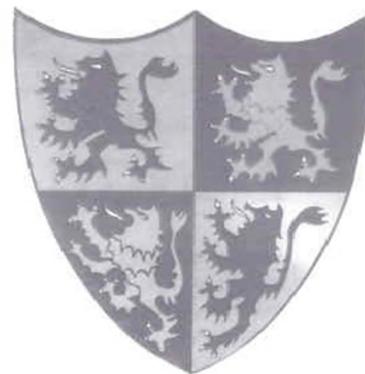
with state languages and not merely pigeon-holed or boxed away and forgotten. All the nations represented in the European Union are different linguistically, and have differing needs - but can all benefit because language planning is now a practical possibility.

"In October 2001, the Board was instrumental in establishing the Network of European Regional and Minority Language Boards so that minority language communities across Europe could benefit even further from our combined experience and knowledge in the field of minority language policy. The experience of bodies such as the Board will be of use to all language communities in the EU, and we should all unite in a common bond of shared understanding and respect for our linguistic diversity," he added.

The EU was preparing an Action Plan on mainstreaming minority languages, and this conference was the highlight of a consultation exercise undertaken across Europe. In his keynote speech to the conference, Mr Jones asked the Commission to ensure that all member states recognise the status of regional and minority languages, and that adequate funding for those languages be enshrined in all Commission programmes, and that future policy reflect the principle of mainstreaming.

"Integrated funding is essential, and I see no reason why a 'language declaration' should not be a concomitant part of all bids for EU funding. That would be a clear indication that linguistic diversity is regarded as an asset to be maximised within the EU," added Mr Jones.

R apT



## Llysgenhadaeth Glyndwr

### Embassy Glyndwr

The main intention of Embassy Glyndwr is to promote a truly National Commemoration in communities throughout Wales of 'Cofia 1400 - Blwyddyn Coffa Coroni Owain IV 2004'. The 600th Anniversary of the Coronation of Owain Glyndwr as Prince of Wales at the Machynlleth Parliament of 1404 which proclaimed Owain by the grace of God - Owain IV Prince of Wales. A day that we commemorate and celebrate as Dydd Owain Glyndwr - our National Hero Day.

Embassy Glyndwr has drawn up a list of events that they hope communities will support and join together in celebrations that will honour the memory of a National Hero. For more information please contact:

Sian Ifan, C.E.O. Embassy Glyndwr  
☎: 02920 307081  
E-bust: sian@embassy-glyndwr.co.uk

## Identity Crisis?

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) in Wales have claimed that devolution for Wales and Scotland has created an identity crisis for members of ethnic minorities (Celts not included). The CRE has been trying for years to help Asian and West Indian incomers in Britain and their descendants to feel part of and to be considered part of a multicultural, multiethnic, but homogeneous, English-common-language 'British nation'. It was seen as a success for this strategy a couple of years ago when a popular media poll declared that chicken Tikka Massala curry was the 'British national dish'. But with Welsh devolution, renewed talk of Welsh identity, increasing numbers of people considering themselves Welsh rather than British and increased status for the Welsh language, an 'irrelevancy' for ethnic minorities, there is once again, the CRE allege, a growing identity barrier between the people the CRE claim to represent and the white majority. "They have taken away our identity" a spokesperson said.

## Stamps Commemorating Owain Glyndwr

A chara: - May I correct your report on P.11 of Carn 121 which states that the Royal Mail has agreed to issue stamps commemorating Owain Glyndwr's uprising. Correspondence I have pursued with the Royal Mail simply states that "a set of stamps celebrating Wales in June 2004 to coincide with the 600th anniversary" will be issued. Indeed, the title of the issue is "Wales - A British Journey Special Stamp issue." Locations are being considered for the issue and may include one that is associated with Glyndwr. There is no guarantee that there will be specific reference to Glyndwr.

Personally, I think they are deliberately deceiving us with the language they use, i.e. "to coincide with" and not "to commemorate" Glyndwr.

We therefore need to continue the campaign. The ultimate answer of course is that Wales actually has the ability to issue its own commemorative stamps to celebrate Wales and its people.

I'r gad, Huw Jackson  
Press Officer, Plaid Cymru Cangen Llundain

## Entertainment license protest in Bangor

Traditional musicians took their instruments to a protest in Bangor in May against the plans of the English government to make it compulsory for pubs and other premises to obtain an entertainment licence before being able to stage music. Such legislation is likely to hit hardest places which hold entertainment only occasionally or informally, and since Welsh traditional music is much more dependant on such places (groups playing in a corner of a bar etc.) than corporate English culture, this legislation will amount to an attack on Welsh culture. Cymuned are involved in this campaign.

# GENERAL ELECTION - LABOUR TAKE HALF THE SEATS BUT PLAID HOLD OUT IN WELSH WALES

The second Welsh General Election, for our National Assembly, was held on May 1st. Compared with the first election held in 1999 there was a general swing through the country from the national party, Plaid Cymru, to the English Labour Party who now hold 30 of the Assembly's 60 seats, while Plaid Cymru remain the second largest party. The full result was Labour 30 seats (up from 28), Plaid Cymru 12 seats (down from 17), Conservatives 11 seats (up from 9), Liberal Democrats 6 seats (same as before), Independent members 1 (up from 0). Plaid lost 4 of their 9 constituency seats to Labour, Rhondda and Islwyn with substantial swings, and Llanelli and Conwy by the unluckily narrow margins of 21 votes and 72 votes respectively. These are all mainly English-speaking areas that Plaid has never held at Westminster. The loss of education spokesman Gareth Jones in Conwy in particular is a blow to the language, adding to the loss from the Assembly of Dafydd Wigley and Cynog Dafis through retirement. Plaid held Caernarfon, Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, Ynys Môn, Ceredigion and Carmarthen East & Dinefwr. After these, the most impressive Plaid result was in Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire where a strong campaign took Plaid up to 515 short of Labour, Plaid clearly winning well in the Welsh-speaking eastern half of this area. The constituencies are now a linguistic map of Wales with the 5 seats where the majority speak Welsh held by Plaid and the seats where the majority speak only English held by unionists. The decline in the Plaid vote cost them one of their 8 regional seats, in the South East.

The Tories generally increased their share of the vote, especially in Anglicised eastern rural areas reflecting a similar increase in local elections in England on the same day, but it was not enough for them to increase on their one constituency seat, Monmouth. They took two extra list seats, but the Assembly's resident 'colon', an English Tory list member in the North living in Ynys Môn, lost his list seat. The Liberal Democrats remained on six seats, three constituencies and three list, with exactly the same six people in the same places. Labour lost their one list seat in Mid & West and their 30 seats are all constituencies. The Labour AC in Wrexham, John Marek, had been deselected by his own party and fought and held Wrexham as an independent in an acrimonious campaign, defeating the official Labour candidate. It is hoped he will remain independent and not be Labour in all but name.

It is worth noting that 5½ years after the devolution referendum, anti-devolutionism is still active. The right-wing U.K. Independence Party stood in most constituencies with a policy of abolishing the Assembly, and took single-figure percentages of the vote, while an independent



*Ieuan Wyn Jones who resigned as party President and Leader of the Plaid Cymru group at the National Assembly. He will continue to serve the Ynys Môn constituency in the Assembly.*

'abolitionist' in Islwyn polled over 10%. Many Tories are believed to be covert anti-devolutionists though officially they now support the Assembly.

The media made much of the decline of the Plaid vote in comparison with 1999, but compared with pre-devolution years; it was still an impressive result. Plaid have never taken five constituencies in a Westminster election, nor finished up with the second largest number of seats. Plaid are clearly the overwhelmingly dominant party of Welsh-speaking Wales, with all the Welsh-majority seats, and their support, outside the Valleys, reflecting the linguistic nature of a constituency more than anything else, and this is a healthy base for a national party. However, a loss in support there was and is worthwhile for nationalists to consider this. The following factors would have counted:

1. Labour in 1999 were divided over the imposition of the unpopular Alun Michael as their leader by London, as opposed to the preferred-in-Wales Rhodri Morgan. Now united under Morgan, Labour were able to concentrate their vastly superior force in money and media influence on this election, helped by some notoriously one-sided sections of the media such as the new post-devolution daily paper, the (anti-) "Welsh Mirror".

2. The fact that the Tories, the "main British opposition", still have not started regaining substantially the ground they lost in the 1997 Westminster landslide allows Labour to concentrate on Plaid as their only opponents.

3. The state's participation in the conquest of Iraq caused a media-generated wave of

"support for our troops" in English-speaking Wales, particularly in the Valleys. This reflected badly on Plaid who had been strongly against the attack on Iraq. Ironically, in the pre-war period when Blair's bellicosity was unpopular, with large anti-war demos etc., opinion polls suggested that Plaid were going to benefit.

4. Labour's leader, Rhodri Morgan, came over in the media as more charismatic than Ieuan Wyn Jones of Plaid.

5. Most significantly, the Plaid leadership's unwillingness over recent years to back the section of the party that was demanding resistance to the colonisation of Welsh Wales, laid the party open to the insidious 'racism' attacks from Labour and their supportive media, since they were behaving as if they had something to hide, instead of challenging Labour's willingness to allow mass-immigration into the Welsh-speaking communities.

Following the election defeat, Ieuan Wyn Jones, AC for Ynys Môn, who had been seen by some as ready to sacrifice some of the party's basic principles, appropriately resigned as leader of Plaid Cymru.

With half of the seats in the Assembly, Rhodri Morgan as First Minister has decided not to renew the Labour coalition with the Liberal Democrats and to try to govern Wales as a Labour government. It was an ominous start when he made Alan Pugh, AC for Clwyd West, one of the most hostile Labour AC's to Welsh, the minister whose portfolio includes responsibility for the language.

Robot ap Tomos



# Éire



## Iomairt Cholm Cille Cúlra

Ainmníodh Iomairt Cholm Cille as Colm Cille naofa (521-597 AD), Gael a d'fhág a rian sa dá thír, gan trácht ar nithe eile, agus ba le linn chuairt an Uachtaráin Mhic Róibín ar Albain sa bhliain 1997 a bunaíodh í. Ar ócáid i Sabhal Mór Ostaig in Oileán Sgitheanach an uair sin, mhól an tUachtarán do na Gaeil "oileánpás a chruthú dúinn féin lena bhfuil i gcomhar ag Albain agus ag Éirinn a cheiliúradh". An lá céanna, dhearbhaigh Aire Stáit na hAlban um Oideachas, Tionscal agus Gàidhlig, Brian Wilson FP, go mbunófaí an Iomairt chun "tacaíocht a chothú don Ghaeilge/Ghàidhlig agus chun ceangail a fhorbairt idir pobail agus traidisiúin Ghaeilge/Ghàidhlig na hAlban agus na hÉireann a cheiliúradh".

Comhlacht idirghníomhaíochta is ea an Iomairt, a bhfuil Éire agus Albain páirteach inti, agus tá sé de chuspóir aici an malartú cultúir a éascú agus caidreamh a bhunú idir an dá thír. Ar na gníomhaíochtaí a bhíonn ar siúl, tá seéimeanna éagsúla (lena geoidítear le pobail cuairt a thabhairt ar a chéile), imeachtaí cultúir, cúrsaí teanga agus 'parlaimint na mac léinn' (a thionóltar gach bliain).

### Comhdhéanamh

Tá Bord Feidhmiúcháin ag Iomairt Cholm Cille, agus tá Coistí Réigiúnacha sa dá thír. Tá na comhaltaí ina saineolaithe ar an-chuid réimsí saoil. Tá triúr Oifigeach Tionscadail ann a fheidhmiú laistigh d'ósteagraíochtaí. Tugann na heagraíochtaí seo tacaíocht d'obair ICC agus tá ionadaithe dá geuid ar na Coistí Réigiúnacha agus ar an mBord Feidhmiúcháin. Is é príomhdhualgas an Bhoird Feidhmiúcháin ná polasaí a cheapadh agus cúrsaí maoinithe a stiúradh, agus bíonn na Coistí Réigiúnacha ar leith ag plé le maoiniú réigiúnach.

### Cuspóirí

Is é bunchuspóir na hIomairte ná an méid seo a leanas:

- na ceangail idir Albain agus Éire a neartú; agus
- fómhá dheimhneach den Ghaeilge/Ghàidhlig agus den dá chultúr a chur chun cinn.

- Is mar seo a leanas a chuirtear an bunchuspóir sin ar aghaidh:
- trí ghníomhaíocht nuálach a spreagadh agus a éascú i bhforbairt theangeolaíoch, chultúir, ealaíonta, eacnamaíoch agus phobail, agus
- trí chumarsáid, comthuisceantú agus idirghníomhaíocht dheimhneach a chur chun cinn.

Tá Plean Straitéiseach 2002–2004 ag Iomairt Cholm Cille agus cuirtear síos ansin ar a bhfuil beartaithe acu don tréimhse seo. Insan Phlean sin, aithníonn an Iomairt go bhfuil "na pobail Ghaeilge/Ghàidhlig i riocht ina gcaithfidh siad troid lena bpobail a chaomnú agus a dtodhchaí a dhéanamh slán." Dar leo go bhfuil an Ghaeilge in Éirinn agus an Ghàidhlig in Albain "i gcontúirt a n-imeallaithe ag pobail teanga níos mó taobh istigh dá réigiúin agus taobh istigh de dhomhan idirnáisiúnta an Iár-Atlantaigh". Chíonn an Iomairt deis, áfach, sa díospóireacht maidir leis an éagsúlacht chultúir agus leis an iolrachas. Chun an deis sin a thapú agus a bunchuspóir a chur chun cinn, Diríonn an Iomairt go príomha ar na réimsí seo a leanas:

- *forbairt pobail;*
- *ealaíona, cultúr, agus fóillíocht;*
- *oideachas;*
- *pleanáil teanga; agus*
- *na meáin chumarsáide.*

### Is iad seo aidhmeanna oibre ICC:

- straitéisí agus tionscadail a fhorbairt chun go mbeidh an Ghaeilge ina meán caidrimh idir daoine de gach cúlra, in Éirinn agus in Albain araon, idir an dá thír sin agus idir na réigiúin go léir;
- nascanna úrnua a fhorbairt idir pobail agus cainteoirí Gaeilge na hÉireann agus a macasamhail in Albain, agus na naisc atá ann cheana féin a threisiú;
- comhar praiticiúil inmharthanach a éascú idir pobail, gréasáin agus cainteoirí Gaeilge in Albain agus in Éirinn i gcúrsaí ealaíne, sóisialta agus cultúir;
- díospóireacht a chothú maidir leis na cúinsí sóisialta, cultúrtha agus eacnamaíocha a mbíonn tionchar acu ar lucht na Gaeilge ar

fad, d'fhonn féinmhuinín na bpobal Gaeilge a neartú;

- tuiscint a chothú ar stair agus ar chultúr saineiúil na bpobal Gaeilge in Éirinn agus in Albain;
- cur le tuiscint daoine ar ról na Gaeilge i bhféiniúlacht chultúrtha na hÉireann agus na hAlban;
- Gaeilge na hAlban a chur á foghlaim in Éirinn, agus Gaeilge na hÉireann a chur á foghlaim in Albain;
- tionscadail agus comhpháirtíochtaí a aimsiú, a thionscnamh agus a fhorbairt de réir na n-aidhmeanna sin thuas.

### Gníomhaíochtaí

Agus Iomairt Cholm Cille ag saothrú chun na teagmhálacha idir Gaeil Éireann agus Alban a mhéadú, déantar tionscadail áirithe a cheapadh agus a chur i gcrích a mbeastar a bheith riachtanach ó thaobh spriocanna straitéiseacha na hIomairte. Ar aon uain leis sin, cuirtear deontais ar fáil chun cabhair airgid a thabhairt do thionscadail atá á reachtáil agus á geur i gcrích laistigh de na pobail Ghaeilge sa dá thír. Is cuma cé acu mórtionscadail straitéiseacha de chuid Iomairt Cholm Cille nó tionscadail le cabhair dheontais a bheadh i gceist, tá na haidhmeanna céanna ag baint le gach uile thionscadal a dtugann Iomairt tacaíocht dó .i. nascanna a chruthú idir Gaeil Éireann agus Alban agus meon dearfach a chothú i leith na Gaeilge agus an chultúir Ghaelaigh. Tríd is tríd, is féidir tionscadail a rangú sna catagóirí seo a leanas – pobal, teanga, oideachas, na healaíona agus spórt. Is iad sin na réimsí saoil a measann an Iomairt tábhacht straitéiseach a bheith leo.

### Parlaimint na nÓg

Tá Parlaimint na nÓg ar cheann de na fiontair is mó a reachtáilann an Iomairt. Is tric a bheoithaich srad bheag teinne mór (is minic a spreag spréach bheag tine mhór) a deir an seanrá Gàidhlig, agus is deacair gan cuimhneamh ar an méid sin agus Parlaimint na nÓg ag dul ó neart go neart le blianta beaga anuas. Smaoineamh ar scála beag ab ea an Pharlaimint i dtosach báire ach le trí bliana anuas tá an dea-cháil atá uirthi tar éis gluaiseacht nua a chruthú i measc mhic léinn Éireann agus Alban. B'sheo againn aos óg an dá thír agus iad ag féachaint rompu ar an saol, iad misníúil, cróga agus dúchasach - glúin nua Gael a fhágfaidh a rian le chéile.

I mbliana, ba in Ionad Chalúim Cille in Íle na hAlban a tionóladh an Pharlaimint agus d'éirigh thar barr léi. Bhí tinreamh mór mac léinn ón dá thír i láthair agus ba léir, de réir mar a d'imigh an ócáid dhea-eagraithe ar aghaidh, go raibh an t-aos óg ag baint lán-taitnimh as a gcomhchultúr agus ag bunú nascanna a mhairfidh agus a chruthóidh ré

nua comhair idir Gaeil Éireann agus Alban sna blianta atá romhainn.

Is é an leagan amach a bhíonn ar an bParlaimint ná dhá sheisiún díospóireachta a bpléitear dhá rún éagsúla lena linn. Tagann aoi-chainteoirí isteach an dá lá chun na rún a mholadh agus labhairt ina gcoinne agus caitheann mic léinn na Parlaiminte (a roghnaítear as ollscoileanna sa dá thír) an chuid eile den am ansin ag plé na gceisteanna.

Ach baineann tábhacht le Parlaimint na nÓg atá níos leithne ná na díospóireachtaí a reachtáiltear inti. Imeacht ar leith is ea í. Is í an t-aon ócáid í ag a gcuinníonn Gaeil óga tríú leibhéal an dá thír le chéile chun cúlraí an tsaoil a phlé i gcomhthéacs dhearcadh na nGael. Bíonn meascán maith mac léinn ann agus idir lucht Gaeltachta agus lucht cathrach ón dá thír le chéile freisin agus an meas céanna acu go léir ar an gcúlra Gaelach atá i gcoiteann eatarthu. Daoine forásacha fadbhreathnaitheacha iad atá gan beann ar na seandéighiltí idir Gaeil san am atá caite.



Parlaimint na nÓg, a tionóladh ar Oileán He níos luaithe i mblianta

## An Fóram

Le déanaí, tá áis nua chumarsáide bunaithe ag an Iomairt. An Fóram a thugtar air agus is áis ar-líne atá i gceist. Deis is ea an Fóram seo do chainteoirí na Gaeilge/Gáidhlig a dtuairimí a nochtadh, ceisteanna a chur agus cúlraí a phlé a bhaineann leis na ceantair Ghaeltachta, idir Éire, Albain agus Oileán Mhanann.

Deis chumarsáide is ea é, agus tá súil ag an Iomairt gurb iomaí caidreamh a bhunófar idir buíonta agus idir daoine aonair sna réigiúin Ghaelacha uile dá thairbhe, agus go ndéanfar an caidreamh seo a bhuanú.

## Tacaíocht

Tacaíonn Iomairt Cholm Cille le himeachtaí a bhfuil sé de sprioc leo an nasc idir na Gaeil in Éirinn agus in Albain a neartú. Má tá smaointe ag daoine nó ag buíonta i gceachtar den dá thír maidir le tionscadail lena ndéanfaí a leithéid, is féidir dul i dteagmháil leis an Iomairt. Seo a leanas na seoltaí:

Dòmhnall Angaidh MacLennan Sabhal Mòr Ostaig An Teanga, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach IV44 8RQ

Guthán: Albain 01471 888590 Faics: 01471 888001

Ríomhphost:

[sm00dam@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:sm00dam@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk)

Maolcholaim Scott 6 Sráid Liam, Ceathrú na hEaglaise, Béal Feirste, BT1 1PR Guthán: 02890 238293 Faics: 02890 321245

Ríomhphost: [ccille.ultach@cinni.org](mailto:ccille.ultach@cinni.org)

Michelle Ní Chróinín Údarás na Gaeltachta Na Forbacha Gaillimh Éire

Guthán: 091 503278 Faics: 091 503101

Ríomhphost: [ccille@udaras.ie](mailto:ccille@udaras.ie)

Tá suíomh idirlín ag Iomairt Cholm Cille ag <http://www.colmcille.net>.

Vivian Uíbh Eachach.

## Summary

*Iomairt Cholm Cille (Columba Initiative) was launched during the visit to Scotland of Irish President, Mary Robinson, in 1997. It aims to facilitate cultural exchanges and interaction between the speakers of Gaeilge and Gàidhlig in Ireland and Scotland and their communities, using a variety of cultural and linguistic schemes and an annual Parliament na Mac Léinn (Student Parliament).*

# TV APARTHEID IN THE AGE OF COMMUNICATION

Pól Ó Gallchoir, head of the Irish language channel TG4 speaking in Belfast earlier this month said that broadcasters in Ireland have agreed in principle that all broadcasting services based in the country should be available throughout all of Ireland. It has long been a bone of contention amongst many in the Nationalist community in the north of Ireland that Irish TV services are not available.

Specific commitments were given in the Good Friday agreement that the issue would be addressed and these have since been re-iterated. However, despite this and despite the comments by TG4's head it is unclear if any definite timetable for extending broadcasts has been set. In addition there is a long standing grievance amongst many in the Irish expatriate community in Britain that Irish TV services generally and Irish language content in particular are not available. Since the satellite broadcaster Tara TV, in which RTE had a stake, folded there has been a gap that has been left unfilled.

Welsh broadcaster S4C already makes its broadcasts available via satellite across the UK. Paradoxically; broadcasts from both the United Kingdom and Ireland spill over into the others national territory. Many areas of eastern Ireland receive overspill signals from TV channels in Britain and similarly areas of Wales, N. Ireland and the Isle of Man get an overspill signal from Irish TV broadcasters.

The BBC has taken the issue a step further when, from May of this year, they broadcast unencrypted on satellite, which will mean that the signal from all their channels will be receivable within Ireland.

It is time the empty rhetoric of the Good Friday agreement and aspirations such as those voiced by Pól Ó Gallchoir were put into practice. There is no technological reason why common reception of TV broadcast in the British Isles is not a reality.

Bernard Moffatt

# IRISH LANGUAGE BILL - still defective

The Irish Language Bill is in the final stages of completion. It is expected to be enacted as law before the end of summer. But a lot of the Irish language bodies are not happy with the final draft. This bill has been with the Government for the last six years. You would have expected it to be enacted as law by this time. There have been a lot of amendments but still this bill is fairly weak in protecting the rights of the Irish speaker in dealing with Government bodies.

The core of the Bill is that there will be schemes for every public body in which there will be guidelines and rules for these bodies to implement in order to improve their services in Irish. The idea for such schemes came from the Welsh Language Act. Article 28 of the bill says that if a public body fails in its implementation of the Irish language scheme that it can be brought to court and compensation sought. But article 32 says that a public body cannot be brought to court if it fails in its duty in implementing the scheme. So there is a lot of ambiguity in this bill. The Minister's response to leaving in article 32 of the bill is that it is not realistic to expect that everybody in the public bodies will have Irish tomorrow and therefore failure in implementing the scheme will be due to human failing. The Irish language community is not expecting an overnight change, (although it would be nice), but we would expect the public bodies to implement their schemes. The scheme is what will bring about the change, it may be slow at the start, for example a few signs to be put up in Irish and Irish classes, but this will be improved on in time. The scheme will last 3 years and after that the scheme will be looked at how effective it was and in theory then updated to make the scheme more effective. The practicalities of implementing such a scheme however is a torturous eight stage process between a body, such as a County Council for example, and the Minister and depends on the goodwill of executives and whichever politician may be Minister.

Also you may have a civil court proceeding in Irish or English if you so wish, but God help you if you are from the Gaeltacht and you are in a criminal case. You haven't the same right; the Judge can say that the court case is to be in English only. The Minister's reason for this is that a criminal could use Irish as an excuse to slow down court proceedings and this could bring Irish a bad name. Hasn't he heard that you are innocent until proven guilty? Most court cases have been in English in which Ireland's most notorious criminals have used every trick in the book to slow court procedures. Does this mean that English has a bad name now? Does it mean that if a criminal has intimidated a jury (and it has happened) that they should get rid of juries because they are sus-

ceptible to intimidation? At present cases dealt with by the CAB (Criminal Assets Bureau formed to tackle organised crime) are civil. That means that criminals could use Irish to slow down the proceedings. It is not as if such criminals (people like the John Gilligan) have slowed down cab proceedings a million times before.

There is a lot of talk of duties written into the bill, in particular with regard to the schemes. This worries me because duty doesn't mean that they are required by law to implement their schemes. Every Irish citizen has a duty to keep his country tidy but that doesn't mean that every Irish person cleans the street every day. So a duty requires you to do an action but it is not against the law if you do not keep your duty, except if you're a soldier.



*Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Eamon Ó Cuív, who's Irish Language Bill is still regarded as defective.*

This bill is based on some aspects of the Official Languages Bill in Canada, but it does not go as far as that Bill does for the French Canadians. The newly founded Gaeltacht based pressure group Cearta Teanga na Gaeltachta has requested that the Bill be withdrawn and a new bill started which has more teeth. Dr. Pádraig Ó Laighin (who spent many years as Prof. of Sociology in Montreal and who met the Minister and supplied much information on the Canadian system) has criticised the Bill in a pamphlet '*Acht na Gaeilge, Acht ar Strae*' (Irish Language Bill, A Bill Astray'). In particular he has expressed dismay at the way many worthwhile amendments were rejected by the Minister out of hand in the Senate and at Committee stage. Of concern also was new

Article 12, which calls on bodies to outline in their scheme services, which will be supplied in English only. This could actually work against Irish speakers as the Minister has defined it will come under article 8.3 of the Constitution which could then preclude any challenge to the lack of provision of the service in Irish.

Another problem is that the Act will not be in operation until three years after the bill has been enacted. This is stupid because most Acts are in operation the day the President signs them into law. Why the delay? If it is because that Irish Language services will not be up and running then it is stupid because you can start the scheme immediately and have a clause that no public body be liable for the first three or five years, which will give a chance to the public bodies to ensure that their Irish Language services are as effective as possible.

Most TDs (members of the Dáil, the Irish Parliament) appear to be in favour of the Bill but there are some who are against on grounds of extra expenditure. There will undoubtedly be severe problems with the Finance Minister on this Bill. With a downturn in the economy and a crisis in the health services at present the Minister will be reluctant to give money what he regards as less important issues like the Irish language. Also there are going to be problems with the civil servants implementing the scheme. Civil servants have a history of not being too fond of the Irish language and I see them as being reluctant to implement the schemes. I hope this Act will help improve the current status of Irish in the Public Sector. But with so many loopholes I do not hold too much hope. Also I hope after that the Bill is enacted that a language Charter for Irish is begun to ensure Irish language rights in the wider community.

If this Bill had every right that a Irish speaker should have in dealing with public bodies it would help a bilingual society to grow, in which case it would be easier for private companies to have Irish services which in turn may cause a growth in Irish speakers. However, I believe that Irish will have the same status it did for the last 80 years after the Bill is enacted because it will be too much bother for civil servants to follow the guidelines on Irish services and also they will not be liable if they don't follow it. The Minister said that he wanted their cooperation not to have to use the courts to make them improve their services. Why did it have to take 80 years before this bill was brought in place? As is known the Scottish Language Bill is still to go to Government. Let us hope they do not follow the path of the Irish Language Bill by taking such a long time to complete, and having such a weak basis with public bodies not liable for failure to provide services in Gaelic. Ireland should have been showing the example to the other Celtic Nations in terms of linguistic rights. The English psyche is buried too deep in Irish society and it is hard to change that without good leadership.

**Caoimhín Ó Cadhla**



*Sinn Féin organised a series of rallies and protests about the British Government decision to cancel the Northern Assembly elections. Above is Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin MLA, attempting to cast his ballot in a mock ballot box as part of a demonstration outside the Dáil in Dublin.*

## uk silent on doctrine that sustained murder gangs

The UK Ministry of Defence has refused to reveal detail of the doctrine governing counter-insurgency operations in the North of Ireland. However it says that military operations and the applications of such doctrines of this type are subject to "lessons learnt".

Pointedly the Ministry of Defence did not refute the League assertion that operation of both military murder gangs and direction of paramilitary groups was part of theory and practice developed and taught in their staff colleges but did say:

*"The British Armed Forces' guidelines and directions, commonly referred to as 'doctrine', governing counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations, including those conducted in Northern Ireland, have evolved over many years. However, for operational security reasons these are classified and therefore it would be inappropriate for me to comment on their specific contents. Nevertheless, all military operations are subject to a 'lessons learnt' procedure as are any doctrinal publications.*

*In answer to your question as to whether the Ministry of Defence intends to review the counter-insurgency element of the Joint Services Command and Staff College, only very generic lectures are given on the subject of counter-insurgency, given the strong*

*multi-national representation on the course. The teaching does not go into the detail that your letter would suggest. However, like doctrine, an evaluation of the teaching conducted is a fundamental part of the process.*

*Sir John Stevens continues to investigate allegations that the British Government colluded with paramilitaries in Northern Ireland. Therefore, the Ministry of Defence is unable to comment on your question of whether the theories taught at the Staff College can be linked to the deaths under police investigation".*

It is clear that despite the reticence of the Ministry of Defence clarification of the 'doctrine': which underpinned British Army counter-insurgency strategy is the key to understanding the activities of the 'murder-gangs', which Britain ran in Ulster. The Irish government should make it an imperative of intergovernmental dialogue that information of this type is revealed.

The British government pretends astonishment and shock at the conclusions of John Steven's Report. However the murder gangs run by the FRU had their origins in theories taught for decades in the staff colleges of the British Army.

The British Government, in line with its well defined strategy for side-lining unpalatable news, has ensured that the Steven's investi-

gation into State sponsored murder in Northern Ireland (and on the Island of Ireland generally) was released at a time when Parliament is in recess.

Already senior figures that were well placed to know about the activities of the British Army Intelligence unit, which coordinated this campaign of terror, are distancing themselves from the issue.

However, scrutiny of events in Ireland at the time and more pertinently contemporary military/intelligence thinking on how to deal with the 'emergency' that the British State faced in the six counties were well publicised. This makes it unlikely that the British government was unaware of the activities of the Force Research Unit (FRU) or its predecessors the MRF and bizarrely named '4 Field Survey Troop - Royal Engineers.

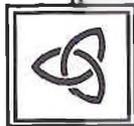
In 1971 (then) Brigadier Frank Kitson set out in clear and unambiguous terms the 'road-map' that the army and security forces generally should use for dealing with situations such as that which had arisen in Ulster. "Low Intensity Operations" (sub-title Subversion, Insurgency and Peacekeeping) illustrates clearly the steps that can lead a State from containment to counter terror. Interestingly people of the Kitson post-colonial military period had cut their teeth countering 'insurgency,' in Malaya, Kenya, Aden and Cyprus. All these operations had been characterised by the use of locally recruited auxiliaries as murder gangs to directly target the liberation movements in those territories, which were attempting to throw off the British colonial yoke.

Another missive from the pen of Kitson, who went on to head the British Staff college and ensure that his theories were fully utilised, is the pointedly titled "Gangs and Counter Gangs" which again chronicles the merits of utilising counter terror.

Kitson's teachings and the steady reports (mainly from local reporters in Ireland) about the alleged misdeeds of the security forces and their use of loyalist thugs in the counter terror role ensured that knowledge (if not the detail) of Britain's Dirty War in Ireland were well known before John Stevens enquiry ever set up shop in the province. The British government of the day knew and the present British government also knows. In addition and to their shame past and current Irish governments know more about this shameful period than they have admitted.

For every case such as that of the Finucanes (and we trust they find truth and ultimately justice) many other families in Ireland have had to fight a continuous and in many instances scarcely reported battle to get recognition of the wrongs done on behalf of the British government by paid thugs recruited from the loyalist community.

**Bernard Moffatt**



# Kernow



## AN GELTYON OW FETHA MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, AMERIKA DEGHOW

An 28 a vis Meurth, synsys veu yn Jacksonville ogas dhe Montevideo (Uruguay) yn Amerika Deghow an kynsa goel keltek Montevideo. Yma bagas a dhus dhiwysek ow kul lavur meur ha splann rag ledanhe aswonnvos an wonisogeth keltek yn Uruguay. Nyns yw pur es aga lavur. Res yw dhyn perthi kov a'n studh erbysek a-dhiwedhes yn Uruguay hag yn Argentina, mes soweth, ynwedh yn Amerika Deghow, dre vras.

Amkan an goel ma veu ledanhe aswonnvos an wonisogeth keltek, boes ha diwes an broyow keltek yn Montevideo ha gul Montevideo pennsita keltek Amerika Deghow dres 3 dydh, dell dhyssplegyas Carlos Mari, ordenor an ranndir heb tolow henwys *Zonamerica* hag ynwedh onan an ordenoryon an kynsa goel keltek Montevideo gans bagas pib henwys "*The Southern Cross Pipe Band*", kannattiow lwerdhon, Stalow Unys, Kanada ha'n kannatti Predennek, *Liga Celta de Argentina* (Kesunyans Keltek Argentina), towlenn radyo "*Plum Pudding*", paper-nowodhow Argentina "*The Southern Cross*", *Consejo Uruguayo de la Danza*, *Centro Gallego de Uruguay*. Sostenyys yw an goel gans kowethasow avel *Pluna/Varig*, *Kodak Polychrome Grafics*, *FANAPEL*, *A2-20 Comunicación*, *Sheraton Montevideo Hotel*, *VISA*, *Jetmar Viajes y Turismo*, *Cutcsa*, *CVC*, *Saceem*, *Coca-Cola*, *UCM*, paper-nowodhow Uruguay "*El Pais*".

Dres an 3 dydh y hevis ilow keltek, donsyow hengovek, boes hengovek ha diwes an broyow keltek, margh gobrena, dornkrefth ha gwerthas lyvrow ha plasennow.

Montevideo (Uruguay) yw le ha hanow arwoedhek rag an kynsa goel keltek ma ! Res yw dhyn perthi kov bos kemmyniethow keltek meur yn Uruguay, dres oll tus dhiworth Galythi hag Asturias mes ynwedh tus dhiworth Alban hag lwerdhon. Dell leveris Carlos Mari yn keskusulyans an wask : "*pur boesek yw an kuntelles keltek Lorient yn Breten Vyghan ha pur dha via gul an keth tra. omma yn Montevideo gans agan goel keltek. Y'gan bro, an kemmyniethow keltek bras yw an*

*kemmyniethow Galythiek hag Asturianek mes res yw dhyn perthi kov a'n kemmyniethow lwerdhonek hag Albanek ynwedh. Mes pur boesek yw ynwedh an kuntelles ma a'n welva erbysek. A-dro dhe 15.000 den yw gwaytys y'n kuntelles. Ni a vynnsa gul goel blydhenyek a'n goel keltek ma".* Amkan goel keltek Montevideo veu gul goel keltek blydhenyek rag Amerika Deghow avel goel keltek Lorient yn Breten Vyghan.

Bagasow ilow eth dhiworth Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Kanada ha'n Stalow Unys y'ga mysk "*Seanachie*" (Kanada), "*City of Dunedin Pipe Band*" (Stalow Unys), "*Viento Celta*" (Chile), "*Xeito Novo*" (Argentina), "*Banda de Gaitas Centro Asturiano de Buenos Aires*" (Argentina), "*Bran*" (Argentina), "*Fardaxu*" (Argentina), "*Celtic Argentina*" (Argentina), "*Montegal*" (Uruguay), "*Grianán*" (Uruguay) ha "*The Southern Cross Pipe Band*" (Uruguay).



*The Southern Cross Pipe Band - Montevideo, Uruguay*

Pella derivadow ow mires orth gwiasva an goel. Splann ha teiryethek yw an wiasva (Spaynek, Sowsnek ha Frynkek) : [www.festivalceltademontevideo.com.uy](http://www.festivalceltademontevideo.com.uy) po orth [info@festivalceltademontevideo.com.uy](mailto:info@festivalceltademontevideo.com.uy)

Yn berr geryow, an Goel Keltek Montevideo a sewenas yn tien !

Meur ras dhe *Susana SHANAHAN*, esel an gemmynieth lwerdhonek Argentina, ordenores towlenn radyo "*Plum Pudding*" ([www.plumpudding.com.ar](http://www.plumpudding.com.ar)) ha dhe

*Daniel José Stewart*, esel bagas pib "*The Southern Cross*" rag aga gweres/Thank you very much to *Susana SHANAHAN*, member of the Irish Argentine community, producer of the radio program "*Plum Pudding*" ([www.plumpudding.com.ar](http://www.plumpudding.com.ar)) and to *Daniel José Stewart*, member of "*The Southern Cross Pipe Band*" for their help.

### Summary

*Our friends in Uruguay are working hard to create a better understanding of the Celtic culture and music in their country, despite of the recent difficult economic situation of Uruguay and the other countries in the zone. It is important to remember that there is a large Celtic community in Uruguay. As well as the Galician and Asturian communities, we find important Irish and Scottish communities.*

*A festival was organized mainly by Carlos Mari, manager of Jacksonville-Zonamerica and by the bagpipe band from Montevideo called "The Southern Cross Pipe Band". The festival was inspired by the Lorient Interceltic Festival but it is also worth noting that private societies such as PLUNA/VARIG, Kodak, FANAPEL and A2-20 Comunicación, Visa and others as well as the Irish, British, American and Canadian Embassies, Liga Celta de Argentina, Radio Programme "Plum Pudding", the Galician Cultural centre of Uruguay, the Argentine newspaper "The Southern Cross", the Uruguayan*

*newspaper "El Pais" have contributed to the success of the event.*

*The main goal of this festival was to give the opportunity to the Uruguayan and South American people of Celtic origin to gain a better knowledge of the Celtic cultures and music and to offer jobs. As the festival was a success, it will be held annually. The aim of this festival is to make a "Lorient Interceltic Festival" beyond the seas!*

José CALVETE

# THE REASON WHY

One of the most startling pieces of literature I've read in recent years must be *The Reason Why: Cornwall's Status in Constitutional and International Law* by Paul Laity and Tim Saunders with Alan Kent. As an independent report written by "Cornwall's most eminent legal thinker", this 34 page booklet is not only very readable, but states what most readers will find to be some completely astonishing facts. Among these are *four truths* that are *simple enough*:

1. *Cornwall has never been annexed*
2. *Cornish sovereignty derives from the people, not any monarch.*
3. *It [Cornish sovereignty] has never been extinguished*
4. *Provisions of any law other than our own [i.e. Cornish Law] can have no force here unless properly ratified*

Although the report is not an official Stannary document, it claims to show that the Stannary assertions are not only true, but that most "statements about the Duchy of Cornwall are false". Such statements, presented as fact, may come as a surprise to many people and not only to those living outside of Cornwall.

For instance, between 2000 and 2001 over 50,000 signatures were collected by people petitioning on the streets of Cornwall. The petition asked people to sign what became a "declaration" stating that "Cornwall is a nation" and that as such needed its own assembly. Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall started the petition, but then presented the

signed petitions over to the Cornish Constitutional Convention to take the campaign forward. As one of the coordinators of the petition, I was told many different things about Cornwall's current status: why Cornwall couldn't have an assembly because it already had its own parliament; why Cornwall already had an assembly; why Cornwall wasn't a nation and why it was; why I, as an outsider, had no right to interfere in Cornish "constitutional" matters and why I should get involved; there were those people who would categorically not sign and those people who begged to sign. It seemed that for every argument that was presented, there were others who would contradict it.

The argument I found most intriguing however was the "constitutional" claim that some people couldn't or wouldn't sign, because of their constitutional obligations and/or Cornwall's constitutional status. I had heard of Cornish Stannary Law, knew several Stannators and was vaguely familiar with Cornwall's constitutional position, but I couldn't really understand why, if Cornwall already had its own Parliament, laws weren't being passed by it, so few people knew about it and why I was giving up every spare moment to collect thousands of signatures for a Cornish Assembly.

No matter how much the situation was explained to me by Stannators or other members of the Cornish political/cultural movement, I could not fully understand what Cornwall's constitutional position was all about. It demanded from me a leap of faith that I couldn't quite make.

Before I could commit myself to the belief that laws imposed by the Westminster Government do not apply in Cornwall, unless the Cornish institutions have ratified them, I would want to see some sort of evidence for it myself.

I saw for myself the extent of the English Governmental conspiracy, during the court case of three Cornish Stannators, who were arrested and faced 10 years in prison for conspiracy for the removal of English Heritage signs in the year 2000. The Stannary Parliament demand that English Heritage should retreat from Cornwall and allow a local body to manage its historic sites. When English Heritage refused the three Stannators proceeded to remove the English quango's signs. When a Public Immunity Certificate was imposed on the evidence the Stannators wished to present to the court, preventing them from properly defending their actions, the depths that the government would sink in order to prevent a fair hearing, became very clear to me. Who would go to such lengths if the case was a simple matter of conspiring to commit criminal damage? In January 2002 the charges were dropped against the trio and they were bound over to keep the peace for a year to the sum of £500 each at Truro crown court. The Stannators claimed that their campaign was a success and that it drew attention to their claims about Cornwall's independence.

As a consequence of the trial, I began to think that the time I had spend organising petitioning teams and collecting signatures for a Cornish Assembly had been wasted. If Cornish Stannary claims could stand up in court, what was the point in arguing the case for a Cornish Assembly, under an English Governmental system? Surely our energies would be better spent by assisting the Stannators and getting all the Cornish institutions to function properly again. At some point the English legal and Governmental system must give way and accept the Cornish constitutional status, above its own legal/governmental systems.

Like an answer from God, I stumbled on *The Reason Why: Cornwall's Status in Constitutional and International Law*, a report produced by retired Judge Paul Laity, whom I had been told lived his life as a "closet nationalist". Despite "only being a judge of the English legal system" (as I was informed) I had heard that he had written a document on his deathbed and wanted it published. Rightly or wrongly, I read the report like a confession of man who had spent his life working for the other side, who now wanted to set the record straight and as such his words were heavily loaded.

I am no lawyer and so was struck by the simplicity and clarity of the message: "the Cornish may defend their rights and

## Dun ni yn mes y'n bys bras drog

Da o genev redya derivadow a'n pyth a veu unnverhes orth an guntelles vlydhennek. Res yw porres dhe Gesunyans Keltek omdhyskwedhes avel korv gwir ha byw y'n bys politek.

An kyrghynnedh rag ensompel: yth eson ni oll yn kres an mor difeyth ha piw a vo gwell rag hembraonk kaskerdh erbynn an kowethasow oyl-men dibreder? Nans yw himeth, y hwodhevyn dafolans: hwath yn ow diwfrik y klywav eth an Torrey Canyon, a'm hedhis hanterkans mildir dhiworth an gwrekk, nans yw deg warn ugens ha moy a vlydhynnyow.

Na wren ankevi an kesstriv erbynn an nerthow meur a-barth gwitha agan ertaj. Yn Breten Vyghan an Frynkyon a dorras an ambos dhe weres Diwan. Y'n kettermyn ny vynn agan asrann dyskans agan honan sevel bys erbynn diswryans gonisogeth agan fleghes. Na wren ankevi... byttegyns, orthowgh hwi y hwovynnav: yw henna neppyth on ni parys dhe wul?

### Let us get out in the big bad world

*I am delighted to see the League is not navel-gazing but speaking out on universal issues such as pollution and shipwrecks. (There is unfortunately a very big connection) Why shouldn't the world listen to us, like they do to another 'League', the Arab one? And I do not mean bombs and bullets, but a solid, united argument.*

*No we must not forget our Celtic concerns, but with the French right wing President Chirac reneging on the matter of financing Diwan, and here in Cornwall, our own Education department refusing to capitalise on the long-awaited recognition of our language, I ask you, are we likely to?*

Julyan Holmes

# News in Brief

## Election Results

Out of the 25 Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall candidates standing in the May elections, 18 Council seats were taken in all. The party now have 6 District Councillors (up by 2), 3 City Councillors (up by 3) and 5 Parish Councillors (up by 2). On several occasions candidates just fell short of being

## The Reason Why (cont.)

implement their Sovereignty as a people in accordance with the law". What is more, in conclusion, the report states that the petition declaration, which collected "signatures from members from both estates [Tinnars and Commoners]", is in effect what is called a "Confederation", which is part of one of the procedures necessary to legally implement Cornish Sovereignty. It is the opinion of the report that this Confederation could do "a great deal of good". We are told that if the Cornish Constitutional Convention, who now use the petitions as a campaigning tool, was "duly representative and conducting itself properly" it would "in effect, be a provisional form of the House of Assistants", which again is one of the institutions necessary whereby the Cornish may legally defend their rights.

It seems to me however that the Convention isn't functioning properly in this respect and what we have left is the frustrating situation where the four simple truths stated at the beginning of this article are being ignored. Conspiracy takes many forms, but at least I now feel I know at least part of what this conspiracy is and hope to do something about it. I hope many other people who read the document or contact the Cornish Stannary Parliament, feel inspired to take up Cornwall's fight against the oppressive form of foreign government that is denying the people their right to Cornish laws and Sovereignty.

<http://www.cornish-stannary-parliament.abelaratis.com/>

"The Cornish Constitution", price £6.00 incl. p&p can be purchased from the above site.

*The Reason Why: Cornwall's Status in Constitutional and International Law* by Paul Laity and Tim Saunders with Alan Kent can be purchased by contacting [celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com](mailto:celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com) (£2 excl. p&p)

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot

elected, but the general feeling was that the election campaign was a great success.

## Scrifa Kernewek

The first volume of a new bi-annual collection of contemporary Cornish literature was published in May, which has already been hailed as a Cornish publishing phenomenon. *Scrifa* (Cornish for writing) is designed to offer a regular platform for the work of both established and aspiring writers (Western Morning News) writing in the Cornish language, dialect and English. Volume One features work by Pol Hodge, Nick Dark, Michael Williams and Denys Val Baker among others, and a regular cartoon strip, entitled *Cornwall for Beginners*, is being produced by Tim Saunders and Clive Wakfer. *Scrifa* is available from most Cornish bookshops, priced £5 or can be ordered from *Scrifa*, Halwinnick Cottage, Linkinhorne, Callington, Cornwall PL17 7NS by sending £5 (inc p&p) or £10 for an annual subscription.

## An Bennseythun Kernewek

The Cornish Language weekend is now due to take place in St Ila/St Ives between 31 mis Hedra/October - 2 mis Du/November this year. This is a different date and place to the weekend originally planned for 2003, which was due to take place in April 2003. The Language Weekend will be aimed specifically at all those students taking Grades 1, 2 and 3: in other words, intermediate and elementary students. Places are limited for more advanced students.

The cost of two people sharing a room will be £a340 and single/double rooms are available. Book early to avoid disappointment, by writing to Polin Prys, Skrifennyades an Kowethas, 1 Gyllyngvase Road, Falmouth TR11 4DH.

## Just Cornish

A new website has been launched in Cornwall where Cornish goods can be bought over the Internet. Now books, art work, stickers, clothing and a great deal more can be purchased at [www.justcornish.com](http://www.justcornish.com) and as pointed out on the website, all vlang2057 products are made in Cornwall.

Apparently, it is An gwella gwiasva prenessa kernewek! so have a look for yourself.

## Breton POW Demonstration

An Scoren Kernewek/The Cornish Branch of the League are organising a demonstration in August 2003, to take place outside the French Embassy in Dublin, in protest over the unlawful detention of Breton prisoners in Paris jails. The Branch would like to hear from all individuals and/or organisations that would like to get involved or take part in the demonstration. To know more about the demo write to [celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com](mailto:celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com) or contact the Kernow Branch Secretary. More information on the plight of the prisoners can be obtained through the Celtic League or Skoazell Vreizh at <http://www.skoazell-vreizh.org/>

## Cornish Representatives at the FUEN

Three Cornish representatives from the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) associated member organisation An Seneth Stenak Kernowek (The Cornish Stannary Parliament) and the language association Agan Tavas (Our Language), stayed in North Friesland from 10th-13th April 2003. The representatives went to Friesland with the intention of meeting FUEN Secretary General in Flensburg, Dr Nigel Hicks, Cornish Branch member of the Celtic League, is a candidate for the forthcoming election as FUEN vice-president.

An Seneth Stenak Kernowek have built up some strong international contacts within the FUEN and are particularly interested in FUEN's future programme for small ethnic groups without a so-called kin-state. Stenak Kernowek representatives will be attending the 2nd Seminar for minorities without kin-state in Poland that will take place from 10th - 11th June 2003 at the Kasubian Folk University in Starbienino.

## American Branch

## Internet Site

[www.celticleague.org](http://www.celticleague.org)

# A Cornishman as the Vice-President of FUEN

Celtic League member Dr Nigel Hicks was unanimously elected Vice-President at the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) Delegate Assembly on May 29th 2003.

Dr Hicks has been active in FUEN for some time as a representative of "An Seneth Stenak Kernowek" (The Cornish Stannary Parliament) and takes up the position left vacant by the former FUEN vice-president Per Le Moine who retired in 2001.

The FUEN committee stressed the importance that the new Vice-President maintains the contacts to Western Europe and, above all things, to the Celtic minorities. Being an active member of the Cornish Branch of the League, a member of the committee of Agan Tavas, the Cornish language organization and a Cornish Stannator, Dr. Hicks is well placed to bring to other members of FUEN regular news from the Celtic nations.

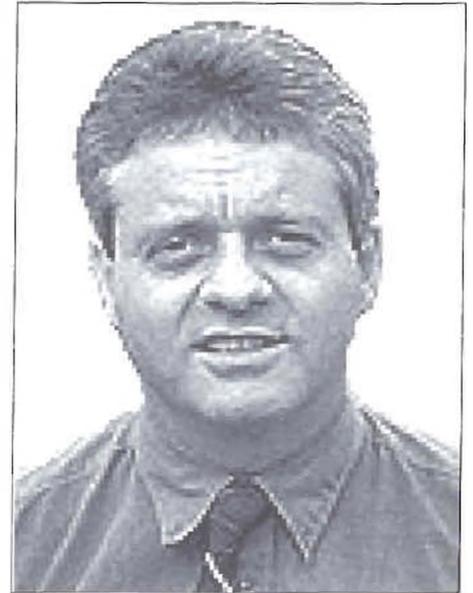
Dr Hicks stated that, 'I regard my election to the Presidium of FUEN as a great opportu-

*nity for the Cornish to present its depressing minority situation to influential performers on the World and European stages. In addition, my membership of a Celtic minority, which is without a kin-state, will enable me to develop additional relationships with other minority nations in similar positions so that we might all learn from our respective experiences. Already, plans are underway for North Frisian school children from Germany to come to Cornwall during the summer, to study the Cornish language and the way in which it is taught, despite the barriers that have been raised by obstinate and indifferent British public authorities.'*

The Assembly also unanimously supported the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2003-04 (English version)

"The Assembly of Delegates of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Bolzano on 29 May 2003 passes the following resolution:



Dr. Nigel Hicks, Vice President of FUEN

It yet again calls upon the government of the United Kingdom to grant the Cornish population recognition as a national minority according to the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities".

For more information on the work of FUEN see [www.fuen.org](http://www.fuen.org)

## An Allegory

As the fourth millennium draws to a close it seems inevitable that we will soon witness the demise of the English language. A thousand years ago it was widespread in the British Isles (as they were then known), and persisted there even though the previous millennium had seen its disappearance in other parts of the world.

Even the predominant North American branch, now long absorbed by Amerospanish, could not withstand the forces of disintegration. These included development of mutually unintelligible Creoles, changes in demographics, wars, the great vowel shifts of the southern hemisphere, the rise of computer speak and illiteracy, and the religio-cultural dominance of Arabic.

How could such a widely used, efficient medium be so diminished? The first thing to understand is that 'efficiency', 'beauty', 'richness' or any other merit, has nothing to do with language survival. For example, Chinese, Arabic's challenger, is a language vestigial in grammar and cumbrous in script, but succeeds on

the strength of China's commercial power.

The present situation of English, where a few scattered communities of speakers remain in parts of north and west Wales, can be directly attributed to migration shifts and 'cultural imperialism'.

Even two thousand years ago some English were drifting westwards under pressures, which we can now only guess at. There were no doubt economic effects from uninvited immigration causing competition for resources, but we have no evidence that the English were "driven" into Wales. Rather, it seems that as enclaves of settlers from overseas reinforced their hold on the richer lowlands and key industries, the native English became increasingly alienated and joined their pioneering compatriots in the less prosperous mountains.

Ironically, those who moved west did not see that they occupied the same position vis-à-vis the previous inhabitants of Wales as the immigrants did to them. Of those original inhabitants we know little, except

that they spoke a Celtic language. Their records were destroyed in the Great Purification Burnings of the late 21st century.

We must give the English credit for holding on grimly to their language, but a millennium of persecution has had its inevitable effect. In the mullahs' recent swing to liberalism English is now tolerated. Too late, unfortunately, because justice delayed is justice denied. At a time, about a century ago, when this attitude might have saved the language, English was banned from educational and public life, and its speakers derided. It was not allowed a chance to compete with the all-pervasive Urdarian, a language which again has no particular merit over other languages, except that it was adopted as the official language of Urdaria (formerly England) in 3045. Without Urdarian you were unemployed. That's how language survival works.

Of course, English speakers can still link up with each other in cyber groups, even though they've been squeezed out of the real world, but they are nothing if not realists. Once they turn away from their screens they speak Urdarian to their grandchildren. As the Romans might have said, before their empire, too, collapsed: *sic fortis Etruria decrevit*.

Peter H. Edwards

## LUNNIN - CRE NEEMAYD NISHTAGH?

Tra vees yn art shoh ry akin ayns Carn. foddee dy bee red ennagh reaghit eddyr ny Crogheenyn-Crooin (Crown Dependencies) as Reiltys y Reeriaght Unnaneysst, ny Reiltys Hostyn, by chiart dou ghra. Lurg e varriaght ghloyroil syn Earack, ren Tony Blair geddyn rey rish yn oik jeh'n Chiarn-Shansyleyr ayns Reiltys Hostyn. Dooyrt sleih ennagh dy row shen y caghlaa smoo ayns coarys leighoil Hostyn neayr's lhing ny Saksanee meeillee as kiare cheead blein er dy henney. Ec y traa shen, ren reeghyn Hostyn poinsheil fer dy ghellal rish screeun-yn ny reeghyn: haink ad dy ghra Chiarn-Shansyleyr rish y scrudeyr shoh, va ny ghooiinnee feer phooraal. Haink ennym y chiantey veih'n Ladjyn 'cancelli', y scape va'n scrudeyr gobbraghey cheu-heear jeh.

Gys Mean Souree 2003, she Derry Irvine va'n Chiarn-Shansyleyr. She yn dooinney shoh va cur cooney dy chur Tony Blair er e hoshiaght, agh ayns Mean Souree 2003 hooar Blair rey rish oik Derry Irvine. Ta anaase ec Manninee (as ec sleih ayns Jersey as Guernsey) er y chooish er y fa dy row yn Chiarn-Shansyleyr goll rish sorch dy h-ard-chiannoort jeh ny Crogheenyn-Crooin shen. Er y fa dy row neu-nhee jeant ec Blair jeh oik y Chiarn-Shansyleyr, v'eh jeeaghyn nagh row mainshtyr ec ny guillyn-drid ayns ny Crogheenyn-Crooin. Gyn ourys, va ny guillyn-drid shen boirit agglagh. Foddee dy beagh orroo dy loayrt rish ben-rein Hostyn ish hene d'eddyn magh c'aved va ny h-oard-aghyn oc.

Rish bleantyn, va Mannin as ny Crogheenyn-Crooin elley fo ordaag yn Oik Sthie (Home Office) jeh Reiltys Hostyn ayns Lunnin. Tra veagh sleih ayns Reiltys Vannin boirit mysh red ennagh scanshoil, veagh ad goll gys yn Oik Sthie dy resooney yn chooish. Son y chooid smoo, veagh lught yn Oik Sthie reaghey dy loayragh ben y tey rish ny Manninee. Eisht, tra va pooar ec Tony Blair, ren ad garraghey cooishyn ny Crogheenyn-Crooin ersooyl veih'n Oik Sthie as hug ad da oik y Chiarn-Shansyleyr ad. Haink sleih ayns Mannin as ny Crogheenyn elley dy ve boirit mychione shen, agh dinsh lught Lunnin daue dyn y ve boirit. Cha nee agh caghlaa beg v'ayn, dooyrt lught Lunnin. Cha row ad ginsh yn irriney, t'eh jeeaghyn.

Lurg paart dy hraa, hug y Chiarn-

Shansyleyr, Derry Irvine, shilley er Mannin. Coardail rish ny skeealyn, va jinnair mie ny ghaa echee tra v'eh ayns Mannin. Ghow sleih ayns Reiltys Vannin yindys tra diu eh tree boteilyn d'eeyn feer chostyllagh. Oor ny ghaa lurg lurg shen, ghow ad tooillee yindys tra vrie eh 'Cuin vees joughyn goll er shirveishagh?' Dooyrt lught Reiltys Vannin dy nee dooinney coar v'ayn. Cre'n agh odd-agh fer myr shen jannoo assee dooin?

Y traa cheddin as hooar Blair rey rish oik y Chiarn-Shansyleyr, hooar eh rey rish oik Scrudeyr Nalbin as rish oik Scrudeyr Vretyn. Gyn ourys erbee, hug shen ferg vooar er ymmodee sleih ayns Nalbin as Bretyn - as er sleih ayns Sostyn. Va Partee Ashoonagh Nalbin booiagh dy row Oik Nalbin ersooyl, agh cha row ad booiagh dy ren Blair poinsheil e charrey, y Chiarn Falconer, dy ve yn fer-toshee jeh rheyynn noa veagh dellal rish cooishyn bunraghtoil (constitutional). Veagh fer nagh row reiht ec y theya dellal rish cooishyn Nalbin ayns ard-choyrle (cabinet) Vlair - y fer cheddin ren reill harrish y Dome Meeillee Blein ayns Lunnin! Chamah as shen, reagh Blair dy beagh e hirveishagh-arraghey, Alistair Darling, loayrt son Nalbin ayns Kiare as Feed Hostyn, red nagh beagh aashagh dy yannoo dy kiart.

As ec y traa cheddin, veagh y Chiarn Falconer dellal rish cooishyn Vretyn ayns ard-choyrle Vlair, as veagh Peter Hain loayrt son Bretyn ayns Kiare as Feed Hostyn. Cre'n brock. Hoilshree shoh ny ta Blair as e chaar-jyn coontey jeh'n deynlaght ayns Nalbin as Bretyn. Ta ny cheeraghyn shen laccal tooilley seyrnsys. cha nee tooillee chiarnoild voish Lunnin. Va ny Bretnee as Albinee slane kiart tra dooyrt ad dy ren Blair faghid er nyn jeeraghyn tra ren eh ny caghlaaghyn shoh. T'eh jeeaghyn nagh dooar eh coyrle voish peiagh erbee, as cha row turneyryn eer shickyry dy row yn pooar leighoil ec Ard-Shirveishagh Hostyn y lheid y yannoo. Agh va Blair hene er jeet dy ve shickyry dy dod eh shooyl er ushtey.

As mish screeu yn art shoh, t'eh jeeaghyn dy bee Mannin fo smaght y Chiarn Falconer (ta mee gennaghyn beggan ching gagh keayrt ta mee eginit screeu yn fockley 'Chiam'. Sostyn voght. Jean ee dy bragh scapail veih snobbys as sonnaase? T'eh jeeaghyn nagh jean.) Er yn oyr dy bee

Falconer dellal rish cooishyn bunraghtoil sy Reeriaght Unnaneysst, ta'n gaue ayn dy bee eh coontey Mannin dy ve myr ayn jeh'n reeriaght shen - ayns yn aigney echee, foddee dy bee Mannin ny meer veg jeh jeeveanaghey (devolution) sy Reeriaght Unnaneysst.

Vel cooish Aspick Vannin kianlt lesh ny cooishyn bunraghtoil shoh? Ta'n Aspick Jones er nirree ass yn oik echee as t'eh ersooyl. Dy cliaghtagh, veagh aspit noa pointit tappee dy liooar, agh cha ren shen taghyrt. Ta mish (as sleih elley) smooinghyn dy vel eh scammyltagh dy vel aspit voish Agglish Hostyn foast ny oltey jeh'n Choonseil Slattysaghy - ayns jeh Reiltys Vannin. As dy jinnagh Agglish Hostyn geddyn rey rish yn aspicky jeh Sodor as Mannin as sluggey Mannin stiagh marish aspicky Carlisle (abbyr), ta mee smooinghyn dy beagh sleih ennagh ayns Mannin cowartagh dy liooar dy ghra dy this-agh Aspick Carlisle soie sy Choonseil Slattysaghy! Agh ta cooish yn Aspick ny red beg cosoylit rish ny cooishyn elley.

### Summary

*Tony Blair's constitutional changes in the United Kingdom directly affect the Isle of Man as well as having greatly annoyed the Scots and Welsh. Is the delay in appointing a new (Anglican) bishop in Mann bound up with all this?*

Brian Stowell

## REPORT BACKS USE OF MANX

In the last issue of Carn we reported on how Bill Henderson, MHK, (Member of the House of Keys) was barred from using the Manx language in Tynwald (Parliament) by President, Mr. Noel Cringle. Mr Henderson immediately called for Tynwald's Standing Orders Committee to review this *archaic* rule as a matter of urgency as he felt that the rule was in conflict with government's policy of promoting Manx culture via its policy statement and under the European Charter.

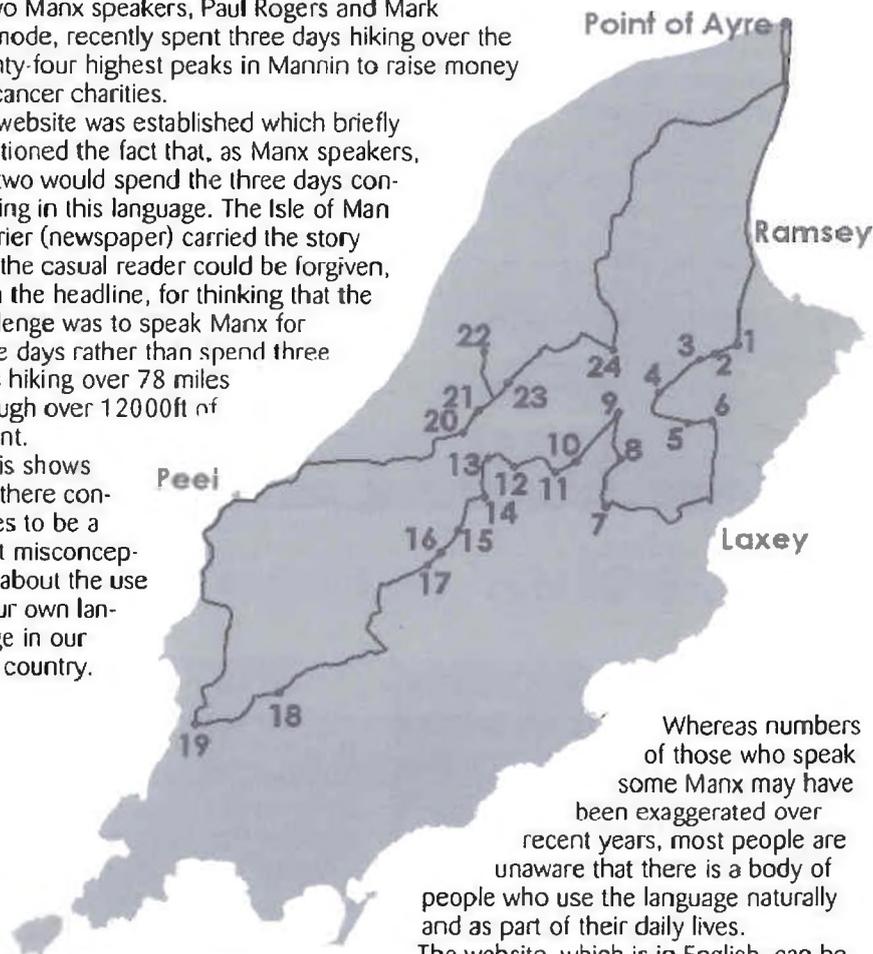
The Standing Orders Committee has now reported back and will seek Tynwald's approval to allow the use of Manx. The proposed change will allow any language to be used, but makes provision for the president to request a member to translate any phrase they use into English so as to avoid any confusion.

# Hike over the highest peaks in Mannin

Two Manx speakers, Paul Rogers and Mark Kermode, recently spent three days hiking over the twenty-four highest peaks in Mannin to raise money for cancer charities.

A website was established which briefly mentioned the fact that, as Manx speakers, the two would spend the three days conversing in this language. The Isle of Man Courier (newspaper) carried the story and the casual reader could be forgiven, from the headline, for thinking that the challenge was to speak Manx for three days rather than spend three days hiking over 78 miles through over 12000ft of ascent.

This shows that there continues to be a great misconception about the use of our own language in our own country.



Whereas numbers of those who speak some Manx may have been exaggerated over recent years, most people are unaware that there is a body of people who use the language naturally and as part of their daily lives. The website, which is in English, can be found at: [www.manxman.co.im/24peaks](http://www.manxman.co.im/24peaks)

## Mec Vannin News

Mec Vannin's recent AGM passed the following resolution: "This AGM calls upon Tynwald to:

reform the Legislative Council to be a popularly elected body.

ensure that, until such time as Legislative Council is a popularly elected body, no ministers can be appointed from within its membership."

The recent fiasco over elections to the Legislative Council demonstrates that the Legislative Council is danger of being peopled by members who are there simply to make up numbers, without genuine political direction or acumen. It must be remembered that, at one time, a sitting member of the House of Keys (MHKs) could not be elected to the Legislative Council. The current "qualifications" for election by the House of Keys seem to be one or more of the following:

So unpopular within the House of Keys that the other members want them out or completely bereft of political direction as to be acceptable to a majority of the MHKs.

So unpopular with the electorate to be in clear danger of removal but sufficiently useful to "mainstream" House of Keys to be saved from the axe. We also have the case of Clare Christian, daughter of former President of Tynwald Charlie Kerruish, being not only elected to the Legislative Council but also made a Minister despite being ousted by the electorate as an MHK. If the Legislative Council is to have any credibility, both politically and with the electorate, it must be reformed to make it accountable to the people

Route Map - Starts and Finishes at the Point of Ayre (sea level)

No.	Name	Feet	Metres
1	North Barrule	1854	565
2	Cronk y Chorree Farraghtyn	1748	533
3	Beinn Rein	1804	550
4	Clagh Ouyr	1808	551
5	Slieau L'bean	1539	469
6	Slieau Ouyr	1483	452
7	Cronk Gerjoily Chiarn	1460	445
8	Mullagh Ouyr	1611	491
9	Snaefell	2037	621
10	Beinn y Phott	1791	544
11	Carraghyn	1968	600
12	Injebreck	1348	411
13	Slieau Maggle	1401	427
14	Colden	1598	487
15	Lhargee Ruy	1430	436
16	Slieau Ruy	1571	479
17	Greeba	1384	422
18	South Barrule	1585	483
19	Cronk ny Arrey Laa	1434	437
20	Sartfell	1490	454
21	Slieau Freughane	1601	488
22	Slieau Curn	1148	351
23	Slieau Dhoo	1417	424
24	Slieau Managh	1256	383

Total distance: 78 miles / 125 Km Total accumulated ascent: 12160 ft / 3800m  
Highest Peak: Snaefell 2037ft / 621m Lowest Peak: Slieau Curn 1148ft / 351m

## MANX LANGUAGE ACTIVIST WINS KEYS SEAT

Phil Gawne was elected to the House of Keys (Parliament) for the constituency of Rushen in the south of the Isle of Man. (See Cam 121) Phil is best known on the Island for his involvement with the Manx Language, in particular helping to create and build up the Manx pre-school movement.

He has also actively pursued a campaign to persuade the Island's Department of Education to expand the teaching of the language via the medium of Manx and his efforts, along with others, led to the establishment of the first purpose-built Manx medium unit, which opened at St. Johns recently.

Bernard Moffatt

# CREATIVE JOURNALISM AND EXPOSÉ - DID IT EVER EXIST?

The impartiality (or lack of it) of the Manx media has again been called into question. Just days after the exposé Internet site, Manxman Black, returned voicing concerns about the media a number of callers to the weekend Mannin Line phone-in programme on Manx Radio expressed similar worries about alleged failure to adequately cover the Mount Murray planning enquiry.

The station fell back on the less than satisfactory explanation that whilst they may not be meeting everyone's aspirations with their coverage the print media were not covering the enquiry at all. It was a somewhat unedifying example of pass the parcel!

The latest episode does seem to highlight dissatisfaction with the ability of the media to be probing and incisive over issues surrounding the government and its link to several scandals. However it begs the question - was the Manx media ever noted for such campaigning journalism?

Both the Islands print and broadcast media have always been conservative (with a small c) and if anything the only situation that has changed in recent years is the nature of ownership and funding.

At one time the Island supported several newspapers which were independent of each other and these tended to compete, rather than the situation at present where the newspapers being solely owned by an off Island conglomerate tend to complement each other as a stable of income-generating titles. Sadly this is a phenomenon not peculiar to the Island. Clicking an Internet link to most regional news titles in England or Ireland will show that the days of the campaigning 'local rag', if they ever existed, have gone. It is unclear indeed if one looks at the recent history of Manx newspapers if the time when there were several titles was a period of creative journalism and exposé. Certainly if one considers editorials written twenty or even thirty years ago they were definitely more 'wordy' but in essence the objectives were no more 'worthy' than today's. Indeed, arguably in an era of news overload and differing expectations the changes we now see were inevitable.

Manx Radio also seems to churn out the same depth of news coverage as it always has with little desire to 'push' the news agenda boundaries too seriously. If you are expecting Radio Four's 'Today' programme when you tune in, forget it!

Ironically, Manx Radio has just had a major injection of cash from government and it will be interesting to see if this leads to an expansion of investigatory political journalism or a willingness to interpret International news rather than buy in UK National news and re-brand it.

Of course cynics may suggest that the cash link to government, always a sensitive issue, will cause the station to be even more careful not to upset 'nanny'. It looks as if the radio phone-in callers and the compilers of 'Manxman Black' may have to continue to live with their media disappointments for sometime to come.

Bernard Moffatt

## International Branch Internet Site

<http://homepages.enterprise.net/mlockerby>

e-mail International Branch Secretary  
mlockerby@enterprise.net

## New Manx Language teacher appointed



Paul with his Manx wife, Simone

The Manx Language teaching unit (which was established to teach through the medium of Manx, as opposed to the peripatetic programme that teaches the language through English) has acquired another teacher. Currently there is teacher and an assistant but Paul Rogers will be joining the unit in September.

Paul is Welsh and has a good command of the Welsh language but has spent a lot of effort in acquiring a very good command of Manx since coming to live in Mannin with his Manx wife, Simone.

Despite claims of an ever increasing number of Manx speakers, however, the reality is that even if carte blanche were given to the two arms of Manx language teaching in the Department of Education, it would be hard pressed to expand since there simply aren't enough teachers who can speak Manx.

Mec Vannin's recent AGM called for the problem to be addressed with a resolution that the Department of Education place the emphasis on recruiting Manx speakers to become teachers. The current emphasis within the Department appears to be upon teaching qualification with proficiency in Manx as a secondary consideration.

Mark Kermode



# Celtica



## Cultivating Failure

Two items in *Ninnau* (an American paper) in July 2002 related to the situation of Welsh as a functional language. The first expressed concern that the number of people speaking Welsh as a first language at home had fallen from 18,824 to 13,911 over the 20 years to 2001. This was in spite of increased knowledge of the language through schools.

The second item acknowledged the contribution of the late Chris Rees to intensive teaching of Welsh in WLPAN courses, based on similar courses in Israel, teaching Hebrew.

The significant difference between the situation of Hebrew and Welsh illustrates why the education courses in Wales are, ultimately, failing. In Israel, Hebrew became the common medium between immigrants of diverse language backgrounds, and it was promoted as such. At the same time, business, education and entertainment as well as religion were conducted in it. There was a full national commitment to Hebrew, speakers being generated by language courses and by the necessity of using it in daily life. In short, Hebrew was made functional, Welsh was not.

In Wales, the national historic language does not have the serious commitment of the government: indeed many in positions of influence work actively against it. It is optional or non-functional in most social situations.

In the homes, Welsh is overwhelmed by English television, magazines and newspapers. Learning it, for most, is no more than an academic exercise with marginal economic benefits in some professions. The appointment of monoglot English to top administrative positions illustrates the disregard, even contempt, in which it is held. Recently, the anti-Welsh have been able to invoke 'multiculturalism' as a weapon.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Russell Goodway) is reported to have said, "Welsh is only one of 15 languages spoken in this city and it is no more important to us than those languages. This is an international city."

In such ways the politically correct, trying to be all things to all men, (and implying "Look how broadminded I am"), downgrade the special status which native lan-

guages have. This gives a hint of how anti-racist sentiments can be harnessed to suppress minorities fighting for their rights and for recognition. Predictably, when a Welsh school attempted to encourage the use of the language in the playground by means of an (optional) 'contract' with the pupils, it was attacked as "racist".

Small wonder that the Deputy Headmaster of Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive School wrote (*Ninnau* 1/1/03): "...the children I teach do not see themselves as Welsh at all. They resent their compulsory Welsh language lesson as an irrelevant imposition. "What's the point?" they ask."

Whereas the Israelis see themselves as nation builders, the Welsh show the effects of centuries of brainwashing. Nations determine their own destinies in the long run. They can choose to live or die. Survival cannot be taken for granted, and apathy kills more effectively than oppression. One could give many examples of the failure of Welsh people to do the right thing by their country. Here is one: The UK post office prints bilingual customs declaration labels for parcels, in French and Welsh. Welsh speakers regularly fill in the forms in English. With this attitude, why bother speaking Welsh in the home?

Perhaps it would help if, among nationalists, there were a greater awareness of the experiences of other language groups and how they tackle the problems they face. The following article, which appeared in *Voices of the Land* (Vol.24), published by the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, discusses some of those issues.

Peter H. Edwards

### 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league)

## BASQUE VOTE SHOWS CONTEMPT FOR AZNAR REPRESSION

Aznar and his government have extended their repression and bans on political organisation in the Basque country. As the Celtic League point out by his action against the Basque youth movement Aznar indicates that he is even afraid of children!

Attempts by the Spanish government to stifle democracy in the Basque country received a severe rebuff when many Basque nationalists turned out to register their votes for candidates of banned parties.

The recent move by the Spanish government to ban parties of the left wing pro-independence movement has been widely condemned. Together with moves against pro-independence media and repression of youth and cultural organisations it shows that the Spanish government has only one objective - the suppression of Basque rights to self-determination.

However, despite the ban, almost 170,000 Basques cast their votes in support of the banned parties. Such a large expression of discontent is a major slap in the face for the repressive Aznar government.

Aznar and his so-called Popular Party (Partido Popular) have now tried every move to obstruct and frustrate the momentum towards self-determination in the Basque country. Alarmed by the growing support for pro-independence parties he has consistently used the police and judiciary to frustrate their attempts to organise. Newspapers and Radio Stations have been closed and their staff have been brutalised, detained and in some instances tortured.

Aznar is even afraid of Basque children and recent edicts from the government have been designed to frustrate the growing strength of the Basque youth movement.

Shamefully while this campaign of repression has been under-way the European Union has turned a blind-eye.

There is much talk today about the EU opening up countries in the former eastern European bloc to democracy. However all this has a hollow ring when the EU ignores to the anti-democratic actions of the Spanish State.

Bernard Moffatt

## FRANCE 'IN THE DOCK' OVER BRETON LANGUAGE

Growing frustration over the ambivalence of the French State towards the Breton language has resulted in a decision to lodge a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights. The decision of the Council of State, which effectively compromised moves by the French Education Minister to reinforce support for the teaching of Breton, was the catalyst for the decision.

Several Breton organisations have 'joined' the complaint to the European Court of Human Rights. They argue that the French state has violated a number of human rights through its policy towards regional languages and, in particular, a recent decision by the Council of State which made immersive teaching of regional languages illegal.

The Cultural Council of Brittany, Diwan (the Breton immersive school network), the Occitan language schools Calandretas, the UGB (Breton teachers union), Diwan parents, unions and Dihun (the catholic bilingual school system), are the bodies whose initiative have led to the complaint under the ECHR. Their case will argue that the French state violated a number of human rights through its policy towards regional languages and, in particular, the decision by the Council of State which made immersive teaching of regional languages illegal.

The progress of the Breton groups' action will be watched with interest by language bodies in the other Celtic countries and further a field. A successful challenge under the ECHR would have the potential to force the European Nation States to reappraise both the overt and latent hostility that some, via public institutions, display towards minority languages.

Bernard Moffatt

### celtic league internet site

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### CELTIC LEAGUE AGM 2003

This year's AGM will be held in Dublin, Eire on the weekend August 3rd / 4th at 6 Sraid Fhearchair, BAC 2 (6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2) There is plenty of Hotel, B&B type accommodation in the city centre.

Contact: the Irish Branch Secretary  
Tel: +3531 - 4589795  
E-mail: patriciabridson@eircom.net

## 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: Stg.£12; 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

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CELTIC LEAGUE



## MO MHÀTHAIR . . .

Seadh, Hans Hoffman à Berlin, prìosanach-cogaidh agus Gilleasbuig MacLachlainn, Albannach, le chéile. tiugh. reamhair no, mar a theireadh iad sa Bheurla "big boned" (le cnàmhan mòrs).

"Hans, a bhalaich, " dh'fhaighnich Gilleasbuig de'n phrìosanach-cogaidh. " an d'rinn an Cogadh cron maireannach ort?"

"O gun teagamh sam bith," fhreagair e, "Bha mi tana seang gus an d'fhuair mi an t-òrdugh a dhol a-steach don Wehrmacht no an t-Arm Gearmailteach! Ach seo agad sgeulachd fhada. Rugadh is thogadh mi ann am Berlin, faisg air an Tiergarten no zoo/sutha.

"Nuair a bha mi nam oileanach aig Oilthigh Berlin lorg mi nach robh e doirbh coimisean mar oifigeach fhaighinn.

"Latha de na làithean, cò rinn òraid riutha- ach bodach aosda liath le stais coltach ri Kaiser Wilhelm den Chiad Chogadh....seann shaighdear..."Nach fortunach sibh, anabarrach fortunach, taing don fhoghlamaiche-airm an oilthigh (the university army cadet force) 's urrainn dhuibhse," arsa am bodaeh,"Coimisean fhaighinn mar oifeagaich san rèisearnaid ro chliùiteach..... na Brandenburgers!"

Bhruidhinn am bodach ris a h-uile oileanach san fhoghlamaiche- airm; se sin ri ràdh Hans cuideachd.

"Nach fortunach thusa, a bhalaich, bithidh do mhàthair cho toilichte gum bheil thu a' dol a-steach do na Brandenburgers!" arsa am bodach.

Ach dh'innis Hans ris an Gàidheal, MacLachlainn, an sin nach robh echo cinnteach gum biodh a mh' àthair toilichte idir agus bha e ceart.

"A mhic," arsa ise, "Co muad sùilean a tha aig ar nabaithd?"

"Aonan," fhreagair a mac, Hans.

"Aì chai" e tè aig Ypres! Co meud casan aig an grosair?" arsa ise.

"Aonan."

"Aì, chaill tè aig Mons! Uill, a mhic, fhad's a bha mi gad ghiùlain gu sona, fad naoi mìosan gum bhiodh mo leanabh beo nuair nach robh mise. Ach ma bhios tu a' dol a-steach do na Brandenburgers a dh'aindeoin na thuirt mi, lionaidh mi do mhàileidean. Thilgidh mi iad san t-sràid. putaidh mi thusa mach as an dorus. An sin, bithidh e glaiste agus a màireach chì mi am fear-lagha agus chan fhaigh thu pfeannig/sgillin mar oighreachd."

"Ach, mhamaidh, chan eil mi dèidheil air na Brandenburgers. Chan eil mi ach a' sireadh bhur comhairle," arsa Hans."

"Thoir mathanas orm, ach chiall mi d'athair taing do na lotan a fhuair e sa Chiad Chogadh"....bha drsasa dubh is ad dhubh oirre mar bhantrach, mar a bha i....."Bha eagal orm gum biodh thusa a' faighinn bàs agus bhithinn nam aonar. Mo chomhairle? Bi far am bi biadh agus bithidh tu sàbhailte gun acras. Seo agad ri ràdh a màireach....."

"Bhiodh do mhàthair fìor thoilichte, "arsa am bodach liath. "agus thusa a' dol a-steach do na Brandenburgers?"

"Dh'aontaich mi leis am Fueerer, Adolf Hitler, "fhreagair Hans.

"Ceart gu leòr, "arsa an seann shaighdear. "B'fheàrr leam a bhì nam choicair!" arsa Hans.

Chuir sin clisgsadh air an seann Bhrandeburger ach cha d'fhuair e smid.

"Mata," arsa Hans, "dh' fhàs mi nam choicaire anns an Afraga Corps. Bha mi ann an Libya agus a-nis ann an Eiphit, cuide riutsa," arsa Hans le blas Berlineach.

"An robh thu ann an droch staing riamh?" dh' fhaighnich Gilleasbuig MacLachlainn.

"O bha, bha...bha fuaim uabhasach a' dol a-muigh...brag, brag, brag agus theab nach do bhith sinn mu coig ciad de na gillean againn nuair a dh'fhesgail an do-as agus theab nach do bhith sinn mu còig ciad de na gillean again nuair a dh'fhosgail an doras agus cò thàinig a-steach ach màidsèar Sasunnach agus dè thuirt e rium, sa Bheurla, ach..."

"I say, I say, bheil Beurla agad?"

"Tha," fhreagair a.n t-oifeagach-coicair Hans Hoffman, "dh'ionnsaich i aig an sgoil agus lean mi oirre."

"Tha còig ciad duine agam agus an t-acras gan tolladh," arsa am màidsèar Sasunnach sa Bheurla.

"Chan urrainn domh sin a dhèanamh air ball. A reir na riaghailtean leighidh sinn anail a-nis."

"Gun teagamh riaghailtean an Airm Gearmailteach?"

"Seadh."

"Mata, dh'ionnsaich sibh Ladain aig an sgoil is lean sibh oirre?"

"Ceart, ceart."

"Uill, dè tha vae victis a.' ciallachadh?"

"Dèan trocàir air na daoine ceannsaichte!"

"Ceart mata," fhreagair am màidsèar.

"cheannsaich sinn Tobruk an diugh agus abair gum bheil mo ghillean acrach, acrach!" arsa am màidsèar Sasunnach, le toiseach a' mhaide aige na laimh agus an cùl fo'n uileann aige.

"Dh'aontaich mi gàire aig nach robh mòran tlachd." arsa Hans. Seo agad an latha am bu mhìsde agam feadh am a' Chogaidh."

"O fada, fada nas mìosa," arsa Hans, "latha de na làithean thàinig i suas bhon Mhetro, far an robh i sàbhailte fon thalamh, mar as àbhaist dhi fhad's a bha na bomaichean a' tuiteam agus bhon a chreach seachad chaidg i suas. Ach dè bha a' coiseachd air fad an t-sràid ga h'ionnsaigh ach leòghann ... is docha gun do dh'fhosgail bom a' chèidsa/cage aige. Fuirichidh sinn faisg air an Tiergarten no zoo/sutha.

Theab nach do ruith i ach chuimhnich i don chiad latha aig an sgoil aice. Nochd a bhean-teagaisg an clas dealbh coin ag ràdh

...

"Seo agad cù, bithidh e ag ràdh, "bu u",

"Seo agad cat, bithidh e ag ràdh, mi a o",

"Seo agad leòghann, bithidh e ag ràdh, "gr a o". Na ruith o leòghann, air neo ithidh e thu!"

"Sheas mo mhàthair gun ghluasad agus choisich an leoghan seachad oirre," arsa Hans, "agus tha sinn le chèile beo fhathast." Cola-deug thill am Berlineach a' crathadh litreach.

"Leugh seo," dh'èigh Hans.

Cha do thuig an t-Albannach aqch "Archiv" agus "mutter/màthair" bhon nach robh a' Ghearmailteis aige.

"Sgrìobh mo màthair do Chunntasas/ Ardhives an Airm Ghearmailteach" arsa Hans gu h-aobhinn. "dh'fhaighnich i co meud daoine a bha a' mairsinn beo a-measg an fheadhainn a thug a-steach do na Brandenburgers nuair a bha mi nam oileanach.

Seo an fheagairt aca ... tha a' mhòr chuid de co-aoisean san Oilthigh a chaidh a-steach do na Brandenburgers ... fhuair iad bàs! 'S docha gun do shbhill mo màthair mo bheatha taing don chomhairle aice! Hurrah!

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich  
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

### Summary

*This tale tells a true story affecting a mother and son in the 30s and 40s. It is that of a mother who dissuades her son from going into the Brandenburgers a crack German infantry regiment but rather as a cook, commissioned or not. His worst day was when Tobruk fell to the Allies and with her when she had an encounter with a lion! This story comes to its full cycle when we find that Hans' mother, Frau Hoffman, wrote to the German Army Archive after the War on how many survived on the intake that her son, Hans, might have been on. She felt thoroughly justified in dissuading her son from joining the Brandenburgers because very few survived.*

## Scotland's Labour and Tory Unionists in Decline

As the Celtic League was holding its AGM in Dublin the press in Scotland were releasing the latest System Three Poll for the Herald newspaper, which put the Scottish National Party level with Labour on the first vote intentions for the Scottish Parliament, but ahead by a point on the second vote. The poll reveals Labour has dropped four points since the May elections.

The poll also shows growing support for the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP) and the Scottish Green Party who were up two points and one point respectively in the second vote intentions. The Tories have dropped on both votes while the Lib/Dems are hanging on to their 15% share in the first vote and up four points in the second.

The SNP is the thorn in the side of Labour's First Minister, Jack Mc Connell, and John Swinney has proved to be a fine Leader of the nationalist opposition, which holds 27 seats. It should be noted in the main analysis that, with the exception of the 18 Tories all the other remaining opposition seats are held by parties that have independence policies (6 SSPs) 7 Greens) (4 Independents) Thus the labour Unionist administration depend on their Liberal allies to prop up their government. Without the Lib/Dems' 17 seats their own 50 couldn't face a united opposition vote.

We can only hope that this opinion poll keeps its trend and freedom through independence will soon become a reality. We also congratulate John Swinney on his recent marriage to BBC journalist, Elizabeth Quigley. Let's hope this union is more fruitful than the disaster of 1707.

Iain Ramsay

## Inaccurate Reporting of Scottish Election Results

Reports in the press and on television after the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2003, gave an inaccurate picture of the situation here in Scotland. The general impression is that the Scottish National Party, and therefore the independence movement has lost ground.

In fact there is now greater support for independence among members of the Scottish Parliament than there was before, but now it is split between three parties.

The Scottish national Party has 27 MSPs (as against 35 previously), but there are six members of the Green Party, five Scottish Socialists and two independent members (Margo MacDonald and Dennis Canavan), all of whom support independence. Almost for the first time Glasgow is represented by MSPs committed to independence. It should also be noted that some members of the Unionist parties (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat) favour the expansion of the Parliament's powers, especially by greater financial control.

The future is brighter than generally painted, but will depend on recognition by the three independence parties of new political alignments and of the need to co operate on issues furthering independence.

Ronald S. Matheson

## Pàrlamaid na h-Alba Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament's Gaelic Information and Outreach service has just released its 2002-3 annual report in Gaelic along with other miscellaneous materials. The outreach service offers a range of information on the Parliament in Gaelic. This includes providing information, answering questions and arranging visits to the Parliament. Visits to schools, colleges or groups to talk about the Parliament and its work can also be arranged.

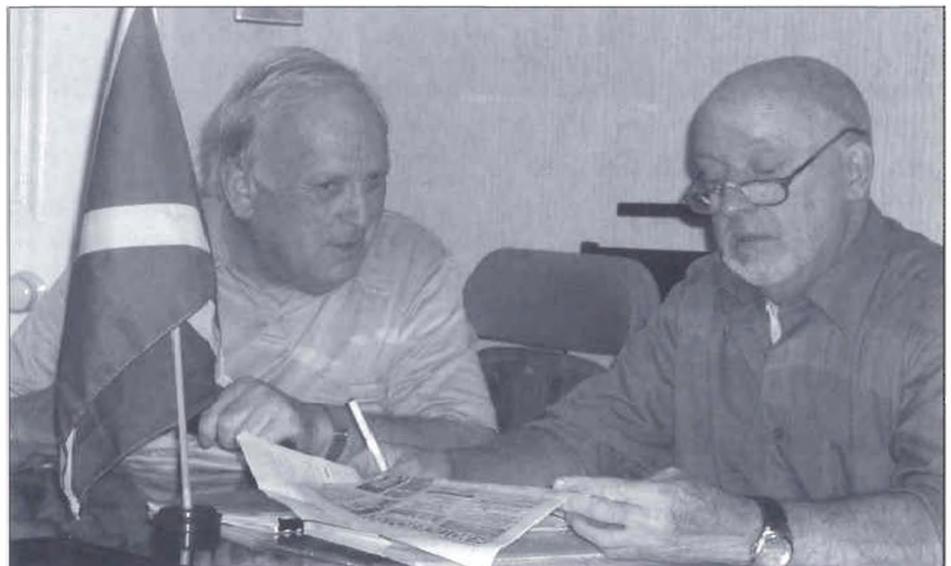
The number of staff has recently expanded with the appointment of Sarah Grundy as Gaelic Information Officer joining Alasdair MacCalium, Gaelic Outreach Officer. For further information visit their website: [www.scottish.parliament.uk/gaidhlig](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gaidhlig)

## IRAQ – UK Government Condemned

This AGM condemns the UK Government under Blair for perpetuating the lies that Iraq was attacked on the basis that it possessed weapons of mass destruction; Condemns the practice of recruiting and using Celtic nationals into what is still an imperial army.

The Celtic League General Secretary has written to Mr A Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to express the League's concerns that the justification for the War on Iraq was not soundly based. The resolution which was moved by the Scottish branch of the League provoked vigorous debate not least because within the League, as within many other organisations, there is a concern that the reasons advanced by the UK government for pursuing military action in Iraq appear not to have been soundly based.

Whilst there are few reasonable people who would support the regime in Iraq (that



Ronald Matheson and Iain Ramsay, two of the Scottish delegates at the CL AGM.

has subsequently been ousted) the objectives outlined by Mr. Blair at the outset of the conflict and on which the UK government based its justification for taking the country into a war that has cost the lives of many have clearly not been vindicated by subsequent events.

Turning to the second part of the resolu-

tion the General Secretary pointed out that the League continued to have reservations about the recruitment of nationals from the Celtic countries into the armed services. We also are concerned that current age levels for admission to the British Armed Forces are not in compliance with United Nations Conventions.



# Breizh



## UN DRO ER BROioù KELTIEK!!!

Setu ur wech muioc'h on bet oc'h ober un dro dre ar broioù keltiek e touez hon kerent kelt. Gwir eo abaoe ugent vloaz on kustum da vont d'ober veajoù tramor, hag atav gant kement a blijadur. Blaman adare edo war dro gouelioù Pask. Setu evel pevar bloaz-zo a m'eus gwelet ha bevet a dost ar voterez evit ar 'Welsh Assembly' hag ar 'Skottish Parliament'! Ya ha pebezh nozvezh evit kentañ devez eus miz Mae!

Lavarout a ran dioustu eo bet dishenvel kentañ an traoù ! Ha perak ta ?

Sonjal a ran, pevar bloaz-zo, evit ar C'hembreiz hag ar Skoziz a voterez a oa bet gwelet e-giz un 'Nevez Amzer' evit pobloù an div vro, gouest da gaout evito hag evit o bro ur galloud nevez: bezañ e karg eus dazont o bro. Setu pezh a oa un esperans ken bras ha ken kaer!

Dalc'homp sonj eus vot tud Bro Skos evit kaout ur Parliamant nevez: ya evit 75%!!! Ha bemdez war an tele ha war radio edo bet graet ul labour a zouare gant ar SNP hag ar Plaid Cymru dre o renerien Alex Salmond ha Dufydd Wigley gwelet alies o stourm a-gevred.



John Swinney, MSP, SNP.

An dra-se a oa bet a bouez kentañ!!!

Gwir eo ivez an dro-mañ an daou zen e penn ar SNP hag ar Plaid Cymru n'int ket bet gwelet gwall alies assemblez ha gwir eo ivez n'int ket evit c'hoazh ken brudet hag anavezet eget an daou all. Kredah eo led da John Swinney ha da Teuan. W. Jones kaout amzer da vezañ muioc'h anavezet.

Un dra all a zo bet ivez a bouez kentañ. Bemdez war an tele e veze kalz trouz diwar-benn ar brezel en Irak ha nebeut a dra diwar-benn ar voterez e Kembre ha Skos. Lavarout a c'hellan:

An 'ambiance' n'edo ket envel. Setu ivez ez 'eus bet kalz nebeutoc'h a dud o votiñ.

E Kembre ar Plaid a zo bet dipitet kentañ en ar goll pemp post (12 e lec'h 17). Med lod en deus graet labour vat kentañ ha labourret kalz e touez ar bobl evel an hini yaouank (31 bloaz) Llyr H. Griffiths e Caerfyrddin-West. Digor eo an hent evitañ evit kentañ tro...

Ar c'hontrol eo bet e Bro Skos e lec'h man eo aet ar maout gant un den a zouare anvezet mat ivez e Breizh : George Reid (63) hag edo bet e karg eus digoradur Parliamant nevez Dun-Giellan-Edinburgh e 1999. Memestra kollet eo bet meur a bost gant an SNP...Skozis a zo bet gwall zipitet gant, re nebeut al labour graet gant ar grambr nevez.

Setu e weler ez eus adare kalz labour da lakaat war ar stern evit hon kerent kelt e Kembre hag e Skos. Met arabat falgalonin!!! Stourm a ran komp atav hag evit hir amzer!!!

Ha ni amañ e Breizh petra-ta vo graet evit a voterez da zont bloa-zeu!!! Un dra zo freaz: poent bras vefe kemer un tamm skouer war hon kerent kelt e Cymru. Alba hag Eire, eveljust...

Met se zo un afer all!!!

### Précis

*This article discusses this year's elections to the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly.*

Yann JESTIN  
Eil-MAER-Lesneven  
Penn FORUM-BZH.

## KELEIER EUS KELTIA

### Prescott a lavar "nann" d'ur vodadeg vroadel evit kernev veur.

Tra ma'z eus ur c'houlenn kreñv evit emrenerezh e Kernev Veur, ret eo dimp kaout sonj eus ar c'houlennadeg siner gant mui a 50,000 den, an Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott a gomzas e mis Mezheven diwar-benn youl Kernev Veur da gaout ur Vodadeg Vroadel evel e Kembre pe e Bro Skos. Ar C'huzulier Bert Biscoe a respontas e veze ar c'houlennadeg ur goulenn evit kaout ur Vodadeg Vroadel da respontiñ da youl pobl Kernev Veur. Koulskoude Westminster en deus divizet da grouiñ ur ranndir nevez anvet South West gant e vodadeg e-unan ha Kernev Veur a veze rann ar ranndir faos-se. Eveljust Westminster ne anavez ket Kernev Veur evel ur vroad !

**Summary:** In spite of a petition with 50,000 signatures calling for a Cornish

*Assembly, Westminster refuses to recognize Cornwall as a nation and to give Cornwall a National Assembly as in Wales or Scotland preferring to include Cornwall into an artificial South-West region and denying it any form of devolution.*

### Ar c'hembraeg war greskiñ.

Ur c'hresk a 2% etre 1991 ha 2001 a zo ar c'heloù mat roet gant ar memes niveridigezh a zo bet graet e 2001. Bremañ ez eus 20.5% eus an dud o chom e Kembre a oar ar c'hembraeg. Ret e vefe bremañ liammañ ar c'hresk-mañ gant ur politikerezh a-zoare a zifennfe kreñvlec'hioù ar yezh evel Gwynedd ha Credigion.

**Summary:** The number of Welsh speakers increased by 2% between 1991 and 2001. It would be necessary

*to link this increase with a good language policy strengthening the language in its traditional strongholds.*

### Ar c'hembraeg e Patagonia anavezet gant Bodadeg Vroadel Kembre.

Anavezet eo ar c'hembraeg e Patagonia gant Bodadeg Vroadel Kembre. Roet e vo ur skoazell a £ 105,000 e-pad an tri bloaz a zeu d'ar c'humunioù ma chom bev ar c'hembraeg e Patagonia evit ma c'hell beajiñ da Arc'hantina kelennerien war ar yezh ha gwiadiñ darempredoù etre Kembre hag Kembre Patagonia ha stummañ kelennerien all war al lec'h.

**Summary:** The National Assembly of Wales has recognized the Welsh language as a community language in Patagonia by granting money to enable teachers to travel to Argentina and also to train local teachers.

José CALVETE

# DIWAN: A Reinforced Presidency

At the annual general meeting, held in Ploemeur at the end of April, Anne le Corre and her team put an end to the crisis that had been shaking Diwan for months. The association pulled through by confirming its pledge to immersive pedagogy, its militant commitment and the search for a transformed public status. If Diwan has come back to its roots and its cultural pluralism, it needs €400,000 to ensure the future.

## A real plebiscite

Following months of uncertainty and questioning, members widely supported and legitimised the outgoing team. If their motion "Diwan da gentañ" made 60% of the vote, one must take good note of the fact that 80% of their roll was elected. This plebiscite reinforces the president's convictions. However, she and her team are more inclined to garner energies rather than be triumphant over their large success.

At this moment, given the young history of Diwan, one must take off one's hat to those bodies that had said "diwallomp" to the plan to integrate the school into the National School board. The State Council admitted they were right! Today, parents confirm this pragmatic view of reality. The analysis of the first ballot of the elections shows the parents' desire to turn their back on the defenders of a square monotheistic philosophy.

That is why the "Diwan-kozh" only placed three candidates. What's more, they are all close to the field and not interested in ideological fights. In a sense, these women strengthen the president and remind us that Diwan is a school and not a political game field. It is still too early to tell whether the lesson has been learnt ...

## Immersion - The pedagogy of success

Preparatory work for the general meeting allowed the committee to re-establish its base of support and to draw in those on the outside. This move has allowed the Herve -Le Corre team to refocus on what makes the wealth of the educational project: immersion teaching.

Bolstered by its first successes at the *Baccalaureat*, parents and elected representatives' opinions were reinforced. Today, it constitutes the cornerstone of a non-negotiable educational system. It is on this clear basis that they will have to elaborate a public status adapted to the specifics of multilingual regional schools. The establishment of a study committee is on the way. It will be advisable to ensure that this committee works with

the all institutions at a regional, national and European level.

Money, money, money...

Bolstered by the decision of the State Council, the National Board of Education denied Diwan €200,000. Considering its natural opposition to decentralization, there is little hope that they will turn around. However, the mini-plan for decentralization initiated by the Raffarin Government may be in favour of a commitment by the Region to level with the requested €577,000. The new representatives have taken the first steps in that direction. With the aim of ringing every doorbell, they have appealed to the

1,500 Breton communes, that is to say four million Bretons, for up to €15 per inhabitant. Will the 15,000 demonstrators of March 22nd and the regional elections press the representatives into action? In other respects, Diwan, looking back to its support base, knows that it must especially count on the militants. That is why the schools were invited to increase the number of festive and ... lucrative events. Other actions are planned regarding their economic and social partners. A quick return to a financial balance is necessary to assure the new school year. Moreover, if Diwan does not want to stop its expansion, it is important that it restores its reserves, as soon as possible ... With this general meeting, Diwan has returned to its roots and from there it has instigated a positive process to solve its current difficulties.

Gi Keltik

## Possible Boycott of French Language Courses

This Celtic League Annual General Meeting deplores the decision to put an end to Breton courses in Nantes University and calls for a reversal of this decision. This action, coming on top of the continuing refusal to recognise DIWAN as part of the state schools system (as the French language is the only language of the Republic), leads the Celtic League to actively consider participation in the possible boycott of French language courses (schools, colleges and universities) in the Celtic countries which is under discussion by the Canadian branch of the ICBL (International Committee for the Defence of the Breton language).



## Kampagn skoazell Diwan 2003 evit dazont ar skolioù

### LET'S KEEP BRETON ALIVE

In the five Breton administrative departments the Breton language is a strong cultural asset, which is an integral part of our identity. However if we don't do something - now - all together our language risks extinction.

Diwan schools have been using linguistic immersion in a growing number of Breton medium schools for the past 26 years. Pupils become bilingual by the age of 11 or 12: they are equally fluent in Breton and French and, 2 years later, are able to study other disciplines in a third language, usually English. This method contributes to the survival of the Breton language, of course, but it also helps children to value cultural diversity and to develop their open-mindedness.

The state rejection prevents and obstructs public recognition but in no way undermines our will to carry on the educational innovation and expansion of this cultural initiative.

Today we appeal to you to help us in our hour of need. This is indeed a turning point for the Breton language. We need everyone to contribute at this critical time. Join the population of Brittany, ex-pats and friends everywhere so that Breton may thrive!

HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET, SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRETAGNE

### THERE'S NO BRITTANY WITHOUT BRETON

10,000 contributions of 50 Euro will allow 2,800 Diwan pupils to continue their education in Breton and the growth of the Diwan network. However little all contributions are welcome.

Cheque to be sent to: DIWAN BP 147 29411 LANDERNE BRITTANY  
<http://www.diwanbreizh.org/>

# Campaign for Breton Political Prisoners



*Celtic League demonstration at the French Embassy, with Bretons and instigator of the protest, R. Tal-e-hot (centre), to the forefront.*

## **This AGM:**

Expresses its continued concern at the unreasonably protracted nature of the detention of six Bretons by the French authorities.

Calls on the French authorities in view of the period that has elapsed since the initial detention of these men to release them without delay.

Calls on all National branches of the League to initiate separate solidarity action in support of the prisoners. Such solidarity action to include protest(s) at French trade exhibitions and legations, the raising of funds for the prisoners support groups and direct protest to the French Embassies in London and Dublin and the Justice Ministry in Paris.

A demonstration took place outside the French Embassy, Aylesbury Road, Dublin immediately after this year's AGM in Dublin.

Over twenty members of the Celtic League from all six Celtic nations demonstrated outside the French Embassy, in protest at the continued detention of six Breton prisoners, in contravention with international laws. All of the prisoners are being held without charge by the French authorities for their involvement in Breton cultural and political organisations and some have been detained for almost four years without trial.

During the demonstration, which was organised by the Cornish Branch, a French security guard approached the Cornish Branch representatives and advised that two delegates from the Celtic League could meet with Embassy representatives, to take place later on in the week.

The Chairman of the Celtic League, Cathal Ó Luain and Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, Cornish Branch Convenor were invited to meet the

Charge d' Affaires to the Republic of Ireland later that week.

During the meeting the delegates asked the Charge d' Affaires for the immediate release of the prisoners. They stated that the Bretons regarded the men as political prisoners. The long duration without charge indicated a lack of evidence. However, if they were not released they should be returned to Breizh. The Charge d' Affaires promised to make a full report to his government stating our concerns.

The Celtic League demonstration coincided with a larger demonstration that took place in Loient, Brittany, attended by over 200 people demanding the immediate release of all six Bretons.

## Updated addresses for Prisoners

**\*Jérôme BOUTHIER**  
Prisonnier Politique Breton,  
279 896 K - B 129,  
M.A.H.  
42, rue de la Santé  
75674 PARIZ Cedex 14  
(France)

**\*Kristian GEORGEAULT**  
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276 024 - A 234  
M.A.H.  
42, rue de la Santé  
75674 PARIZ Cedex 14  
(France)

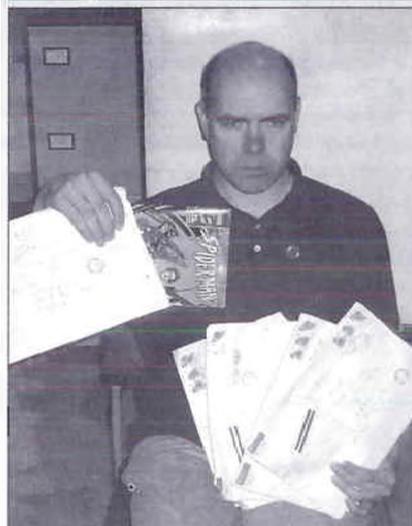
**\*Paskal LAIZÉ**  
Prisonnier Politique Breton  
274 740 F - D 2 / 247  
M.A.H.  
42, rue de la Santé  
75674 PARIZ Cedex 14  
(France)

**\*Stefan PHILIPPE**  
Prisonnier Politique Breton  
317 768 A - G243 Bât. D2  
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7, avenue des Peupliers  
Fleury-Mérogis  
91 705 SAINTE-GENEVIEVE-DES-BOIS  
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**\*Gael ROBLIN**  
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273 196 - D1/ 241  
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**\*Aïain SOLE**  
Prisonnier Politique Breton  
21 135  
M.A.H.  
133, avenue de la Commune de Paris  
92014 NANTERRE Cedex  
(France)

## MAIL REFUSED BY FRENCH PRISONS



*Mark Lockerby with copies of returned mail.*

On the 22nd May the Celtic League International Branch posted some comic-strip magazines to the six Breton prisoners. The comics seemed a good way of avoiding language difficulties, as for the most part the stories are told in pictures. Almost every one of these packets have been opened and resealed and returned to the Branch marked: "REFUSÉ" and "N'HABITE PLUS A L'ADRESSE INDIQUEL" or "ADRESSE INCOMPLÈTE RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR".

This is not the first time that mail sent to the Bretons has been rejected by the French prison authorities and returned to the Branch. It is odd that these packets of innocuous reading materials should be rejected when they are clearly and correctly addressed.

This Branch will be complaining to the French Government. The magazines will be posted again.

*Mark Lockerby*

# A Nantais' ambition for Brittany

*a géo-political project by Yves Lainé*

Published : March 2002 by Editions du Petit Véhicule, 20 rue du Coudray F44000 Nantes <http://www.petit-vehicule.asso.fr> mailto: [epv2@wanadoo.fr](mailto:epv2@wanadoo.fr) 180 pages-Illustrations

Thirty years after the first decentralization laws in France, a new step is proposed by the Raffarin government. To make the most of it, the Bretons still have to re-unite their territory.

As a kingdom, as a dukedom, later as a province of the French kingdom, Brittany remained united within the same boundaries and included Nantes as a major port and city. Over many centuries Nantes was to be the political capital of the nation until the French power by the treaty of Union (1532) nominated quieter Rennes as a substitute.

Since the French revolution, the sole idea of a "province" was abolished in France. Eventually in 1969, revolutionary regional institutions were proposed by general de Gaulle, who declared: "the multi-secular effort to centralize France in no longer required". But the French rejected his referendum awkwardly linked to a senate reform, and he had to quit.

The project, reduced to its tenth, was shyly enforced by Pompidou in 1972, and then boosted by Mitterrand in 1982, although applied to a reduced territory. The Loire-Atlantique departement, with one third of the Breton economic potential, its biggest port and industrial sockle was put apart and included in a phoney Pays de Loire puzzle mad of other "leftovers"

In 1972, in 1982, few people cared: régions had almost no power. Even last year, in 2002, a French region, in terms of financial means and competence was still to be qualified as a dwarf if compared to those of Germany, Italy, Spain and the new devolutions in the UK...

Until some fresh air started to blow with Jean Pierre Raffarin's scheme. The new 2003 French constitution, reshuffled, now stipulates (Title I) that: "its organization is decentralized". Raffarin declared: "We are not the ones to take scissors and decide from the top". The regions are to be allowed larger means and competence, which is more in line with the European "subsidiarity" concept.

Moreover, they have, from now on, "the right to experiment". In broad terms the right to have a regional, specific, project and, why not a dream? Right now, Bretons have just two of them: save their language, unite their territory. Well, according to Gallup polls, well over two thirds of them.

Whole books have long been written about this reunification theme which, in theory, allows Brittany to reach a high ranking place among European regions. Its GNP

(1998) rises from 52 to 76 Billion Euros and Brittany becomes number one among the 30 regions of the Atlantic Arc. With an overhead level comparable to the Irish Republic, Tuscany, or the Land of Berlin..

The second advantage is its geographical situation as such. The position of Brittany, right in the middle of two worlds, the northern Celto-anglo-saxon, the southern Celto-iberico-latin, is that of that of a neutral zone that may play a decisive role as a middleman for the promotion of the Atlantic Arc and



Yves Lainé

work to compensate a drift of Europe to the east. It could be a new ambition for Brittany to help revive a new Atlantic Spirit, a concept, a lobby, together with a close technical relationship in terms of infrastructures, and liaisons with the private industry in this area.

Nantes' ambition is not to be a sterile fight to replace Rennes, the official capital. Its concern is wider: using the Breton solidarity, identity and tenacious qualities to reveal an international ambition, compatible with the globalization challenge and help promote the whole of the Atlantic Arc with the Celtic nations as bridgeheads. To this end, gathering and centralizing the necessary expertise in terms of networks and logistics is a preliminary.

The books' scope is wider than the sole economy: it depicts the cultural and social assets that, according to the author could help the dream come true. Links with democracy and environment, as the ones connected with the construction of Europe, its new constitution, the new regional political framing that no doubt, according to him, are to follow.

Yves Lainé was born in Nantes en 1937 – A rather atypical turn of mind, away from university or political patterns. He graduated the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce, then the

School for Oriental Languages in Paris. He retired after a long business career in the transportation sector in many countries of three continents. He is fluent in seven languages. His first assignment was at Air France, his last in the staff of Brittany Ferries in Roscoff. He was a member of the CELIB (Comité d'Etudes et de Liaison des Intérêts Bretons) that published his first book «Europe rends nous la mer»(1976) He continues to campaign for the promotion of Brittany in different structures.

**United Brittany is, in terms of economics in Europe, virtually equal to a number of states such as Ireland Portugal or Finland. In France itself Brittany now ranks 7th for its GNP and number of industries. Once re-united Brittany will be n°4, behind Ile-de-France, Rhone-Alpes and Provence/Côte d'Azur.**

[yves.laine@club-internet.fr](mailto:yves.laine@club-internet.fr) 543 rue de la Renaudière, 44300 Nantes.  
Tel/fax: 33+2 51 13 47 67

## Call for Devolution and a Reunited Brittany

This AGM of the Celtic League calls on the French prime Minister, J. P. Raffarin, to progress the process of devolution for a reunited Brittany and to at least go forward in the same manner as other European States (Britain, Spain) with regard to financial, political, cultural and linguistic affairs.

Constitutional parity was the theme of a Breton resolution to the AGM which calls on the French to match change in other Celtic countries in respect of devolution.

It was however made very clear during the course of our discussion of these issues that the Celtic Leagues ultimate objective remains the same. We seek independence for all the Celtic countries as a precursor to their co-operating fully on cultural, political and economic issues.

Discussion in the meeting ranged across the devolution models currently available in Europe and it was generally concluded that those adopted by the United Kingdom and Spain showed the greatest promise.

In adopting the resolution set out above we did not however lose sight of our stated objectives. Whilst effective devolution is welcome, true independence is the ultimate goal that the Celtic countries should all aspire to. This motion was also given at the meeting with to the Charge d'Affaires in Dublin.

**Secretary General**

# Cymru

## Seisnigo Siroedd Cymru (parhad)

Yn 1996, gwnaed ymdrech fwriadol i Seisnigo enwau siroedd Cymru wrth newid llywodraeth leol Cymru o gynghorau sir a dosbarth i gynghorau unedol. Yn yr hen sustem, a sefydlwyd yn 1974, enwyd siroedd Cymru ar ôl hen deyrmasoedd y Cymry - Gwynedd, Powys, Dyfed, Morgannwg, Gwent - ac eithrio Clwyd y rhoddwyd enw afon arni oedd yr un mor hynafol a chynhenid. Yr oedd enwau llawer o'r dosbarthau y rhennid y siroedd iddynt yn draddodiadol Gymreig hefyd fel Arfon, Ceredigion, Dinefwr. Nid oedd yn arfer defnyddio ond enwau Cymraeg i gyfeirio at y siroedd hyd yn oed yn Saesneg (ac eithrio tair sir Morgannwg/*Glamorgan*) er bod enwau Saesneg i Ddyfed (*Demetia*) a Gwynedd (*Venedotia*). Ond o dan ddylwanwad yr ysgrifennydd gwladol Toriaidd David Hunt, Sais, adferwyd sustem o enwau gwladychol ar gyfer yr awdurdodau newydd. Ail-grewyd siroedd â'r enwau Sir Ddinbych a Sir y Fflint, er nad oedd ffiniau'r siroedd newydd yn cyfateb i ffiniau'r siroedd â'r un enwau a fodola i cyn 1974. Seisnigwyd Ceredigion i Cardiganshire, a chrewyd sir yn y Gogledd Orllewin o'r enw Caernarvonshire & Merionethshire, nad oedd yn cynnwys holl diriogaeth y ddwy sir gynt o'r un enwau. (Ar ôl ethol cynghorau i'r ddau diwethaf yma newidiodd y cynghorau'r enwau yn ôl i Ceredigion a Gwynedd). Mae'r newidiadau

hyn yn mynd â ni yn ôl i sustem y *shires* a greuwyd gan Edward I ar ôl concro Cymru yn 1283 ac a orffenwyd wrth ymgorffori'r Gororau yng nghyfundrefn gyfreithiol Lloegr dan y Deddfau Uno yn 1536. Ond cafwyd enwau nad oedd cynsail iddynt hefyd. Dilewyd yr hen enw Maelor o enw bwdeistref Wrecsam Maelor i greu sir newydd o'r enw Wrecsam sy'n ymestyn o Ddyffryn Ceiriog i Faelor Seisnig, a chreuwyd siroedd yn y De fel Abertawe a Chaerffili (neu 'Caerphilly') - ardaloedd oedd yn ehangach o lawer na'r trefi y'u henwyd ar eu hól nad oedd traddodiad o arfer yr enwau ar eu cyfer. Creuwyd mwy o gymhlethdod dwyieithrwydd drwy roi fersiynau ar wahân i'w defnyddio yn Saesneg ar yr awdurdodau newydd. O'r 22 awdurdod yng nghynllun Hunt, dim ond pedwar (Powys, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tudful, Torfaen) oedd heb enw Saesneg ar y dechrau. Ail-fedyddiwyd Gwynedd, Conwy (oedd yn 'Aberconwy and Colwyn'), a Cheredigion gan y cynghorau eu hunain. Ac mae cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf, lle mae Plaid Cymru yn rheoli ers 1999, newydd benderfynu stopio defnyddio'r ffurf 'Rhondda Cynon Taff' yn Saesneg dan arbed cryn gost drwy orffen yr arfer wirion o ysgrifennu'r ddau fersiwn o'r enw hwnnw. Ond eithriadau ydyw'r cynghorau sydd wedi ail-gymreigio'u henwau. Nid ydyw cyngor Môn wedi trio peidio ard-

del 'Anglesey' er mai Ynys Môn ydyw enw'r etholaeth seneddol ers yr wythdegau. At ei gilydd llwyddo i Seisnigo map Cymru ddaru'r Toriaid ym 1996.

Un fantais i'r iaith a ddaeth allan o newidiadau cynghorau 1996 oedd iddynt gael cyfle o'r newydd i benderfynu pa iaith ddeuai yn gyntaf ar arwyddion ffordd ac arwyddion eraill. Dim ond Gwynedd a Dyfed oedd yn rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf dan yr hen sustem. Cadwyd yr un drefn dan gynghorau newydd hen Wynedd a Dyfed, ond penderfynwyd rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf hefyd gan gynghorau Sir Ddinbych, Conwy (dim ond ei hanner gorllewinol oedd â'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf o'r blaen), ac, yn fwyaf arwyddocaol, gan Bowys, sir fwyaf Cymru sydd â rhan sylweddol o ffin Lloegr. Mae rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf yn meddwl bod y Cymry a'r di-Gymraeg yn cael y neges yn eu hieithoedd, gan fod y Cymro yn gweld y Gymraeg yn gyntaf, ond hefyd mae'n Cymreigio edrychiad gwledol Cymru yn sylweddol a hyn yn digwydd erbyn hyn dros y rhan fwyaf o wyneb Cymru. Am fod Powys yn rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf, dros tua hanner hyd y ffin mae statws amlwg yr iaith yn taro rhywun wrth groesi'r ffin o Lloegr. Dim ond ym Morgannwg a Gwent yn y De, ac yn Sir y Fflint a Maelor (Wrecsam) yn y Gogledd mae'r hen arfer sarhaus yn parhau.

Robat ap Tomos

*Summary: The Tories anglicized the map of Wales in 1996 through the introduction of new unitary authorities, some with colonial names and most with separate 'English' versions e.g. Sir y Fflint/Flintshire, to replace the old county system named after native territorial units e.g. Dyfed. However an unforeseen consequence was that over most of Wales (i.e. all except Glamorgan, Gwent and the North East corner) road signs and others erected by the councils now show the Welsh above or on the left (i.e. first), thus significantly enhancing the visual status of the language.*

## LANGUAGE IS STILL UNDER THREAT

The Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, the government's language quango, has admitted that the picture of the health of the Welsh language provided by the results of the 2001 census, the first ever to show an increase in the number of people in Wales with an ability in Welsh, is not as positive as claimed by the supporters of the quango, and the media.

In his foreword to the Board's Annual Report for 2002-3 Rhodri Williams says:

"Even though the figures show an increase in both the numbers and percentage of Welsh speakers, it is impossible to ignore the importance of language use, and there is a gap in the data so far as this aspect is concerned. That is why the Board intends to commission a number of research projects to assess how many people use Welsh in different situations. This is the only way that we can dis-

cover the true position of the language, in order to plan our work over the next few years on the basis of the results of such research.

"And even though the National Statistics Office claimed when the initial data were first released that the results of the 2001 Census show an increase in the use of Welsh, this cannot be proven, since the Census does not ask any questions on language use. This was an unfortunate misinterpretation, and further proof of the need to appoint a Registrar General for Wales before work begins on the next Census in 2011. This would allow us to ask questions which are of particular interest to Wales, and would mirror the arrangements which are already in place for Scotland and for Northern Ireland. The ability to ask questions about the use of Welsh would assist us and others to formulate policies on a sounder basis," he added.

## GOVERNMENT ADMITS

### - *laith Pawb* is empty words

Alun Pugh, the assembly government minister with responsibility for the language, has stated that the government will not be acting in full on the recommendations in *laith Pawb*, the government policy document published earlier this year which was greeted with enthusiasm by the media but with disappointment about its weakness by language organizations. *laith Pawb* includes the statement "We want ... a country where people can choose to live their lives through Welsh or English". Pugh told a Cymdeithas yr Iaith delegation in July that he would not support legislation to allow the above to be put into practice (the Language Act for which Cymdeithas have campaigned for decades), that the government had no timetable for effecting the recommendations in *laith Pawb*, and that it was not possible to persuade every private company to make use of Welsh. In effect, *laith Pawb*, with all its talk of a bilingual Wales and the right of language choice, is no more than hollow words.

Huw Lewis, Cymdeithas chairman, said after the meeting:

"It is obvious that every Labour Party promise about the language is empty. In ... 1993, Rhodri Morgan said Labour would introduce a Welsh Language Act when in power. He went back on his word. Now here is a Labour minister admitting that he will not fully enact a promise that was only given a few months ago."

## AGM Supports Cymuned Campaign

Mae'r Undeb Celtaidd yn cefnogi'r ymgyrch bresennol yn erbyn defnyddio'r enwau "Snowdon" a "Snowdonia" am "Yr Wyddfa" ac "Eryri", fel y mae brodorion gwledydd eraill yn y byd yn dechrau gwrthwynebu enwau gwladychol fel "Mount Everest". Gwahoddir y canghennau cenedlaethol eraill i gynnig esiamplau o enwau hynod o wladychol yn eu gwledydd y buasai'n werth ddechrau ymgyrchu yn eu herbyn hefyd.

*The League supports the present Cymuned campaign against the use of the names "Snowdon" and "Snowdonia" for "Yr Wyddfa" and "Eryri" respectively, as natives of some other countries in the world are starting to oppose colonial names like "Mount Everest". The other national branches are invited to propose examples of particularly colonial names in their countries against the use of which it would be worth starting a campaign.*

## Côr Cochion Caerdydd - 20 years old:

Since 1983 Côr Cochion Caerdydd, "Cardiff Reds Choir", have been singing on streets, demonstrations and picket lines in support of a wide variety of national, civil and human rights causes. The 20th anniversary this year of 'Wales's first campaigning socialist choir' was celebrated with the publication of a history and song book. Information about the group may be seen on [www.carcochion.unisonplus.net](http://www.carcochion.unisonplus.net)

Robot ap Tomos

## Station announcements in Welsh

Announcements about train departures over the microphones at Cardiff Central railway station, Wales's biggest station, are at last being made bilingually by the company that now runs the station, Wales & Borders Trains, many years after language campaigners first suggested to the then British Rail that this should be done and were told that it was not practical. The announcements are in Welsh first followed by an English translation so that Welsh-speakers and non-Welsh-speakers receive the message in their own language. This is part of the language policy of Wales & Borders nationally, and bilingual announcements are now heard at many other stations too.

Unfortunately the anti-Welsh lobby, mainly through the local paper the *South Wales Echo*, has started a campaign against this extension of the use of Welsh. The *South Wales Echo* has long had a generally hostile attitude towards the language, and on this occasion tried to drum up anti-Welshness through a phone-in poll on the question of whether Welsh or English should be first in the announcements.

It was announced in August that the new franchise for running trains throughout Wales (including the North coast which is not currently controlled by Wales & Borders) had been awarded to the Arrival travel group, who do not presently operate trains in Wales at all. They will take over from Wales & Borders from the end of 2003, and while it is feared that some recent advances made in language policy on the trains may now be in jeopardy, the change will also be an opportunity for language supporters to press for more improvements, for which there is room for plenty.

Robot ap Tomos

## Carmarthenshire UDP - worse than Ceredigion!

While the colonisation-encouraging Unitary Development Plan of Ceredigion council has received much adverse publicity, an even worse plan has been adopted by neighbouring Carmarthenshire, the county with the highest number (but not proportion) of Welsh-speakers. The plan involves building 11,771 new houses with a view to increasing the county's population by more than 27,000 (over 16% of the present level). Cymdeithas yr Iaith used toy pandas in their protest at the adoption meeting in July to show that if this plans go ahead "Welsh-speaking communities in the county will be rarer than the panda!"

Labour-dominated Carmarthenshire council seem to be excelling all others in their desire to anglicize their county. While Ceredigion intend to build 'only' 6500 new houses, Carmarthenshire want more than 11000 and some 27000 mainly non-Welsh-speaking incomers.

Cymdeithas publicity states:

What is the point in including apparently positive Welsh-language policies in council documents if the main proposals of the same documents lead to undermining Welsh communities in the county?

What is the point in modelling development plans on those of English counties (e.g. in this case Norfolk) instead of considering local community needs?

What is the point in the National Assembly directing county councils to consider the language as a factor in planning, if the county councils have no will to do this?

What is the point in Plaid Cymru opposing this type of UDP when in opposition, as in Ceredigion, if they will not follow the same principles when part of the governing group as in Carmarthenshire? (The Plaid group's lack of will in this county is particularly disappointing.)

What is the point, indeed, in having Plaid councillors at all if they are as naive as independents and will not stand up for Welsh-speaking communities?

What is the point in having councillors if they will not question the decisions of bureaucrats? It is understood that unelected bureaucrats are responsible for the rejection of the calls to take the language into consideration.

# WALES IN BRIEF

## A Mayor for Ceredigion?

Cymuned, together with the group Cant Ceredigion, are trying to collect the signatures of 10% (5300) of the electors of Ceredigion on a petition asking for the appointment of a mayor to lead the county council. It is believed that this could be one way of replacing the present council leadership and being rid of their Unitary Development Plan (UDP) including the building of 6500 new houses in Ceredigion with highly detrimental effects on the Welsh-speaking community. Meanwhile on the 1st July, a number of members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith set up a protest camp on a field belonging to Cllr. Dai Lloyd Evans, the leader of Ceredigion Council, outside Tregaron. The land is earmarked for planning permission for some of the 6500 houses, and if the UDP is passed, Evans stands to make a substantial profit from this land.

## BBC blacklist filmmaker

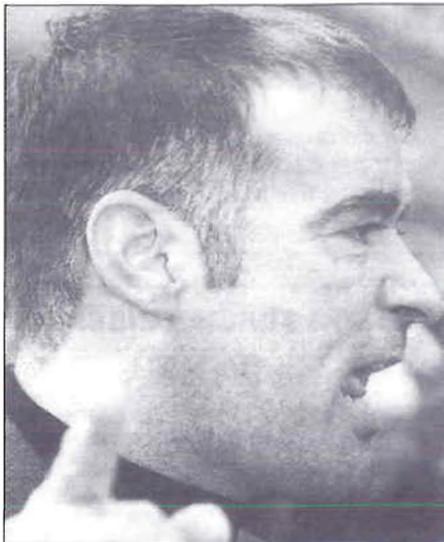
It seems that a leading Welsh film-maker is being blacklisted by the BBC and other media for political reasons. Kenneth Griffiths won a top broadcasting press award in 1999 with a documentary film about the Boer War which drew attention to the English concentration camps and other atrocities against the Boers, and has made several documentary films on Ireland that have been equally unacceptable to the Brit establishment. In recent years there has been reluctance on the part of BBC Wales and others to broadcast or support his work, and a campaign group has been set up to publicise this censorship.

## Cymdeithas / Cymuned joint protest

It was a welcome sight to see Cymdeithas yr Iaith and Cymuned organize for the first time a joint rally, outside the National Assembly stand on the National Eisteddfod field in August, against the government's decision to stop funding the Homebuy scheme, which had been set up with the aim of helping families to buy homes in their own communities. Cymuned and Cymdeithas said that by not providing more finance for this scheme, the assembly has refused to take one of the simplest possible steps towards easing the housing crisis in Wales and this shows a lack of support for the future of Welsh-speaking communities. They also called for steps to ensure that rented housing is available in rural communities.

## Welsh Socialist Party?

Tommy Sheridan MSP, the most prominent Scottish Socialist Party member of the Scottish Parliament, was a speaker at a conference hosted in Wreccsam on August 9th by the supporters of John Marek AC, the independent Assembly Member for Wreccsam. "Red, green and



Tommy Sheridan MSP, SSP.

radical - building a left alternative in Wales" was the title of the conference which seemed to be geared towards the formation of a new political party corresponding to the SSP in Scotland. A lot of the participants appeared to be inclined towards the far left, though there was a mixture of attitudes to self-government for Wales and talk of a new party being 'neutral' on the constitutional question. Over all, a rather strange mixture. Marek, the leading speaker, who would still be a New Labour AC if he had not been deselected by his local Labour party, is a unionist with a dubious attitude towards the language. He may be looking for a political party to increase his chances of

holding his seat next time. Few of the other participants from Wales appeared to be of the same inclinations as the SSP. It is not obvious what, other than vote-splitting at elections and thus helping the Right win marginal seats, the proposed new party is likely to achieve.

## Tories support Welsh communities

The Conservative Party in Wales announced during the National Eisteddfod week in August that they supported measures to help local people in impoverished rural areas beleaguered by colonisers, Welsh Wales in particular, gain access to housing. They revealed their policy on the matter, to which Cymuned gave their approval. Though traditionally the party of the Union and the 'English cause', some elements in the party have been more supportive of the language in recent times. The Assembly members David Davies, AC for Mynwy/Monmouth, and Glyn Davies on the Mid & West list, who have both learnt Welsh since being elected, are much more supportive of language issues than any Labour members. (There are still elements in the Tories that are viciously anti-Welsh, though.)

## Leeds & Holbeck snub Welsh

The need for a new language act was again illustrated clearly on 16th August when the Leeds & Holbeck Building Society opened a new plush branch in central Cardiff. There was not as much as a single word of Welsh to be seen on the signs and leaflets. A spokesman told a Celtic League enquirer that they "did not have the expertise" to produce material in Welsh. Cymdeithas yr Iaith took note of the situation with a view to taking further action.



Cymdeithas Supporters protest at the National Eisteddfod field in August against the government's decision to stop funding the Homebuy scheme.

# Cymuned Annual Conference

Cymuned held their second annual conference in Harlech in July. Attended by around 100 members, the motions passed extended the movement's remit somewhat, with motions urging action to strengthen the Welsh-speaking communities, rather than just steps to slow the inflow of English colonizers into Welsh-speaking Wales. The motions passed included one to campaign for the Post Office to end its new policy of taking all post posted in North Wales to be sorted in Chester (NW England), even if it is for a North Wales address, the absence of a sorting office in North West Wales costing local jobs. A motion expressed appreciation of the picketers who have been picketing estate agents' offices in towns in Gwynedd. By now the Pwllheli picket has been going on every Saturday morning for more than a year. Another motion condemned the misuse of bilingualism where it serves to undermine the position of Welsh in a Welsh-speaking community e.g. in the organization of local events or in the naming of new streets.

The overall picture was of a developing and vigorous movement. Attention was drawn to the large amount of lobbying and background work that has been carried on without attracting the media attention of



*Simon Brooks of Cymuned*

the public protests, and which has had an effect in moving government policy towards safeguarding Welsh communities. However, there were also disturbing tendencies within the membership. One motion on the agenda would have put Cymuned on the path towards becoming a political party that contested elections as such. Such a step

would radically change the nature of the organization, making the size of its vote a measure of the validity of its demands, and would make Cymuned competitors with the politicians it has up to now been able to influence to a degree. Fortunately, this motion was defeated. Another equally damaging motion called for a policy of (illegal) direct action against English-only signs in Welsh Wales, such as the colons frequently erect. While much has been achieved by the direct action of Cymdeithas yr Iaith over recent decades, it has been at the cost (often worth while) of alienating a section of the language's supporters and handing to opponents, especially the media, the use of terms like 'extremist' and 'vandal' to tarnish the movement and the campaign for the language. Cymuned's successes have come through working through the 'system' and this proposal, which was fortunately defeated, would have put much in jeopardy through handing to Cymuned's already vocal enemies powerful ammunition to vilify the anti-colonisation cause. It was notable that the supporters of direct action did not give any reason why they could not effect the course of action they wanted through Cymdeithas.

Cymuned will be working with the Celtic League to organize further inter-Celtic meetings on colonization following the successful public meeting in Penzance last year.

**Robat ap Tomos**

## Labour successfully denigrate Assembly

Labour's uninspired leadership of the National Assembly since it was set up has frequently brought the institution into disrepute, but the public perception of the Assembly hit an all-time low in July when an entire week was dominated by arguing over seating arrangements in the Assembly chamber and hours of debating time were wasted on this matter with numerous issues relevant to the Welsh public pushed aside. The Labour group, and in particular their assembly business manager Karen Sinclair, AC for Clwyd South, seem to have been responsible for making seating into a controversial issue and orchestrating a full-scale debate on the subject. Sinclair is believed to be covertly anti-Welsh and anti-devolution. The Assembly was lambasted in the press both in letters columns and editorials, with frequent references to the inflated salaries of the assembly members, recently increased, and their long holidays, and the condemnation was accompanied as usual by calls for the Assembly to be abolished or a referendum on its continuation to be held. It is significant that while condemnation of the behaviour of a local authority or, indeed, Westminster is often accompanied by calls for a change in the government of that institution, criticism of the National Assembly in the press is

accompanied not by calls for a new government in Cardiff but for the abolishment of the Assembly. It is one of Labour's successes that their failures in office in Cardiff are blamed by the public, encouraged by the Labour-supporting press, not on Labour but on the Assembly itself so that the poor performance of the Assembly's first four years resulted not in electors voting out Labour but in general apathy towards the second election.

It seemed no coincidence that in the same week as this farce, the former and last Secretary of State, Peter Hain, speaking for the London government, announced that there were no plans to give further powers to the Assembly. The Assembly Government's misconduct certainly reduced the complaining about such a statement. And also in the same week the leader of the association of local councils in Wales, Russell Goodway, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, said that no further powers should be given to the Assembly for at least twenty years. Goodway is one of the most prominent of Labour's covert anti-devolutionists who work against the Assembly but who do not publicly oppose its existence.

It is unlikely, however, that the mainstream Labour Party really want to see

the National Assembly abolished. As long as the public see the misdemeanours of Labour in office as the fault of the institution, not the party running it, the whole principle of Welsh government is discredited and Labour can, while enjoying the benefits and perks of running the Assembly, successfully use its inefficiency as a means of persuading the Welsh public against supporting any extension of self-government in Wales.

**RapT**



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# Éire



## Ullmhú an Choirn le haghaidh Ré an Eolais

Faoi dheireadh thiar tá institiúidí AE ag tabhairt aitheantais oifigiúil do thábhacht an oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil san fhoghlaim shaoil. Glacfaidh sé tamall sula mbeidh tuiscint ag rialtais stáit na hEorpa ar an bplé seo agus sula dtabharfaidh siad lántacaíocht don oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil. Dá mba rud é go raibh léargas dearfach ag rialtas na Ríochta Aontaithe ar an bplé d'fhéadfaí sárú a dheanamh méid áirithe ar an bhfadhb a eascraíonn as gan ach eolas oifigiúil agus roghnú déanta air a bheith á mhúineadh i scoileanna an Choirn. D'fhéadfadh go gcuirfeadh cúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil barr maise ar oiliúint scoilbhunaithe amach anseo. Tá gá leis sin sa Chorn ó teipeann ar scoileanna téamaí a mhúineadh a bhfuil tábhacht leo do mhuintir an Choirn leis na glúnta anuas. Mar shampla, cá háit ar an gcuraclam scoile a bhfuil spás ann don Choirnis nó do tharlúintí tábhachtacha i stair an Choirn?

Bionn deiseanna ag múinteoirí ar ndóigh cuid den eolas seo a thabhairt uathu, ach tríd is tríd níl difríocht idir an t-oideachas a bhfaigheann gasúr sa Chorn agus gasúr i Sir Eabhrac, mar shampla.

Tá cuma áifeiseach air seo nuair a chuirtear san áireamh go bhfuil sa Chorn líon mór daoine a mhaíonn féiniúlacht náisiúnta a bheith acu thar mar a bheadh ag muintir Shasana, idir Chornach-Bhriotanach, Chornach-Shasanaigh agus Chornach go lom. Bionn an t-eolas a dtugtar i scoileanna - agus a mbítear ag súil lena thabhairt - easnamhach ó ní bhíonn an ghné Chornach san áireamh. Tugtar oideachas Sasanach i ndáiríre do ghasúir sa Chorn in ainneoin go bhfuil difríochtaí bunúsacha idir féiniúlachtaí daoine sa Chorn agus i Sasana. Ba cheart go mbeifí ag súil leis go mbainfeadh múinteoirí sa Chorn "an fhírinn, iomlán na fírinn agus dada seachas an fhírinn" dá ndáltaí agus chuige sin bheadh orthu curaclam náisiúnta Chornach a chur i bhfeidhm ach, faraor, níl a leithéid ar fáil dóibh i láthair na uaire. Fágann sé sin nach mbíonn muintir an Choirn ach leatheolasach maidir leis an sochái ina maireann siad.

Ach tá stáit uile na hEorpa ar an ndícheall sochái eolasbhunaithe a bhaint amach. D'fhéadfadh páirt shuntasach a bheith ag an oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil i mbaint amach an chuspóra sin. Tuigeann an chuid is mó de na stáit na buntáistí a ghabhann le sochái eolasbhunaithe agus aithníonn cuid acu go bhféadfadh páirt as cuimh a bheith ag an oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil ina cruthú. Mar shampla, is féidir le Danmhargaigh leas a bhaint as córas oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil

na nArd-dhaonscoileanna atá státmhaoinithe ach neamhspleách agus atá luaite agus cosanta i mbunreacht na Danmhairge. Is amhlaidh in ainneoin nach gcuireann an t-oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil iallach ar dhaoine dul faoin scrúduithe nó pas a bhaint amach iontu. Mar sin féin tá an mhithuiscint forleathan i measc mhuintir na hEorpa trí chéile nach fíoroidéachas nó oideachas cóir é an t-oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil. Ní chuirtear an luach céanna le hoideachas neamhfhoirmiúil ar an margadh saothair is a bhíonn ag an oideachas coinbhinsiúnach ó is beag aitheantas a bhfaigheann cúrsaí dá leithéid ón Stát. I gcás na Ríochta Aontaithe de ní thugtar aitheantas do chúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúla ó tá siad taobh amuigh den earnáil stáit ag tráth a bhfuil tíochar rialtas stáit ar an oideachas ag buaicphointe. Ar an gcaoi sin baintear an bonn den oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil, in ainneoin gur comhpháirt riachtanach é den sochái agus den gheilleagar eolasbhunaithe agus go gcuireann sé go mór leo. Má tá rath le bheith ar an bhfoghlaim shaoil ní mór aitheantas níos mó agus stádas oifigiúil a thabhairt di. Go hachomair, caithfeadh coincheap foirmiúil a dhéanamh den oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil in intinn na ndaoine. Ach ní tharlóidh sé sin go dtí go gcuirfeadh an fhoghlaim shaoil chun cinn go gniomhach. D'fhéadfadh rialtas na Ríochta Aontaithe féin fiú leas a bhaint as sochái eolasbhunaithe an Choirn.

Faoi mar a bhéimigh Conclúidí Uachtaránacht na Comhairle Eorpaí:

".....is iad na daoine príomhshochmhainn na hEorpa agus ba cheart gur orthusan a ndíreofaí polasaithe an Aontais.....is polasáí riachtanach i an fhoghlaim shaoil d'fhorás na saoránachta, an chomhtháite shóisialta agus na fostaíochta."

Má tá rath le bheith ar an bhfoghlaim shaoil (agus is gné mhór di sin an t-oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil) maidir le forás na saorantachta, an chomhtháite shóisialta agus na fostaíochta ní mór do na Ballstáit tacú léi agus i a mhaoiniú. Cuirtear le forás pearsanta, sóisialta agus gairmiúil trí pháirtíocht na ndaoine i gcúrsaí dá leithéid. Is ceart aird na ndaoine a thabhairt ar na buntáistí a ghabhann lena bpáirtíocht i gcúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil. Mar sin, ba cheart daoine a spreagadh le freastal ar chúrsaí dá leithéid agus luach saothair a thabhairt dóibh, le go mbeadh fonn orthu a bheith páirteach i saol eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta an Choirn agus na hEorpa agus go gcuirfidís leis an saol sin. Tá eagraíochtaí áirithe ann atá ag tabhairt faoin gcuspóir seo. Mar shampla, tá an Association of

Community Colleges (ACC), ceann de na heagraíochtaí neamhrialtais nach ndéanann brabús atá ag iarraidh an t-easnamh seo a leigheas. Is aidhm dó coláistí pobail a thógáil ar fud na hEorpa le plé a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn i measc na coitiantachta faoi cheisteanna coitianta. Tá coincheap na gcoláistí pobail bunaithe méid áirithe ar na traidisiúin Eorpacha maidir leis an oideachas foirmiúil agus tá fúthu diospóireacht thuisceanach a bhunú d'fhonn "ealain na maireachtála le chéile" a chothú faoi mar a thugann an socheolaí Polainneach, Zygmunt Bauman air.

Bealach réardúil é coincheap seo na gcoláistí pobail le tabhairt ar dhaoine glacadh leis an oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil agus le go mbainfeadh sé páirt lárnach amach i saol na ndaoine. Tugann an ACC agus eagraíochtaí mar é deis phraiticiúil do dhaoine a bheith páirteach in imeachtaí oideachais ag comhleibhéal Eorpach. Níl i gcúrsaí coláistí pobail den chineál seo ach sampla amháin den chaoi ar féidir cúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil a reachtáil ach tríothu d'fhéadfaí daoine óga sa Chorn a thabhairt isteach i bplé Eorpach ag leibhéal áitiúil. Ní hamháin go bhfoghlaiméidís rudai nua faoi chultúr, threolaíocht, stair nó theanga an Choirn ach bheadh an deis acu an t-eolas sin a roinnt agus a cheiliúradh le daoine eile ar fud na hEorpa.

Ní mór an bhearna idir gach cineál léinn a líonadh agus é a thabhairt chomh gar don phobal agus is féidir le go mbainfi "Ré an Eolais" amach. Má tá sé sin le bheith ann caithfeadh athrú meoin a bhaint amach maidir leis an bhfoghlaim i ngach cuid den sochái sa chaoi is go mbeadh an soláthar ar oideachas leathan saoil in ann an t-éileamh a shásamh. Is é seo ceann de na hathruithe is lú agus is téagartha a chaithfeadh a dhéanamh má táimid le traidisiún Eorpach folkeoplysning (tuiscenú pobail) a bhunú. Tá an traidisiún folkeoplysning seo riachtanach do mhuintir an Choirn agus do na náisiúin Cheilteacha eile, inar dá mhéad daoine atá aireach faoinár dtraidisiúin, is mó seans go mbeidh borradh orthu agus go mbainfidh siad tacaíocht agus maoiniú idirnáisiúnta amach. Is féidir le muintir an Choirn idir óg agus aosta, a bhraitheann go bhfuil easnamh eolais orthu in earnálacha áirithe faoi cheisteanna ar leith, teacht ar dhaoine eile trí chúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúla ceartmhaoinithe le sochái eolasbhunaithe go fírinneach a thógáil, go mimic taobh amuigh de theorainneacha cúnga an stáit.

### Summary

*(Non-formal education is an important part of life-long learning and is essential to the achievement of a knowledge-based society to which all European states aspire. The fact that the formal education system in Cornwall is identical with that of England and is bereft of a Cornish agenda leaves an information gap that may be bridged by the non-formal sector. One idea, which might be explored, is the non-governmental, non-profitmaking, community colleges system.)*

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot  
(Colm de Faioite a d'aistriúigh)

# THE IRISH LANGUAGE ACT - FINALLY ENACTED

Whilst preferring a rights based Language Bill the Celtic League AGM welcomes the passing of the Irish Language Bill as a first step in moving towards guaranteeing the rights of Irish speakers. We call on the Minister to ensure the speedy implementation of the provisions of the Bill. Improvements need to be made with regard to the use of Irish in the Courts and amending legislation should be introduced on this. Schemes such as those for public bodies should be extended to the large private companies in new or amending legislation.

At last the Irish Language Act was enacted with the signing of the President on the 14th of July. It has been a long time coming, over

This act relies on two people to make sure it is effective, the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Minister for Finance. This is a rather dangerous aspect. If the money is not there fewer services will be provided in Irish, which will make the act ineffective. So you need two people in those key positions to be sympathetic to Irish to make the act effective. There is no doubting Minister Ó Cuív's sympathies to the language but what about the Minister for Finance. At the minute the minister is trying to cut back on most public services because of a downturn in the economy. I can't see the minister giving money for many jobs in the Irish language sector. Also there is going to be a change in government some time in



*Caoimhín Ó Cadhla and Aodhán Ó Puirseil, two of the Irish delegates at the CL AGM*

thirty years in fact. I wrote in the last issue of Carn that there were a lot of problems with the bill. I will go through the list and see what is fixed and what is not. Firstly I talked about the ambiguity of the bill in article 28 in which you could bring a public body to court if they failed in their duty to fulfil their scheme and then in article 32 you could not bring a public body to court if it fails in implementing it's scheme. That ambiguity has been cleared up and article 32 has been removed from the act. You now can bring a case against a public body if it has failed in its duty to implement the scheme personally or you can let the Coimisinéir Teanga (The Language Commissioner) take it for you.

You may have your case heard in Irish in court, but still the Judge can waive the right in criminal cases. This is not good; in fact that is the worst aspect of the act.

The Irish Language Act will still not come into operation for another three years. This is to give time for the public bodies to draft up their schemes, and to adjust to this scheme. They must have very slow typists. They should have been given no more than a year to draft a scheme. It is only delaying the inevitable.

which both of the ministers will not care about the act.

The constitutional status of Irish cannot be undermined by any act. Therefore any public notice that the public bodies produce must be in Irish only or bilingual. Also because of the constitutional status of Irish the name of the act had to be changed from Language Equality act to the Official Languages act so as not to undermine Irish.

Section 1(5) of the First Schedule of the Bill provides that the scope of the Act can be broadened in the future to other sectors of the economy like telecommunication companies, banks and insurance companies. Let's hope that they broaden it soon.

I am glad that the Irish Language Act has finally been enacted, but there are still problems. Most Irish language bodies are satisfied with it. It is a start, and only time will tell if it will succeed but there still needs to be amendments to the act to ensure effectiveness of the act. Let us see how much people will adjust to these schemes. A language commissioner will be picked soon and his/her offices will be based in Conemara.

Caoimhín Ó Cadhla

## PANA

The Celtic League AGM states its support for the reaffirmed aims of PANA [Peace and Neutrality Alliance];

To have Neutrality enshrined in the constitution

A role of a reformed UN in international affairs

A positive non-aligned role for the EU (opposing the development of the Rapid Reaction Force – RRF)

Any deployment of Irish Defence Forces or Gardaí to be through UN or UN mandated operation.

A PANA meeting held in June last was called to evaluate the organisation since its founding in 1997, clarify its aims and plan the organisation's agenda for the future.

The meeting expressed the need to focus on building an alliance to defeat the draft EU Constitution (Article 40), which obliges Ireland to spend more money on defence, and commits Ireland to mutual defence thus constitutionally destroying Irish Neutrality. In practice Irish Neutrality no longer exists since the current government participated in the illegal conquest of Iraq by turning Shannon Airport into a US airfare base. The meeting expressed its concern at the emerging EU nuclear armed super-state.

Reporting back to the Celtic League AGM Irish Branch representative, Aodhán Ó Puirseil, outlined the details of the meeting. The AGM reaffirmed its support for the redefined aims of PANA.

PANA plan a number of demonstrations in support of its aims. The first such demonstration, held at the end of September called for an end to the occupation of Iraq and Palestine.

### 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league)

# Irish Language news in Brief

## Broadcasting in Irish

In a new book\* published as the second in the series *Broadcasting and Irish Society* initiated in 1999 to commemorate 75 years of broadcasting by RTE the results of an in depth study (undertaken for a PhD) by Iarflaith Watson on the founding of TnaG (now TG4) are presented.



*Iarflaith Watson, author of Broadcasting in Irish, Minority language radio, television and identity.*

The difficulties the then Minister Michael D.O'Higgins had on getting his proposals for a TV station in Irish through cabinet against opposition from the Dept. of Finance civil servants and their withholding of monies agreed are outlined. The present Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, then Minister for Finance, comes out badly in this, appearing two faced on the issue.

The author believes TG4 has carved out a niche for itself with a loyal following and that it is helping to cultivate national identity. However Watson feels that not enough 'specialist programming' is provided (that is to say Irish language programming) but that the children's programming is a strong point. The book also includes a chapter on Radio na Gaeltachta inserted at the suggestion of the editor of the series Richard Pine.

\* *Broadcasting in Irish, Minority language radio, television and identity* Iarflaith Watson, Four Courts Press: €19.95

## Esat BT and Irish

In a small gesture towards Irish Esat BT issued a bilingual press statement (their first) stating that they intended contacting their customers to determine the level of language service they wanted with regard to billing, services or advertising. Bill Murphy, CEO,

an Irish American is stated to be behind this. The company provide a full service through Welsh in Wales.

## GAELTALK.NET

This Irish Language internet teaching service is based on Oileán Chléire (Cape Clear Island) off the west coast of county Cork. The island, Ireland's most southerly inhabited island, is mostly Irish speaking. There is one full time and three part time teachers meaning classes can be tailor made to the time zone of students. Tuition is offered 24 hours a day, for only €20 or so a month. Each lesson comes with a 'cultural capsule' which gives an insight into Irish tradition or island life. The founder, Tomás MacGearailt, a native speaker of Irish from Kerry also runs the Irish language bookstore [www.litriocht.com](http://www.litriocht.com) from the Kerry Gaeltacht. He has said he would like to see a Gaeltalk in each Gaeltacht. A lot of interest comes from those of Irish decent in the US and a secondary aim is to encourage students to visit the island.

## New English-Irish Dictionary

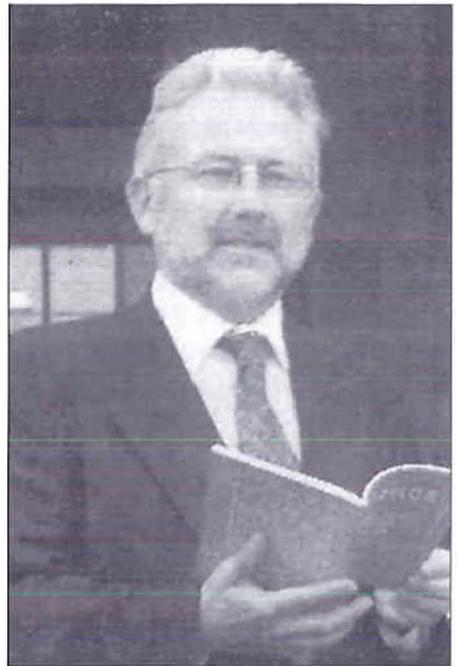
A contract was signed in mid summer between Foras na Gaeilge and Lexicography Master Class (Brighton, England) for the first stage of work on a new English - Irish dictionary. The present (De Bhaldraithe) English - Irish dictionary was produced in 1958. It is well dated and allowing for the time taken to produce such works commencement of work on a new dictionary is long overdue. The dictionary will be produced in print and electronic form. This phase of the work will concentrate on the layout and planning, the choice of word headings (about 50,000 will be used), the corpus of works to be used and the creation of a template for stage two - the actual writing of the dictionary.

Professor Donal Ó Baoill, head of the Irish Dept. in Queen's University, Belfast, is the Chief Irish Language Editor. The first stage is due to be completed by Oct. 2004 at a cost of €734,890. Development of a strategic and business plan for stage 2 will be part of this work also. As was done for stage one tender will be sought on the basis of an open competition.

## Gaelcholáiste Oirghialla - recognition but too late for some

The Irish language second level college planned for Monaghan for Sept. 2003 was refused recognition from the Dept. of

Education on the frail excuse that no decision could emanate until a report had been received by the Dept. from a commission set up on the provision of second level education in Irish. The move was fought by the parents and their support group who initiated a High Court action against the Minister for Education, Noel Dempsey. Eventually after a lengthy series of discussions the matter was



*Colm Ó Dúlacháin, Chief Executive of Gaelscoileanna, who supported the parents of Gaelcholáiste Oirghialla in their efforts to establish the second level college.*

settled outside court when the Dept granted recognition to the school from Sept 2004 - too late unfortunately for those leaving the primary level local Gaelscoil this year.

## Teaching Time for Irish Reduced

In a surprise announcement three days prior to the opening of the school year it was announced that the amount of time to be devoted to teaching Irish in primary schools was to be reduced from five hours to three and a half hours, a reduction of 30%. This is a severe blow to the position of Irish in the educational system and gives a very negative signal with regard to its status.

The move was stated to have been made to cater for the introduction of more subjects in the primary school curriculum such as science; however no reductions were made in time allocated to other existing subjects.

Were Foras na Gaeilge informed of this and what was their response? What about the INTO? What if any consultation was carried out? Why was there been a deafening silence from Irish language organisations at the time of the announcement?

# Raymond Crotty – Original Thinker

The corpus of work of R. Crotty (who died in 1994) was the subject of some very stimulating lectures and discussions at the 15th Desmond Greaves Summer School at the Irish Labour History Museum in Dublin in late August.

Ray Crotty, whose Supreme Court case led to the requirement for referendums on the ceding of Irish Sovereignty to the EU, was an economist and economic historian who had some highly original ideas on the world and Irish history. These were published posthumously in his major work, *When Histories Collide: the development of and impact of individualistic capitalism* (Almira Press, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, New York and Oxford, 2001)

Prof. Lars Mjoset of Norway outlined R. Crotty's theories in thirteen steps and said that even if one did not agree with his ideas his original thought and different focus caused one to re-examine orthodoxies and think afresh. This was a

theme returned to by Professor Joe Lee, (Gluckman Institute NYU), the session chairmen. In the course of his address Prof. Lee, commenting on development in Ireland, said that the economic success experienced by Ireland was heavily dependent on external factors and a unique combination of conditions which could not be repeated in the future. However young people now had a self-confidence which was new in Ireland. They had not encountered the economic, political, and cultural defeats which had affected previous generations.

The summer school also examined 'Robert Emmet in European Perspective' (based on the work of Ruan O'Donnell, *Robert Emmet and the 1803 Rising*) and 'The Left and Europe' Other works of interest of R.Crotty's are *Ireland in Crisis: A Study of Capitalist Colonial Underdevelopment* (1985) and *Irish Agricultural Production* (1962).



Raymond Crotty

## STATEMENT ON THE NORTH *Republican SINN FÉIN Poblachtach*

It is our opinion that the continuing instability results from an ill-advised partition of our country, a continuance of English rule and the failure of the Stormont Agreement of April 10, 1968. This Agreement was destined to fail because of its inherent contradictions, as it promised a secure place in the United Kingdom to one group and an advance towards a free and united Ireland to another:

A stage appears to have been reached where the London governments will to govern the Six-County area may possibly already be broken and where the Dublin government is scared of taking it under its wing.

Much has changed since 1969 which bewilders and dismays the Unionists, as they perceive the sovereign authority of Westminster to be weakening and the influence of Leinster House to be increasing; joint authority, whether or not it is acknowledged as such, may be ahead of us.

The nightmare of the Nationalist community still endures: watchtowers, patrols and checkpoints still operate, prisoners are denied political status and sectarian attacks and killings continue.

Now, the Unionist community also experiences a sense of apprehension and insecurity, as the certainties of the past give way to uncertainty, confusion and bewilderment. There is likely to be continuing conflict as uncertainty about the future worries everybody in the Six Counties.

The setting up of the new Stormont assembly has not brought real autonomy, as the London government and, to a lesser extent, the Dublin government, are increasingly telling everybody what they may and may not do.

The partition of Ireland in 1921-22 was a mistake, in that it drew an artificial boundary, creating a Protestant state in the Six Counties and a Catholic state in the 26 Counties, thus stifling the potential of all. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Republican Sinn Féin holds dearly to the teaching of Theobald Wolfe Tone that an independent Ireland where Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter could work in partnership under the common name of Irishman and Irishwoman is the desirable end.

The Unionist people have been placed in a trying situation as the Nationalist population and vote continues inexorably to increase. This demographic trend hangs like the sword of Damocles over them and the humiliation long endured by the



Ruairí Ó Brádaigh,  
President, Republican Sinn Féin

Nationalists could well be experienced by the Unionists before too long. This can be averted by anticipating the likely result of the present trend and choosing a third way, neither London rule nor Dublin rule, but a new democracy in a new Ireland.

Republican Sinn Féin and its leaders were prepared in 1981-82-83 and again in 1986 to take a principled stand to preserve the Republican position which would "cherish all the children of the nation equally" and stood by an inclusive Ireland and structures of government which would give real power to all the people in a new Ireland. We have always been conscientious and straightforward in our dealings. We do not think in terms of a gain for us being a loss for others but seek only the welfare of all the Irish people.

We believe that neither London nor Dublin can guarantee the future welfare of the people of Ulster. Only the people of Ulster themselves can do that - and they can best achieve it by taking their rightful place, as equals, in the historic Irish nation, where their rights would be guaranteed by a new constitution and they would have access to real power.

As trust founders on all sides, we ask everybody to consider again our ÉIRE NUA programme for a four-province federal Ireland, with optimum devolution of powers down to community level. Even now, Unionists can still have a working majority in a nine-county Ulster, subject to the checks and balances of the new structures.

(Edited)

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For further information visit the website at [www.rsf.ie](http://www.rsf.ie)



# Kernow



## NOWODHOW BERR

## DHIWORTH BRETEN VYGHAN

Dhe'n 22 a vis Metheven yth esa a-dro dhe 5.000 den ow tiskwedhya yn Naoned (hanow Nantes yn Bretonek) rag unya Breten Vyghan arta gans y 5 asrann. An diskwedhyans a sewenas yn tien! Res yw dhyn perthi kov bos distruys unyans Breten Vyghan yn 1941 gans an Governans Vichy ow kesoberi gans an Governans Nazi. Res yw dhyn perthi kov ynwedh bos Naoned rann Breten Vyghan a-dhia Erispoe (IXves kansblydhen) ha pennisita an dhugeth yntra an Xlves kansblydhen bys an XVIves kansblydhen ha wosa henna rann Breten Vyghan bys yn 1941. Gans henna, Bretonek a veu kewsys bys yn derow an XXves kansblydhen yn asrann Liger Atlantel (hanow bretonek rag Loire-Atlantique yn Frynkek) y'n ranndir henwys Gwenrann (Guérande yn Frynkek). Y kevir lemmyn skolyow Diwan yn Naoned arta ha klywys yw hwath Bretonek yn stretow an dre. Lemmyn rann an ranndir Pays de Loire yw an Liger Atlantel.

Lemmyn an *media* frynkek a lavar nag yw rann Breten Vyghan asrann Liger Atlantel. Klywys yw ynwedh y'n *media* frynkek na via naturel unya asrann Liger Atlantel gans asrann bretonek erell! Henn yw sklander! Henn yw erbynn istori Breten Vyghan hag erbynn istori Pow Frynk ynwedh!

Soweth lies esel an Governans frynkek, lywys gans Jean Pierre Raffarin a dheu dhiworth an ranndir Pays de Loire hag i a vynn mentena kammhynseth an dhibarth turansel ha rann beghys gans an stat frynkek. Res yw perthi kov bos an Liger Atlantel an asrann an moyha sewen an ranndir Pays de Loire!

Res vydh dhe'n Vretonyon syrisi diskwedhyansow arta hag arta rag unya Breten Vyghan arta!

### Summary:

*A successful demonstration of 5,000 people took place in Naoned (Nantes) in June calling for the reunification of the Loire-Atlantique département to Brittany. This département was separated from Brittany in 1941 by the collaborationist government of Vichy. Naoned had been Breton for centuries and it was also the capital of the Breton Duchy. Now the French media are campaigning saying that it would be unnatural to reintegrate the Loire Atlantique into Brittan. The French State wants to maintain this injustice of arbitrary separation and division. The Bretons will have to demonstrate again and again to reunify Brittany!*

José CALVETE

## the celtic nation of devon?

The website of a flag-making firm based in Wales, has been causing some controversy in Cornwall, after advertising a new flag for sale. The Devon flag is being marketed as a flag of the 'Celtic nation of Devon', along with flags from the Celtic nations.

In e-mail correspondence with the flag maker's, 'Mr Flags', many people in Cornwall have complained about the inaccuracy of claiming that Devon is Celtic. As Cornish language activist, Pol Hodge stated:

*Devon is not a Celtic country at all. To be a Celtic country there needs to be a Celtic language spoken there. I would like to remember the Galithia case; this is a country with her own language, a bag pipe and splendid coastal scenery just like the Celtic countries. In the 1970s Galithia tried to join the Celtic League. However they were turned down because they have no Celtic language - theirs is a Romance language. The definition Celtic is linguistic and nothing to do with race.*

But Charles Ashburner at 'Mr Flags' does not agree, arguing that: *"...the terms used on our website are designed for an international audience. We try to keep it simple, and factual."*

But as many people have now pointed out to Mr Ashburner, to describe Devon today as Celtic in any way, is simply not factual.

## The Cornish World

The magazine *Cornish World* is, in Nigel Pengelly's words "Cornwall's only true Cornish culture and heritage magazine with some 2,000 overseas subscribers."

Nigel Pengelly, is the newly appointed Editor of *Cornish World* and has promised that he "... intend[s] to inject a stronger Cornish flavour into the magazine, taking the publication back to its roots."

Mr Pengelly informs us that in the Autumn issue of the magazine he plans to ask the question: "What does it actually mean to be Cornish?": Is it where you were born, your parent's or grandparent's birthplace, your surname, if you can speak Cornish, where you live or who or where you identify with?

This may be a question that some Cornish people are uncomfortable with, but in the light of recent developments in Devon, where a growing group of people are pushing for Devon to be recognised as a Celtic country in the same way that Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany and Wales are, I believe that such a debate is as pertinent as ever.

So if you have an opinion of what you think it means to be Cornish (and as 'Carn' readers, you no doubt will), Mr Pengelly has requested that he would like to hear from you. He can be contacted at: Nigel Pengelly, Editor, *Cornish World*, PO Box 71, Penzance TR18 2ZR. TEL: 01736 365896 / 07980 712657

## Dydh An Gof

On 27th June 2003, the annual remembrance day of Cronwall's own national hero, Josef An Gof, took place in St. Keverne. The event was attended by close to 100 people, including a group of Welsh people who had travelled to Cornwall from Wales for the event, the previous day.

People gathered at the statue of An Gof and Flamank at the top of the town, before marching down to the commemorative plaque outside St. Keverne church. Steven Tresidder, Spokesperson of the Cornish Stannary Parliament, gave a rousing speech and wreaths of flowers were laid at the foot of the statue and at the plaque itself.

An Gof is remembered today for his part in the 1497 Rebellion where thousands of Cornish men marched to London in protest about paying subsidies to a foreign government (England) to finance a war with Scotland and the decision to suspend Stannary rights. The marchers reached Blackheath before they were stopped and An Gof and Flamank, the two men held responsible for the insurrection, were executed.

# Cornish Pupils Refused Right to Record their 'Cornish ethnicity'

An Scoren Kernewek / The Cornish Branch calls on the Westminster government to reverse the decision taken by Cornwall Education Authority to omit a Cornish tick box from the Department of Education and Science Survey conducted on 16th January 2003.

This Branch calls on the Government to conduct an investigation to establish the reason for the omission and for immediate action to be taken to ensure that children and young people of Cornish ethnicity to be included within the Department for Education and Science Schools Survey database.

The reason why this resolution was proposed by our Branch was that while Cornish ethnicity is now officially recognised by the Westminster government, as can be seen from the inclusion of 'Cornish' as a distinct group in the 2001 Census, Cornwall Local Education Authority (LEA) it seems does not. Despite Cornwall's LEA being instructed by the Department of Education and Science (DfES) to reflect 'regional demography', in a place survey of the ethnic status of school children in Cornwall carried out in January this year, the LEA failed to add a category for 'Cornish' to the DfES ethnicity key list.

Consequently, having received numerous complaints from aggrieved parents, the LEA stated that "in allowing Cornish pupils to record their ethnicity would be an irrelevant waste of resources, serving no practical purpose" and that the end result would not be "helpful or healthy". The portfolio holder for education and lifelong learning on Cornwall Council is also on record as saying that to follow council policy would be "dangerous" and that it would "put Cornwall on the road to the Balkans". The Portfolio holder for Education in Cornwall (Cllr. Doris Ansari) refuses to answer questions from, or enter into dialogue with, any of the aggrieved parties.



R. Tal-e-bot

Cornwall Council and Cornwall LEA, in taking the arbitrary and political decision to exclude the Cornish from the schools survey, together with their failure to enter into dialogue with interested parties, have demonstrated a contemptuous disregard for the provisions set out within the 'Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities'.

Cornwall LEA's administrative decision has ensured that the Cornish are excluded from the DfES database. Their failure to enter into dialogue with interested parties would appear to have breached the Code of Conduct, which states that local authorities should not discriminate against any minority and that it should treat citizens with respect and provide information as required.

A clear and official explanation is needed from Cornwall LEA and Council as to why there was a flagrant disregard of the advice given by the DfES, for the School survey to reflect the 'regional demography' of Cornwall, by not including 'Cornish' as a separate ethnicity group.

R. Tal-e-bot

## TIME FOR CHANGE

There is evidence to support the claim that when it comes to the provision of educational services and access to cultural funding, the Cornish are the subject of unwarranted prejudice which in turn gives rise to unlawful discrimination.

In Jan 2003 Cornwall County Council prevented pupils from recording their ethnicity as Cornish. Cornish is the only 'White British' Census 2001 ethnic group excluded from the school survey. It is unlawful for a public authority to treat one ethnic group less favourably than another.

Cornwall County Council has asserted that, until the Cornish bring a successful case under Race Relations legislation, they will continue to discriminate against them. The Home Office uses the same argument to prevent the Cornish from obtaining cultural and educational rights enshrined in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The Council has submitted a business case to the ONS in support of recognising the Cornish in Census 2001, pushed government to recognise the Cornish language, published material that emphasises their distinctiveness features and drafted briefing papers that refer to the "Cornish ethnic group".

Section 55 of the Race Relations Act places the burden of proof on the discriminator. Therefore it is for the Council to substantiate its inference that the Cornish no longer constitute an ethnic group, and are thus excluded from the protection of the Act.

The Cornish for their part must now obtain a judicial declaration that they are a group protected by the Act. In order to engineer such a situation they must launch a prosecution of the Council whereupon the status of the Cornish will be dealt with as a preliminary issue. Quite bizarrely, they will need to call as prosecutions witness the very organisation that is now attempting to deny their status. Clearly, when faced with legal action, the Council finds itself in an untenable position.

Discriminators sometimes use the non-applicability argument as a last line of defence for their actions. In such circumstances, and in order to protect their rights, minorities are obliged to go down this route. It is a standard procedure involving simple domestic legislation. Those who wish to support this urgent and quite necessary, legal action should contact: - Cllr. Alastair Quinnell, Steve Trudgian, Dr Nigel Hicks, Len Pascoe or John Angarrack.

John Angarrack

Contact:  
celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com  
for forwarding addresses

## MEBYON KERNOW NEWS

MEBYON KERNOW the Party for Cornwall has condemned the UK Government for its refusal to allow a referendum for a Cornish Assembly.

Labour's white paper "Your Region, Your Choice" failed to mention Cornwall. In response Mebyon Kernow's document "A Democratic Choice for Cornwall" made the Cornish case for internal self-government clear:

"There is no support in Cornwall for a South-West Regional Assembly or for Cornwall being turned into a *sub-region* governed from Exeter, Taunton and Bristol. Cornwall needs its own regional structures. No second-best solutions are acceptable.

The new Regional Assemblies (Preparations) Act deliberately excludes the Cornish Region from consideration and allows John Prescott MP, to exclude Cornwall from his referenda programme."

MK's constitutional affairs Spokesman, Councillor Andy Moyle pointed out, 'Remember, Mr Prescott, 50,000 people *all from Cornwall*, wrote individually to Prime Minister Blair stating, 'I SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FOR A CORNISH ASSEMBLY.

'If current legislation cannot support such a referendum the law needs amending or new laws brought in to accommodate Cornwall's aspirations for a democratically elected fully devolved Cornish Assembly.'

Mebyon Kernow Contacts: Conan Jenkin 01872 261263, Phil Rendle 01736 363762



## Vel shin nyn Geltiee ny dyn?

Ta kuse dy henndaaleeyn ayns ny h-ellany shoh (as buill elley?) er jeet dy ve greesit dy liooar mychione y chooish shoh: vel ny Albinee, Bretnee, Britaanee, Cornee, Manninee as Yerneee nyn Geltiee firrinagh? Ta shen dy ghra, vel ad jeh'n sluiight cheddin as ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar Oarpagh ren ny shenn Ghreagee as Romaneee screeu mychione ny smoo na daa vecillee blein er dy henney?

Ta shin cliaghtit lhaih dy daink ny Celtiee dys ny h-ellany shoh veih'n Cheer Vooar roish my row Yeesey Creest ayn - as dy daink ram jeu ayns ruegyssyn (invasions). Shen yn aght haink ny chengaghyn as y cultoor Celtiagh dys ny h-ellany shoh. Agh nish ta shenndaaleeyn gra nagh vod ad fed-dyn cowraghyn erbee jeh lheid ny ruegyssyn shen. As, ga nagh vel money prowallyn jeant choud as shoh, cha nel eh jeeaghyn dy vel DNA ny 'Celtiee' ellanagh goll rish DNA ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar. Dy jarroo, ta'n DNA t'ec 'Celtiee' ellanagh ennagh jeeaghyn goll rish DNA ny Bascee t'ayn nish! Benty nish shoh, ta sleih ennagh credjal dy row ny Bascee yn chide phobble Oarpagh. As foddee dy vel sleih dooie ny h-ellany shoh er ve ayns shoh rish meeillaghyn as meeillaghyn dy vleeantyn, neayr's traaghyn ny shelgeyrynychymsee (hunter-gatherers). My s'feer shen, foddee dy vel eh soilshaghey magh yn oyr dy vel DNA ny Bascee goll rish DNA ny Bretnee as ny Yerneee: she shenn, shenn Oarpee t'ayn. As, my s'feer shen, shegin soilshaghey magh yn oyr dy vel chengaghyn Celtiagh ec 'Celtiee' ny h-ellany shoh.

Agh erskyn shoh as ooilley, cre'n fa ta sleih ennagh cho debejagh dy vrishey seose ashlyshyn ny 'Celtiee' ellanagh? Vel politickaght cheu-heear jeu? Nar lhig y smooingh agglagh shen cheet stiagh ayns dty chione. Agh ny yei shen as ooilley... T'eh symoil dy vel lheid y BNP (y Partee Goaldagh Ashoonagh) jeant cho booiagh dy chlashtyn yn eie nagh vel Yerneee yn laa t'ayn jiu jeh'n chynney cheddin as ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar Oarpagh. My t'ou uss jeeaghyn er ynyd-eggey (website) yn BNP, hee uss dy vel lught y BNP jeeaghyn roue gys y laa yiowmayd magh dy nee DNA Sostnagh ta ry gheddyn ayns Nerin son y chooid smoo!

As cre'n fa ta lught y BNP (as sleih elley) smooinghyn dy vel shynyn ta gobbraghey son cooishyn Celtiagh coontey kynney dy ve cho scanshoil? Ta'n Commeeys Celtiagh as sheshaght Celtiagh elley kiart tra t'ad gra dy nee ny chengaghyn Celtiagh ny reddyn smoo scanshoil - ny benn rish y kynneaghys.

She chengaghyn, cultoor as seyrnsyn politickaght ny h-undynyn jeh ny gleashaghtyn ain, as cha nee DNA, ga dy vel y chooish shen anaasagh. Eer my vees ny shenndaaleeyn shen kiart as cha nel kianglaghyn-kynney eddyr ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar as sleih ny h-ellany shoh, ta whilleen sleih goaill ymyd jeh'n ockle 'Celtiagh' nish as dy beagh eh fardailagh dy phrowal dy gheddyn rey rish as shynyn loayrt mychione Albinee. Bretnee as myr shen. Ta eer 'Commeeys Celtiagh' ayn nish ta currit da cloie rugbee. As cha beeyn boirit my vees ad lane shick-yr nagh vel mee jeh'n chynney cheddin as ny shenn Cheltiee.

Myr ren un shenndaalee ayns Mannin goaill rish, t'eh ro anmagh nish: ta'n fockle 'Celtiagh' soiet ayns aignaghyn y theay. Ta paart dy scoillaryn goll ny sodjey na gra nagh row sleih ayns ny h-ellany shoh nyn Geltiee: ta ny scoillaryn shoh jannoo beg jeh ny shenn

Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar. Agh shen skeal elley. Red ta boiragh dy liooar ayns Mannin, shen yn aght ta sleih ynsit ennagh dellal rish ny Wiggynnee. Dy jarroo, oddagh oo gra, bunnys, dy vel kynneaghys cheet stiagh sy chooish: 'Wiggynnee heese, Celtiee heese.' Shione dou dy row ny Loghlinee scanshoil ayns shennaghys Vannin. Agh veih'n aght ta sleih ennagh loayrt, cha jinnagh oo smooinghyn dy

row chengey as cultoor Vannin feer Ghaelgagh rish keeadyn dy vleeantyn. T'eh jeeaghyn nagh vod sleih ennagh jannoo lesh yn eie resoonagh dy row cruinnaght Cheltiagh castley rish Tinvaal ayns Mannin roish my daink ny Loghlinee, foddee. Cre'n eie scammyltagh! Gyn ourys, s'cummey lesh yn chooid smoo jeh'n theay ny h-cieyn shoh. Agh ny smoo as ny smoo, oddagh oo gra dy vel claaryn-shennaghys er y chellveeish lane dy h-ashoonaghys Sostnagh. Ta fir-shennaghys er y chellveeish gaghtey myr rollageyn-fillym, as fer ny ghaa jeu gra nagh row yn impiroilaghys Goaldagh cho olk ny yei shen as ooilley. Shegin dooin jannoo nyn gooid share freggyrt y chur, as ta cooish ny Celtiee kianlt seose lesh shen. Ta tromlagh kinjagh guee er mynlagh, 'Jean-shiu firrinaghey shiu-hene!' As car y traa ta'n feysht goll er briaght 'Quoi va/ta ny Celtiee?' Myr shen, t'eh aitt dy chlashtyn mychione y ronsaght noa bentyn rish Sostyn as DNA ny cummaltee ayns shen keeadyn dy vleeantyn er dy henney. T'ad er ngeddyn magh dy vel DNA Anglo-Hostnagh goan dy liooar ayns Sostyn. As cha nod ad feddyn cowraghyn dy row ruegyssyn mooarey jeant ec Anglo-Hostnee ayn er chor erbee. Myr shen, brie yn feysht 'Quoi va/ta ny Sostnee?' Foddee dy lhisagh shin cur cuirrey da Sostyn dy heet stiagh sy Chommeeys Celtiagh.

### Summary

*Archaeologists argue that there was no ethnic link between the ancient continental Celts and the peoples of Britain and Ireland, denying the existence of the insular Celts. This has been seized on with suspicious eagerness by some, who seem to have the idea that discredited theories of 'race' underpin our philosophies.*

Brian Stowell

## Bill Henderson, MHK, Commended

**This AGM commends Mr. Bill Henderson MHK for giving prominence to the Manx Language in the Tynwald.**

In a bid to boost national pride Mr Henderson decided to use a Manx phrase in Tynwald. He used 'Ta mee shirrey kied yn 'eisht y chur ta fo m'ennym' the Manx translation of 'I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name'.)

Mr Cringle, Tynwald's President, referred to standing order 3.23(5), which states that a term or expression in another language cannot be used in Tynwald', and instructed Mr Henderson not to use the Manx language.

Mr Henderson called for Tynwald's Standing Orders Committee to review this rule. The Committee reported back advising that Tynwald approve the use of Manx. (See Carn 121 & 122)



# AGM Calls for Teaching Materials in Manx

This AGM:

a) calls upon the Isle of Man Department of Education to address the deficiency in teaching resources (such as text books and learning schemes) for the Manx medium education school by engaging proficient Manx speakers to produce the same for meaningful recompense.

b) does not regard the simple translation of existing English language resources to be appropriate in many instances.

Phil Gawne, Chairman of Moinjer Veggey, the organisation responsible for the development of pre-school and primary education responded to a query from the Editor of Carn concerning the Celtic League's resolution outlined above. He wrote:

'Moinjer Veggey is to receive grant

assistance of. £9,495 from the Manx Heritage Foundation for a resource development project which Moinjer Veggey will establish in its financial year beginning 1st September 2003. The total cost of the project is £ 13,695 - the remaining 4,200 coming from Moinjer Veggey's development budget which is primarily funded by the Department of Education.

Following their visit to the Isle of Lewis in May this year, Moinjer Veggey's staff and committee were pleased to see how well, comparatively, we are doing in the Isle of Man with the support and development of our language. In terms of support and promotion we are in many ways ahead of Lewis but we have one area which is letting us down. Resource development remains perhaps the most significant weakness in the provision of resources for the children in their early years in Manx medium education and

Moinjer Veggey is keen to address this in this new project.

It is anticipated that the new resource development project will be driven by teachers, playgroup leaders and translators who will develop ideas for educational resources. These ideas will then be taken by a part time resource development officer (who will have basic graphic design, computing and desk top publishing skills) who prepare them for printing in an eye catching format and/or produce IT learning resources.

Due to the relatively small print run required for Manx language educational resources Moinjer Veggey believes that desk top publishing and IT resources will provide the most cost effective, high quality resources which children learning through the Manx language at pre-school and primary level rightly deserve. The new project will also allow much greater flexibility for unique Manx language resources to be produced rather than the current situation where resources translated from English and the other Celtic languages are generally relied upon.'

## Education Act – A Manx Dimension

The Education Act 2001, under the Curriculum section headed, Education in primary and secondary schools' states:-

1. 'The department of Education shall by order prescribe a curriculum for all registered pupils of compulsory school age at provided and maintained schools
2. 'The curriculum shall include provision for the following matters -  
(b) the teaching of Manx Gaelic and the culture and history of the Island.'

\*note – there is already some provision made by the Department of Education, for

*nursery education through Manx, a Manx Medium primary unit, which recently acquired a second teacher and 'opt in' courses available with parental consent.*

The Department intends to gradually introduce elements of 2(b) above, and has chosen to begin with History. A working party made up of primary teachers, the Education Officer of Manx National Heritage, chaired by a primary head teacher; has been developing a history scheme appropriate to school children in the Isle of Man. The first course will

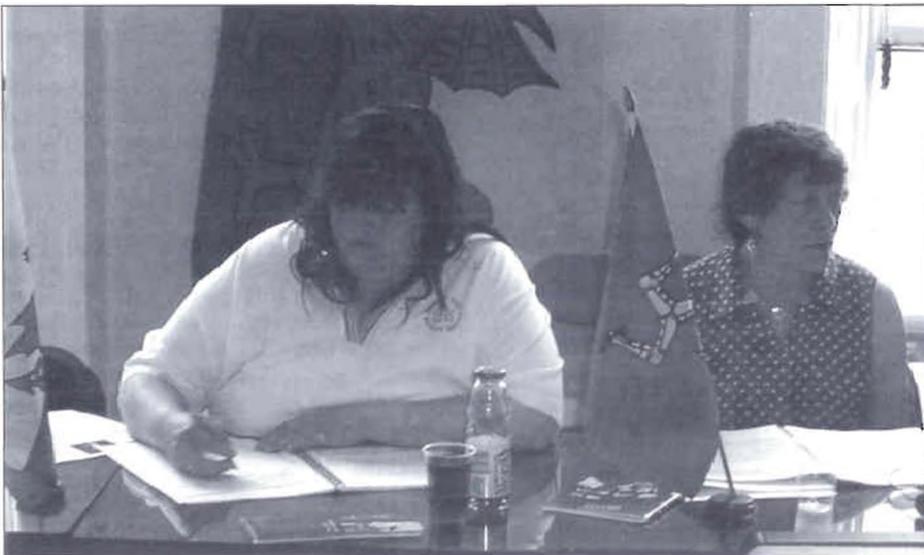
be introduced into schools in years 3 (age 7-8) and 4 (age 8-9) during this autumn term. Other courses will to be developed for the other age groups in the future.

The aim of the working party has been to provide a user-friendly course of study - with support material for teachers - that is accessible to children. In year 3 the focus is on the Celts, and will follow on with a short introductory unit on migrants and settlers to set the Isle of Man in context of what was happening in the British Isles and Ireland. Year 4 will focus on the Vikings with an appropriate introduction.

Contained within the scheme are teaching aims, learning objectives and key tasks, ideas to be developed and further activities. Visits to exhibitions at the Manx Museum and the House of Manannin as well as visits important historic sites are recommended to support study or as an addition to it.

The changes enshrined in the Act should begin to address the inappropriateness of adopting a curriculum based entirely on the English version, making history more relevant to the children on the Island.

Other aspects of the curriculum – Manx Gaelic and culture – will broaden still further a Manx dimension to education. Inclusion of Manx for all students is especially desirable, although this may be more problematic to implement as far as competent human resources is concerned. Provision for adequate training will be necessary. Future developments will be watch with great interest.



Ruth Sullivan and Cristl Jerry, two of the Manx delegates at the CL AGM

C.J.K.

Carn 19

# Sellafield Visit - Concerns Remain Over Discharges

This AGM:

Welcomes the nine month moratorium on discharges of Technetium-99 from Sellafield announced by the British Environment Minister, Elliot Morley.

Calls on the British to extend that moratorium indefinitely.

The United Kingdoms nuclear industry has featured regularly on successive agendas of the Celtic League annual meeting.

The League welcomed, the news that there is to be a moratorium on Technetium-99 discharges from the Sellafield Plant. However, Bernard Moffatt, General Secretary warned that despite this year's AGM optimism the Celtic League needs to remain vigilant - our monitoring and campaigning will go on.

Secretary General

## Statement from Phil Gaune, MHK

Following my recent visit to Sellafield in August I remain concerned over many aspects of the nuclear waste disposal and reprocessing operations carried out on the site. There are two significant points which came to light on the visit -

1. BNFL has no intention of complying with the UK Environment Minister's call for a moratorium on Technetium 99 discharges.

2. The BNFL process for getting rid of Technetium 99 is likely to lead to discharges of harmful organo-phosphates instead.

The visit for me was quite reassuring, however, many of the concerns remain. These concerns include the often misleading stories and spin emanating from both BNFL and the various UK departments responsible for activities at Sellafield.

A few months ago, for example, the UK Environment Minister called for a cessation of discharges of Technetium 99 - the only remaining radioactive element discharged into the Irish Sea. We were led to believe that this moratorium on discharges would begin in September and last for nine months. However, BNFL officials made it quite clear on our visit that such a cessation of discharges would not be possible and it appears that the UK Environment Minister has no powers to impose this ban.

It was also made clear on our visit that a trial will be taking place in October of a process which BNFL has developed to try to remove Technetium 99 from water prior to its discharge into the Irish Sea. The introduction of this process has been



*Bernard Moffatt, Secretary General, addresses the AGM on the Celtic League's campaign work and commitment to the closure of Sellafield.*

held up by NIREX (the UK agency responsible for finding an ultimate resting place for all the UK's radioactive waste.)

NIREX was concerned that the new process for removing Technetium 99 would produce a waste product which would be unsuitable for long term storage. However, following considerable political pressure from Ireland and Norway for a cessation of radioactive discharges, it now seems that the previously unsuitable process has become acceptable to NIREX and the trial can take place.

Full results of the trial are expected to be released in December/ January, however, it is predicted that the new process will result in considerable reductions in radioactive discharges. Unfortunately there may well be a down side to this new process. It seems that the chemical involved in removing the Technetium 99 is an organo-phosphate (OP) and it is likely that some of this OP chemical will be discharged into the sea following this process.

It seems more than a little surprising that the new process will result in the discharge of OPs which have a proven health risk, in place of Technetium 99 which is generally not considered to have any scientifically proven risk.

I believe that the Manx Government is right to continue to call for the closure of Sellafield and the first step must be an end to all radioactive and chemical discharges from the site.

*The visit was arranged by the Department of Local Government and the Environment (DoLGE) and British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) and three MHKs (Members of the House of Keys) and two MLCs (Members of the Legislative Council -including the DoLGE Minister) were on the trip.*

(Edited)

## Adoption of Environmentally Friendly Measures Sought

- This AGM calls upon all authorities with jurisdiction over seas bordering and surrounding the Celtic countries to make compulsory the use of "dolphin friendly" fishing nets.
- This AGM calls upon the Isle of Man Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to cease the destruction of natural habitat and viable agricultural land with the widespread and largely unnecessary plantation with coniferous trees.

In a letter to (Isle of Man Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture) Mark Kermod, CL Assistant general Secretary addressed the resolutions regarding 'dolphin friendly' fishing nets and the destruction of natural habitat and viable agricultural land. Text of letter below:

Dear Mr. Rimmington,

As you are no doubt aware, the EU has instituted limited trials of "Dolphin Friendly" fishing nets. The Celtic League feel, however, that existing evidence has demonstrated the worth of these measures and their adoption should be widespread and immediate.

We understand that the problem relating to dolphins occurs primarily with pair trawling. I do not know of any Manx vessels that engage in this method, but if there are or if it were to happen, then perhaps your Department could provide grant assistance for the special nets.

In the case of non-Manx vessels, it would naturally be a matter for themselves to acquire suitable nets.

On the matter of coniferous tree plantation, a substantial area of upland is under conifer plantation which impacts substantially on the environment.

You may recall that Mr. Donald Gelling undertook to cease planting in reservoir catchment areas after the link between conifers, aluminium salts and Alzheimer's disease was established. This undertaking never seems to have been implemented, however.

Conifer plantations have a marked impact on soil quality and, in particular in relation to improved land, the labour of decades is effectively destroyed once the land is sown with these trees.

On the upland moor land, habitat for native flora and fauna is, perhaps irreparably, destroyed for a crop of questionable commercial value. I am sure that you have walked through these plantations and are so aware that they offer little in the way of alternative habitat and ecology.

## FINANCE SECTOR IS "HANGING BY A THREAD"

The latest job vacancy and unemployment statistics from the Isle of Man Treasury show that the boom is over and, whereas the relative figures for unemployment remain low, the trends of both vacancies and unemployment show that the Isle of Man economy is slowing on an ongoing basis.

Over the past four years, the moving average of job vacancies reported to the Department of Trade and Industry has shown a straight line fall. Conversely, the number of registered unemployed "bottomed" in 2000 and is now showing an exponential rate of increase.

Another reliable indicator of the economy is the housing market. During the past few months, the number of houses advertised for sale within the Isle of Man has rocketed as the "clever money" get out while the going remains reasonable. Unfortunately, this does not necessarily mean that Manx people, all too often kept out of the housing market by the untrammelled influx of economic refugees to the Island, will have a better chance of getting onto the housing ladder: Housing prices have not fallen as yet and by the time they do, the employment climate may prevent them from being able to secure mortgages.

There is also the potential problem of negative equity for those who bought at

the peak of the latest boom. Mec Vannin foresaw this problem some time ago and this year's AGM passed the following resolution which has been sent to the Treasury Department:

"In light of the increasing possibility of mortgaged properties in negative equity and the Treasury Minister's frank admission that the finance sector is "hanging by a thread,"\* this AGM calls upon the Isle of Man Government to provide support to vulnerable first-time buyers who may face financial ruin from a situation that is of the government's making."

*"This admission was made in the spring of this year to two other Members of the House of Keys in a foyer outside the sitting-chamber, unaware that the exchange was witnessed by a member of the public."*

The Treasury Minister, Alan Bell, is the central figure in an independent Commission of Inquiry that found that there was corruption in the system of Manx government. He is currently subject to investigation by the House of Keys standards committee after the Commission found that he had knowingly misled the House of Keys. He rejects the finding.

Mark Kermode, Chairman / PRO, Mec Vannin

## Attorney General Fails to Control UK Media

This AGM expresses concern at the failure of the Isle of Man Attorney General to take action against media sources or distributors who breached sub judice rules by publishing and distributing comment relating to the Solway Harvester tragedy.

There was genuine empathy between the people of the Isle of Man and the people of Kirkcudbright following the foundering of the MFV Solway Harvester off our shores. The Manx community were as one when government determined that they would raise the wrecked vessel and recover the bodies of the dead seafarers.

There was a great desire to find out what had caused this tragedy and when it became apparent that legal action was to be taken against parties there was a desire that nothing prejudicial to due process should occur.

Our concern arose when, with proceedings underway, the United Kingdom Marine Accident Investigation Branch published a potentially prejudicial report.

Media on the Isle of Man were immediately proscribed with a direction from the Isle of Man Attorney General that they should not publish the report or sections of it.

Bizarrely, however the Attorney procrastinated whilst UK newspapers carrying comment on the MAIB report were distributed on the Island. He also failed to take action when TV services utilising transmitter facilities on the Island carried the comment.

The Celtic League AGM has condemned this inertia and we will be seeking an explanation as to why it was considered ineffectual to attempt to block this media intrusion on the Manx judicial process.

Secretary General

## Eat Kippers Controversy

Manx Minister for Local Government and the Environment, Pamela Crowe, MLC, caused controversy by dismissing the notion of issuing iodine tablets to the Manx population in case of radioactive contamination, when she advocated eating kippers as a protection against radiation poisoning.

These tablets have already been issued to the populace on the eastern seaboard of Éire and to those in England near to the accident plagued Windscale / Sellafield plant which is soon to be decommissioned with the attendant hazards of accidental release of radiation. In the wake of Mrs Crowe's remarks Mec Vannin wrote to Dr. Ian H MacLean, Chief Administrative Medical Officer and Director of Public Health stating: "You are no doubt aware of the controversy surrounding DLGE minister Pamela Crowe MLC's quip about eating kippers as a protection against radiation poisoning.

Surely such a matter falls under your own remit. Do you have any plans to acquire iodine tablets for issue in such

an event which, in light of the Sellafield decommissioning, is perhaps a more tangible threat to the populace of the Isle of Man than "bioterrorism."

In his response Dr MacLean stated:

'We have held large stocks of potassium iodide tablets for many years, and these would be available in the event of a nuclear incident which might affect the Isle of Man. However, you should bear in mind that such tablets are only useful in certain types of nuclear incident.' He went on to disagree with Mec Vannin's risk assessment vis a vis other types of threat: 'it would require an enormous release from Sellafield or elsewhere, together with certain weather conditions, for the Island to be affected, and even then, the probability of contamination levels requiring the issues of tablets would be very low. In my opinion, the risks from other types of accident or deliberate action are far more significant.'

Mark Kermode

American Branch

Internet Site

[www.celticleague.org](http://www.celticleague.org)



# Celtica



## A TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICA LATINA'S FIRST BARD

The Celtic historic-literary genre in South America arose with the help of the translator and writer Roberto Rosaspini Reynolds, the First Bard Druid in Latin America who died on the 19th of April this year.

The appreciation of his works illustrates the importance of the Celtic culture across the whole American continent. The distance that separates our region from the lands of Celtic origin does not prevent a faithful and firm interest in that heritage. Even though music is the major inspiration of Celtic interest, the contribution of the works of Rosaspini Reynolds has proved to be the ideal complement for perfect propagation.

Towards the end of 1990 journalists and documentary cameraman, decided to pay tribute to his Irish and Galician heritage and started transmitting his knowledge about Celtic civilization collected during his time in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany.

Through the publishing company, Ediciones Continente, Rosaspini published his first **Celtic Collection** consisting of 10 volumes in Spanish which can be found in the most important bookstores from Tierra del Fuego (Argentina) to Miami (USA) and in Spain. Most of the titles have surpassed the 12th reprint, showing the literary value and high level of interest in his work. His books are evidence of his skill in introducing and enthraling the reader to Celtic history and mythology; translating and compiling the fantastic stories about elves and fairies and the wide variety of elemental beings that form the ancient Celtic literature.

Given a special gift to reflect in a simple, lively and didactic way a part of the universal history withheld from the public for centuries, he received the recognition of thousands of readers. This sailor had reached his place to dwell too soon; this Bard Druid still had plenty to offer to the transcendent contribution the Celtic people gave to humankind.

**SUSANA SHANAHAN**  
Translation Gabriela Grillo

Born in 1940 in el Bolsón, Río Negro, Argentina, Rosaspini was married and with one son. He started his literary experiences as a translator, alternating this with being a photographer and cameraman of nature and fauna. From his '60s contacts he integrated a London BBC documentary team. His writing arose from different sources, among them the Chamanismo, Argentinean legends and traditions, and native legends. He was fluent in English, French, Galician, and Irish Gaelic and also had knowledge of various aboriginal languages and German.

\* On the 18th September, a ceremony was held in Buenos Aires to pay tribute to Roberto Rosaspini Reynolds. An international Celtic literary contest will be launched on that occasion. This contest was organized by Ediciones Continente and supported by the Movimiento Celta Argentina, the Irish and Spanish Embassies in Argentina and the Secretary's Office of Culture in Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires will be the meeting point of Celtic storytellers from all over the world.

The Celtic League has sent a message of support for this major event which Susana Shanahan will read at the opening ceremony of the contest. Anyone interested in participating in the contest may contact Susana Shanahan at [plumpu@arnet.com.ar](mailto:plumpu@arnet.com.ar)

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## OASA - Iniquitous Legislation

**This AGM: Expresses concern that the Irish government, which is ostensibly committed to International Human Rights principles, continues to maintain on its statutes the provisions of the Offences Against the State Act.**

During the course of the past several years we have as an organisation expressed repeated concerns about retention on the Irish Statutes of the Offences Against The State Act (OASA).

Our Dublin conference once again addressed the vexatious issue of this legislation and we were unanimous in our condemnation.

Paradoxically, within days the legislation was once again in the public arena with its use resulting in what has been referred to, in contemporary media, as a 'success for justice'.

The conviction of Michael McKeivitt could only be achieved by a Special Court sitting without a jury and listening to witnesses whose evidence had been bought! What sort of strength does such a conviction have? It highlights everything that is wrong with this iniquitous legislation and begs the question; do we wish to see a system based on the normal rules of law and fair trial? The alternative, which OASA provides, is a system based on the security for the State of ensured convictions.

OASA and the Special Criminal Court have been condemned internationally and we reiterated our condemnation.

We hold no brief to support the men of violence or those who would challenge the State by illegal means, but a State cannot challenge alleged lawlessness by bending the rules and this is just what the De Valera government did over sixty years ago.

OASA and its legislative provisions should be consigned to the dustbin of history!

**Secretary General**

# CELTIC LEAGUE AGM 2003

The Annual General Meeting of the Celtic League 2003 was held on the weekend 2/3rd August at Áras na Comhála, Kildare Street, in Dublin. Delegates from the six national branches of the League heard reports on the work of the League over the last twelve months and also considered a wide range of resolutions dealing with the Celtic languages, human rights, the Irish peace process, the proposed European Constitution and environmental issues.

The Secretary General of the League highlighted concerns that the organisation has expressed over the past twelve months about the ongoing tribunal enquiries in Ireland and there was also a report on the conclusions published in the first part of the Isle of Man Planning Enquiry (Mount Murray)

Unlike previous years this issue of *Carn* will not merely carry a list the resolutions passed at the AGM, instead background details are given with some of the key resolutions. These resolutions are placed in the relevant country sections. The remaining resolutions adopted are carried here in the *Celtica* section.

The Celtic League AGM does not view the outcome of the European Union Convention and proposed EU Constitution as beneficial to the smaller nation states such as Ireland as it does away with the principle of equality and the shifts the balance of power to the bigger states and EU institutions

However this AGM of the Celtic League holds that the five Celtic Countries within the multinational states of Britain and France have the right to develop to independence and become full member states of the EU. We call on the EU Convention to make changes to the proposed EU constitution which would facilitate the Celtic Countries (and indeed other national minorities within the multi national states) achieving full EU member status.

#### **This AGM:**

**Refutes attacks on the Celtic League, in response to comment by the League on the Mount Murray corruption enquiry, by the Chief Minister of the Isle of Man.**

**Reminds the Isle of Man government and governments in the other Celtic States of the Leagues unwavering commitment to expose and publicise any corruption, maladministration or institutional wrongdoing in any of the Celtic countries - in line with the decision of its 2002 AGM.**

#### **This AGM:**

**Bearing in mind the opposition of the Celtic League to the formation of the Royal Irish Regiment supports the call of Alex Atwood, AM, and other concerned politicians for the disbandment of the regiment.**

**Believes that the latest revelations about the regiment confirm concerns about its sectarian basis and make its continued progress inimical to the progress towards peace in the North of Ireland.**

**This Celtic League AGM demands that the British Government call immediate elections to the Assembly in the North and that they implement the Good Friday Agreement in full, particularly British promises on demilitarisation.**

## International Branch Internet Site

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## THE BACKYARDS OF HEAVEN

*An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry from  
Ireland and Newfoundland &  
Labrador*



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McKenzie  
and John  
Ennis

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"Edmund Burke, the great Irish orator of the eighteenth century, wrote of 'the ties which though light as air are as strong as links of iron.' In the twenty-first century, the ties that bind both Ireland and Newfoundland are splendidly evoked in this anthology of verse from poets on both islands."  
Agnes Aylward, Director, Ireland  
Newfoundland Partnership.

## British Government's Maginot Mentality

#### **This AGM:**

**Views with concern the failure of the United Kingdom government to implement those aspects of the Good Friday Agreement which dealt with demilitarisation of military installations in border areas of Northern Ireland.**

**Expresses alarm at the continued use and refurbishment of some of those installations in the South Armagh area despite the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the population. Calls for all the installations to be speedily removed.**

Growing frustration with the British government's failure to demilitarise in South Armagh and other Border areas of the North of Ireland has led the Celtic League AGM to once again tell the British Army "its time to go".

It is now almost a decade and a half since the League condemned what we termed the British government's *Maginot Mentality* towards security in the area.

In the intervening period we have actively pursued a campaign alongside community groups in the area to achieve a British pull-out.

It is only by visiting the area and meeting the people of South Armagh that you learn just how de-stabilising the British military presence has been. It impacts on all in the community but particularly on the children many of whom have had to grow up, attend school and play with the constant ominous presence of the British Army.

There is also an environmental price which has been paid because little thought was given by the Ministry of Defence to the long-term impact when it littered the hills of South Armagh and other border areas with fortified bases and observation posts.

The Celtic League stands shoulder to shoulder with the communities in these areas in demanding an end to that presence. This is what the resolution we adopted (set out below), which will now be pursued with the UK government, means.

Secretary General

## Dangerous New Extradition Treaty

This meeting of the Celtic League views with grave concern the new extradition treaty drawn up by the United States and British governments.

In light of the harsh treatment of John Eddie McNicholl by the US Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), the Celtic League believes that this legislation is contrary to the US commitment to the promotion of peace and justice in the North of Ireland and could be directed against Irish-American organisations and their supporters.

We call for this treaty to be abandoned, and call upon the US Senate to reject it.

Concerns over proposed new extradition treaty between United States and United Kingdom were highlighted in a report to Celtic League Central in July 2003 by Margaret Sexton of the US Branch.

An article by Ray O'Hanlon from the Irish Echo of August 20-26, 2003, reports on US lawyers' alarm at the new extradition treaty. O'Hanlon quotes Francis Boyle, a professor of law at the University of Illinois, as saying that the treaty is aimed less at suspected Real or Continuity IRA people, and more at Irish-American organizations and individuals.

A second article from the New York Times of 23rd July 2003 by Thomas J. Lueck entitled 'U.S. expels Irishman in 70's case' which reported the arrest and deportation of John Edward Anthony McNicholl of Pennsylvania, by US federal immigration agents. Further details of McNicholl's arrest were found on the Irish American Unity Conference Web pages. It would seem that John McNicholl was arrested as he left for work early on the morning of 17th July 2003. He had lived openly in America since 1984. His arrest came without warning and he was not allowed the opportunity to tell his family, who were distressed to witness his being bundled into a car and driven away.

Mark Lockerby, International Branch Secretary

## 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: Stg£12; €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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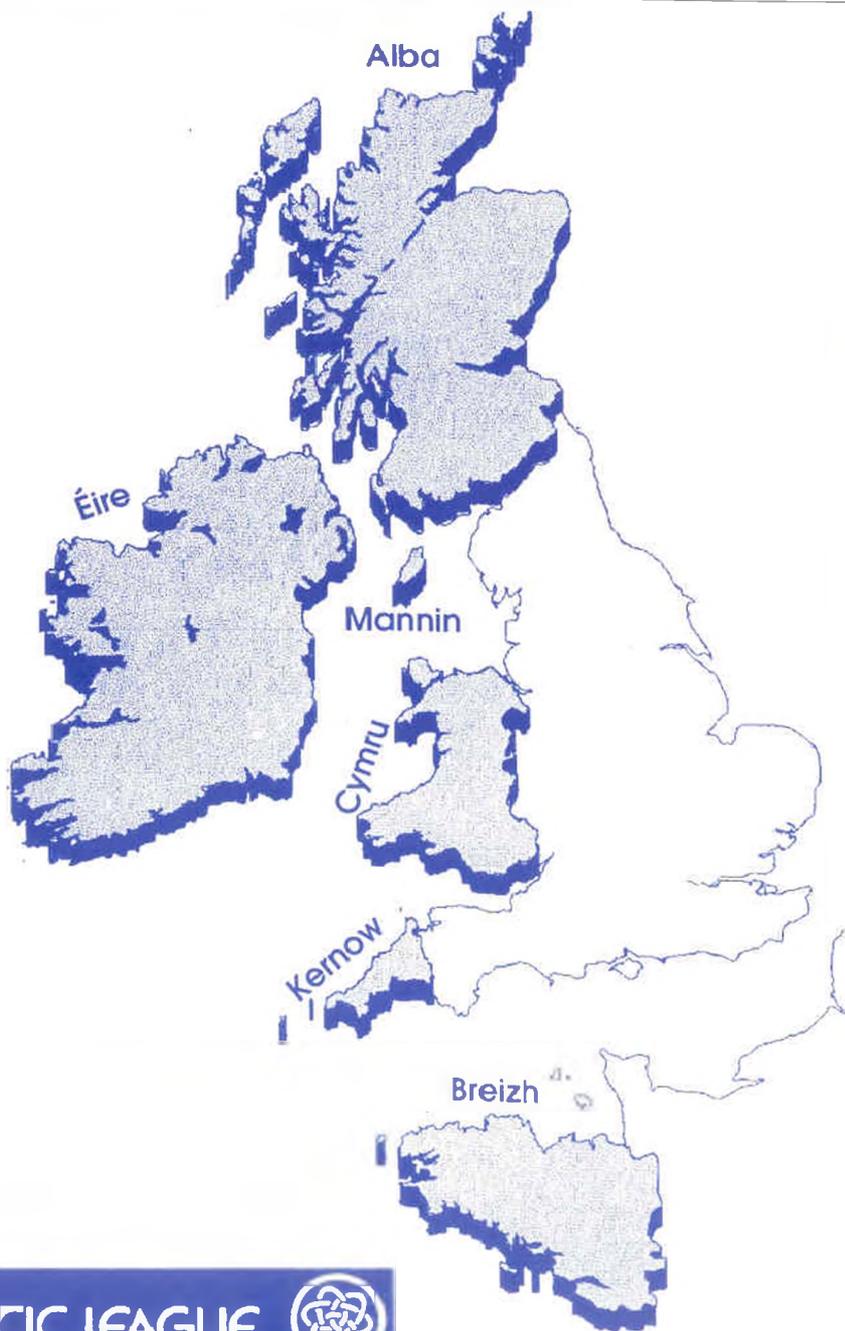
# COMANN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 124

Winter 2003/04

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- Scots Independence Campaigners search for Unity
- Support DIWAN and Breton Prisoners
- Victory for Cymuned Anti- colonialists
- Ireland, Neutrality and the EU
- Cornish in Europe
- Manx Nationalists attack Government
- An Airgintín Cheilteach

**ALBA:** COMANN  
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE





Chan fhaca sinn leabhar Bile a bhios a' tighinn on Phàrlamaid Albannach cho briagha ris a sin. Rud eile, tha e dà-chànanach le dealbhan a' toirt brosnachadh Ghàidhlig.

Ach nuair a tha sinn a' leughadh cumtasan eile air a' Bhile seo chì sinn gum bheil imcheist ann.

Ach nam biodh sinn ag èisdeachd ris na deasbaireachdan eadar Micheil MacBhaltair is Micheil Rusal agus na fianaisean sa Phàrlamaid no ann an t-seomar comataidh, tuigidh sinn fac an d'fhàinig a' Bhile seo.

Bhon a tha an dà Micheil le chèile a nìs an deasbaireachd seo, thuig an Riaghaltas Albannach gun robh e feumail fuasgladh fhaighinn agus fhuair an Riaghaltas an fhreagairt bho theisteanas airchoirigin.

Thagh an Riaghaltas na thuir an fhianais Chuimreach. Uime sin, tha tomhas againn a' dèanamh coimeac eadar an Achd aca agus mar a tha i ag obair anns a' Chuimrigh agus mar a bhios i ag obair an seo ann an Alba. Is docha gum bheil a' Bhile ri fhaighinn fhathast bho Welsh Language Unit, Directorate for Culture Sport and Welsh language, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathys Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

Sa chiad dol amach, tha litir on Mhinistear an Fhoghlaim, Peadar Peacock, a sgrìobhadh eachdraidh na Gàidhlig againn, taic a fhuair ar cànan gus a seo, an t-iartras air son iùbhe laghail, aithisgean Mhic a' Phearsain is Meek ... achdan coltach an tè againn, sa Chuimrigh sa bhliadhna 1993 agus ann an Èireann am bliadhna seo.

Faisg air crìoch an leabhair seo chì sinn mar a chaidh ar cànan sìos on Achd an Fhoghlaim 1872 a bha an aghaidh na Gàidhlig agus dhùin gach sgoil Ghàidhlig.

Mu dhèidheadh, dé thuir an leabhar seo ach... "bhiodh sinn toilichte ur beachdan a chluinntinn" gu 9 Faoilleach/January 2004.

Tha an leabhar seo ri fhaighinn, an asgaidh, sgrìobh... Roinn I-A. An t-Aonad Gàidhlig, Spòrs, na h-Ealain agus Cultar,

SEED, Cidhe Bhictoria, Dun Èideann EH6 6QQ, Alba/Scotland, no fon (0131)244-4942 no facs (0131) 244-0353 no e-mail [bilena-gaidhlig@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bilena-gaidhlig@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) no fosgail [www.scotland.gov.uk/bilenagaidhlig](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/bilenagaidhlig).

Cò nach eile toilichte gun do dh'fhoillsich ar Riaghaltas a' Bhile seo agus aig a' Mhòd Naiseanta am bliadhna ann an Oban Lathurnach far an do thòisich e ceud bliadhna seo chaidh.



Ach tha sgrùdaidhean measail cèadaichte cuideachd... Sa chiad dol amach, carson nach robh geall gum biodh croileagan is teagasg tre na Gàidhlig san sgoil ri fhaighinn mar chòir?

San darna : àite, chuala sinn an fhianais a thàinig as a' Chuimrigh nach robh cumhachd feumail a thaobh ùghdarrasan ionadail an sin ach e an impidh no persuasion a-mhàin. Ach am bi e daonnan as fheàrr an seo?

A bheil an Riaghaltas deònach airgead a thoirt air sgath luchd-teagais teagaisg tre na Gàidhlig a dh'ionnsachadh?

Agus a neartachadh am media. TV, radio is paipearan mar a tha àireamh nan Ghàidheil a' dol am meud.

Dé mu dheighinn club anns gach cearn far am biodh na Gàidheil a' cruinneachadh is a' bruidhinn ri chèile sa Ghàidhlig?

Agus, san àite mu dheireadh, comharraidhean no signs air na rathaidean, mar air an Eilean Sgitheanach, agus àitean eile... am biodh an Riaghaltas deònach leosan a chuideachadh cuideachd?

Ach tha aobhar de dh'aoibhneis gum bi a' Bhile seo air beulaibh na Pàrlamaid againn ach cha bhiodh a Bhile seo luachmhor mur eil na Gàidheil agus luchd taic na Gàidhlig daonnan misneachail.

Ach, carson nach eil còir laghail aig a h-uile paisde agus na parantan aige/aice deònach Gàidhlig a ghnathachadh anns a' chroileagan is anns an sgoil far am beul teagasg tre na Gàidhlig?

Cò dhiu, chòrd an leabhar seo uamhasach math riunn, mar eisimpleir ... air duilleag 5 ... "Tha ceangal do-sgaraichte aig fearann agus sluagh na h-Alba ris a' Ghàidhlig. Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil freumhan Ghàidhlig aig mòran de ar sloinnidhean ach air feadh Alba b'e ginealaichean de luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig a thug na h-ainmean do mhòran de ar bailtean agus aibhnichean, cruic... Mar le cultaran agus cànaichean dùthchasach eile, tha a' Ghàidhlig cuideachd a' feuchainn a' dol an aghaidh làmh-an-uachdair cànan Shasainn agus cultar Ameirega air feadh an t-saoghail."

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich (Gilleasbuig Lachlainn "Illeasbuig)

#### Summary

It is possible to get a copy of the Consultation Paper on the forthcoming Gàidhlig Language Bill by getting in touch with the Gàidhlig Unit, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh of which the details can be found in the text above. It is in both Gàidhlig and English and is delightfully illustrated. The Welsh Language Bill may still be available at the above Cardiff address.

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## SCOTS INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGNERS SEARCH FOR UNITY

Reading the UK press after the May Scottish Parliament elections you could be forgiven for thinking that the pro-independence forces had sustained a major setback. However the truth is that despite the SNP losing 8 seats there are now more MSPs in support of independence than there were in the previous parliament. The figures are 37 then and 41 now.

The difference is explained by the spectacular breakthrough achieved by Scottish Socialists and Scottish Greens both of whom favour independence. The former have returned 6 members and the latter 7.

Although the SNP remain the leading pro-independence formation in the parliament the election has not been an entirely comfortable experience for them.

The key lesson is that the SNP no longer has a monopoly of the pro-independence vote and that some form of broad front to unite these forces is needed now.

This has been recognised by leading SNP member Alex Neil MSP and by a key figure in the Scottish Socialist Party Alan McCombes who edits the party's weekly Scottish Socialist Voice.

Both have supported the idea of a pro-independence Constitutional Convention similar to that which played a key role in winning the present parliament. Both have, in their different ways, stressed that unity for national freedom does not involve abandoning distinctive policies in other areas. McCombes told the SSP's national council in October that the drive for an Independence Convention did not involve "dipping the banner of Socialism" and stressed that the party would continue to fight for key demands in its programme such as an income based local service tax and free school meals.

In a paper on the subject Neil stresses that the SNP should remain a moderate Left of Centre party but points out that the Greens and SSP gained a combined 13.6% of the vote in the second list ballot in May.

All this looks encouraging with the SSP approving the policy heavily at its national council and signs that the SNP leadership may take it up.

Problematic so far has been the approach of the Scottish Greens who have appeared luke warm on the convention, at least at leadership level.

However there is clearly a new dynamic in the pro-independence movement in Scotland and it seems likely that if progress is to be made as the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scotland being "bought and sold for English gold" into the British state in 1707 looms the a united front will be needed.

Ken Ferguson

## GÆLIC EDUCATION NEWS

Minister for Education and Gaelic, Peter Peacock, warned local authorities that they face sanctions if they fail to meet their obligations to monitor demand for mainstream education in Gaelic.

Announcing a series of meetings with councils Mr Peacock said that the authorities have a crucial role to play in safeguarding the language. Currently, 300 children enrol each year in Primary One classes in which pupils learn all subjects while speaking in increasingly fluent Gaelic.

Campaigners argue that, with 1,500 Gaelic speakers dying each year, the number entering the immersion classes is not high enough to prevent the language becoming extinct.

Mr Peacock said: "I want to send the clearest possible signal to education authorities that I take the advancement of Gaelic medium education very seriously - it is the key to strengthening a fragile language - and Parliament was clear what it wanted through the explicit measures in the 2000 Act..." The Act placed significant duties on education authorities to monitor the demand for Gaelic and to encourage its development.

In a strongly worded warning, he stated: "It is early days yet in the application of the improvement framework under the 2000 Act, and while much progress has been made, I will not hesitate to use powers to issue statutory guidance, if the further development of education authority improvement plans demonstrates that is needed."

Mr Peacock has asked authorities and the new development body, Bord Gàidhlig, to set up a joint group to monitor provision and suggest improvements. Mr Allan Campbell, the chief executive officer of Bord Gàidhlig, said yesterday it was important that education authorities do more than respond to existing demand for classes, highlighting research by Professor Richard Johnston at Stirling University, who found that children are advantaged by bilingual education. These findings are supported by numerous other studies carried out in the other Celtic Countries.

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### Scotland and the Cold War

Editor Brian P Jamison.

Price £12.99. 192 pages. 2003,  
ISBN 0954441613.

Scotland and the Cold War investigates some of the country's experiences during the Cold War period, covering such topics as: the effectiveness of the disarmament movement in Scotland; the role of the Church in the peace movement; Scottish participation with the Communist Party of Great Britain; the presence of the UK's nuclear deterrent in the west of Scotland and the legal complications activists encounter in their attempts to decommission what has been described as a 'Cold War relic'; the psychological and historical implications of the Cold War and the presence of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in West Germany. Scotland and the Cold War is currently the only study of the impact of the Cold War on Scotland. This book is likely to be of interest to anyone involved in disarmament or environmental issues.

#### Chapters include:

- The Role of the Churches in the Peace Movement: Alastair Ramage
- Scottish Communists in the Cold War: Professor Willie Thompson
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- Will they blow us a' tae hell? Strategies and Obstacles for the Disarmament movement in Scotland: Brian P Jamison
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Brid Hetherington

# Breizh

## 75<sup>vet</sup> DEIZ-HA-BLOAZ GOURSEZ KERNEV VEUR

Ur bloavezh arbennik e oa er bloaz-mañ evit an Emsav kerneveurek. Bloavezh ar 75<sup>vet</sup> deiz-ha-bloaz Goursez Kernev Veur e oa. Dale'het e voe e Lannstefan (Launceston e Saozneg) d'ar 6<sup>vet</sup> a viz Gwengolo. Un deiz brav e voe leun a heol. Ret eo dimp kaout soñj e voe krouet Goursez Kernev Veur e 1928 gant Henri Jenner hag a voe Barzh Meur kentañ Goursez Kernev Veur war skouer re Vro Gembre ha Breizh. Dre ma'z oa deiz-ha-bloaz arbennik e teuas kalz tud ha kalz kannadoù eus Breizh ha Bro-Gembre, en o mesk Arc'hdroviz Bro Gembre. Arc'hdroviz Bro-Gembre a lennas e brezegenn e Kerneveureg ha plijus voe an dra-mañ evit meur a dud. Bez' e voe ivez kalz tud o virout ouzh kerzhadeg ar varzhed e stratoù Lannstefan. Gwelet e voe ivez kalz bannerioù « Gwynn ha Du » Kernev Veur ha harpet voe ar manifestadeg gant Kambur Kenwerzh kêr Lannstefan. Ha kavet voe e kelaouenn *Western Morning News* d'an 9<sup>vet</sup> a viz Gwengolo pennad skrivet gant Simon Parker anvet « Kernow Vyw » (Kernev Veur ev).

Kurunet e voe ar Barzh Meur nevez ivez an deiz-se. Rod Lyon e anv. Den pouezus e-mesk an Emsav eo Rod Lyon. Eñ a labour evit ar yezh abaoe meur a zegad-bloaveziou. Komz a ra Kerneveurek ent-klok hag eñ a vezo harpet gant Vanessa Beeman, kannad nevez ar Bardh Meur, kerneveuregerez ivez.

### Summary

*This year saw the 75th anniversary of the Cornish Gorsedh that was held in Lannstefan (Launceston in English). It was a very beautiful day and a very special date for the Cornish Movement. A lot of representatives from the Breton and Welsh Gorsedh came, among them, the Archdruid of Wales who made his speech in Cornish. Lannstefan was full of Cornish flags and there was even an article published in the Western Morning News. The new Grand Bard, Rod Lyon, a fluent Cornish speaker was crowned. The Deputy Grand Bard, Vanessa Beeman is also a fluent Cornish speaker.*

José CALVETE

## Human Rights High on the Agenda of the Breizh Branch

*Looking at 2003 AGM Resolutions Gi Keltik explains their background and the branch's commitment to Human Rights*

### Devolution:

The French Prime Minister, JP RAFFARIN told the people he was going to work for those in the lower income groups. "la France d'en bas"...unfortunately President CHIRAC and his right wing party (UMP) are opposed to DEVOLUTION...and the Charter for the Lesser Used Languages. By the way the budget for our land of Brittany is under five billion euros, most of the Lander and Regions of EU have budgets of more than fifteen billions euros. Anyway they are in favour of modifications in the old French administration, but the conservative trade-unions and the communist lobbies (CGT+FSU+CNAL+) are very opposed to any modifications in state bodies like : E.N.+EDF+AirFrance+. The Government proposals in terms of DEVOLUTION were small from the beginning and the demonstrations in the education sector (E.N.) in spring time will not help...so this second part of the French DEVOLUTION is going to be very weak. France is far behind the UK., or indeed Italy & Spain which are also Latin states...

### Boycott...French in the Celtic nations' universities...?

The French school state body (E.N.) has stopped the Breton course at the university of NAONED. The French constitutional body (Conseil d'Etat) told us last year, that: "French is the language of the French Republic". France is developing a process in which Republicanism i.e. Jacobinism is THE religion of the state. A few years ago, while the President Jacques CHIRAC, refused to sign the "European Charter" Turkey did!

The Breton branch of the Celtic League is very much in favour of Rights for the Lesser Used Languages in the EU., so we called for discussion on a boycott of French in the universities in the Celtic countries, agreeing with D. O'Neill, (ICDBL) from Canada. A boycott is a peaceful process to open the French eyes on Human and Language Rights here in Europe.

### Prisoners...5 years...NO TRIAL!

The AGM resolution about the six Bretons prisoners is all about Human Rights as far as the Breizh Branch is concerned...especially because the French government and their media are very proud of "their" 'Human-Rights Declaration'. The Breizh Branch is very much in favour of UN & EU Human-Rights legislation.. We are also opposed to all lobbies that are not ready to condemn violence.

## Ireland... e-tal an dazont...

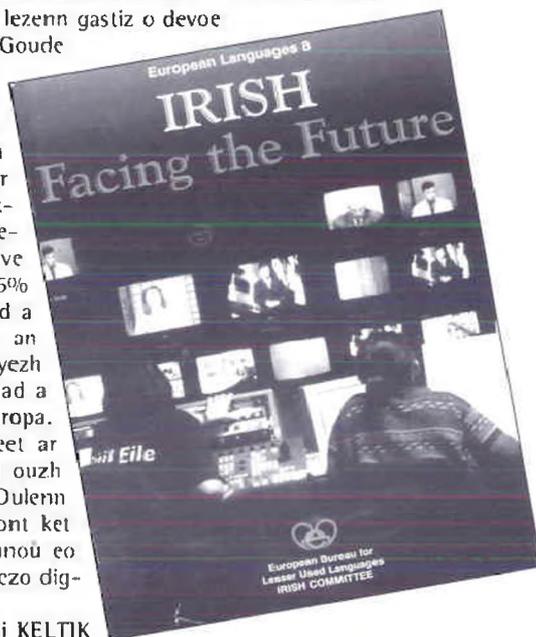
Evel ma oar an holl eo ar gelled indo-europeaned. Ar pep brasañ anezho zo en em staliet war an enezennoù kelt tro ar pempvet kantved a-raok Jesus-Krist. An Angled-Normaned a grogas d'en em staliañ war-zu reter Bro-Saoz, tro dro ar pempvet kantvedgaude J. Krist.

An dud-se a grogas da ober o annez e Bro-Skoz tro an 11<sup>vet</sup> kantved.

Annezadurioù Cromwell (1650) hag al lezenn gastiz o devoe

kalz a levezon war an iwerzhonegerien. Goude an naonegezh veur (1846-1849) ne oa nemet ur c'hard eus ar boblañs a oa iwerzhonegerien. E 1922 pa voe savet ar Stad dieub e voe lakaet an iwerzhoneg da yezh vroadel e-barzh ar vonreizh Ar sondadeg e 1966 a zikouezas e oa 1.43 milion a iwerzhonegerien. Pemp dre gant anezho gant ul live mat-kenañ, 10% gant ul live mat ha 25% gant ul live o vont war fallaat. Ireland a zeuas e-barzh Europa e 1973 met an iwerzhoneg ne oa ket lakaet da yezh labour. E 1986 ur c'hannad iwerzhonad a savas ur goulenn ouzh Prezidant Europa. Abaoe Emglev Maastrich e vez aotreet ar geodedourien da vont en iwerzhoneg ouzh an aozadurioù. Abaoe 1982 en deus Dulenn ivez ur burev evit ar yezhoù na vezont ket implijet kalz. Goude bezañ bet kudennoù eo serr ar burev-se bremañ. Klaouestre e vezo digoret en-dro an abretañ ar gwellañ.

Gi KELTIK



*Irish - Facing the future* is a booklet on the history and present day position of the Irish Language which was produced by the Irish member state committee of the Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. It gives a good overall summary and while it is unfortunately out of print at present a new revived edition is in the making.

# DIWAN: €260,000 Shortfall for 2003

At Diwan's spring press conference it was revealed that there was a shortfall of €400.000 for 2003. After all kinds of cultural activities during the summer time Diwan's Board still needed to find €260.000 on Samhain's Day (Hallowe'en). For sure the black months of the year... (miz DU & miz KERZU=XI+XII) are going to be hard for the immersion Breton schools. The beginning of 2004 may be worse for financial reasons...

In order to understand the situation, a little background information about Diwan's recent past - Andrew Lincoln and Diwan-Kozh's Team worked hard for years to put their school in the Public State school system (E.N.) However, at the end of the day, in November 2002, the Council of the State stated that there was: NO way to accept an immersion school in the E.N... "French is the language of the Republic" Then new financial troubles began for the new Team "Diwan-1st"...

On the basis of information given in September by the Board to the trade unions, the SLB (Sindikad Labourerien Breizh) decided to go on strike and demonstrations (Karrez ha Gwened) took place in mid-October because they were not sure they would be paid in November and December.

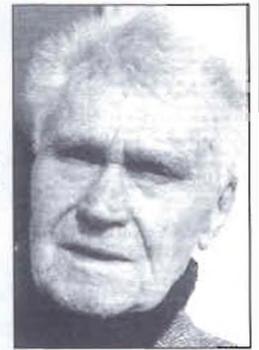
Diwan's Board, who was waiting for a RDV with President de Rohan from the Council of Brittany, decided to organize a press conference the following week. Firstly, the number of pupils is stable at 2757 units, but unfortunately, the primary schools lost 100 children. There were no new classes and drastic cuts were introduced on all kind of charges for the re-opening of the new school year in 2003. In order to make up the deficit of 10% in the global budget of 2003 (= €2.7M\*) the Board had requested the Council of Brittany to add €195.000 to the €380.000 already agreed in order to reach the €577.000.

"All elected people from different parties are willing to save our Breton language... It's a good opportunity to show their good will" said ANN Le CORRE. She was quite optimistic to be able to pay the wages in November and December 2003. She reminded the unions (SLB+CFDT+...) that Diwan-Enterprises had reserve funds.

The question is of course what level of contribution would be forthcoming from the Council of Brittany and the consequences on the treasury - January & February might be very hard...

President de ROHAN said: NIET to Diwan's proposition. In his letter he reminded the Board that according to the Council of State Diwan was under the private school law (loi Debre). Therefore, it would be illegal for the Council of Brittany to pay for councillors who are employed by Diwan schools. Otherwise, like catholic families who are required to pay €150 per teenager each year, Diwan's families must do the same. Padrig HERVE was quick to inform him that the contributions of parents and friends of Diwan were already contributing up to €288. Everyone understands that for the Republican lobbies (cf.:UMP+PC+...) it's not enough to fight against the concept of immersion so they are now trying to go on the principle of laicity - free education. President de ROHAN in the run up to elections has kept the door open for a special help... On the other hand, Diwan's Board announced a range of actions in November and December. Wait and Help... lets keep Breton alive, because there's no Brittany without Breton...

Gi KELTIK



Polig  
Monjarret  
R.I.P.

Polig Monjarret, who died in Dec. of last year aged 83, was a leading figure in the Breton cultural renaissance that began in the 1940s. A piper, he was also a collector, and two volumes of his life's work, *Toniou Breizh-Izel*, contain more than 6,000 Breton airs. He was a founder of *Bodadeg ar Sonerion (BAS)*, the Breton pipers' association, and he had reason to be proud of the organisation's achievements. For the 50 pipers of the 1940's, there are now thousands with a good degree of mastery of their instruments. It has been estimated that in the 60 years of its existence BAS has trained over 30,000 pipers. It has also fostered the emergence of the bagads, modelled on the Scottish Pipe Bands.

He lived outside Lorient in Pleoumer where he established the Breton Conservatory which conducted classes in all aspects Breton culture and folklore. His knowledge of the Celtic tradition encompassed Cornwall, Galicia, Ireland and Scotland. He was in 1974 a founder of the annual cultural festival, *Interceltique de Lorient*, which began in Brest as a gathering of pipers. It now attracts a million visitors over 10 days and features between 50 and 60 pipe bands, some from as far away as Japan.

He had a special interest in Ireland and was a promoter of Breton-Irish links, being responsible for the twinning of Breton and Irish towns that began with Lorient and Galway and continues to this day, the most recent example being Roundwood, Co Wicklow and Spezet. He visited Ireland many times, got to know many of the country's leading musicians and in 1974 delivered a paper on the *bombarde* at *Eigse na Trionóide*. He invited Irish artists and pipe bands to Brittany and persuaded Brittany Ferries to establish the Roscoff-Cork route. He also organised holidays in Brittany for children from the North of Ireland.

An accomplished cook, he had his own TV series in which he extolled the virtues of traditional Breton dishes. Archaeology was another major interest. He was married to the noted traditional singer, Zaïg, who had toured widely in the 1950s and 1960s, including to Ireland, and who died in 2000. His daughters, Soazig, Nolwenn and Gwenola, survive him.



## Kampagn skoazell Diwan 2003 evit dazont ar skolioù

### LET'S KEEP BRETON ALIVE

In the five Breton administrative departments the Breton language is a strong cultural asset, which is an integral part of our identity. However if we don't do something - now - all together our language risks extinction. This method contributes to the survival of the Breton language, of course, but it also helps children to value cultural diversity and to develop their open-mindedness.

The state rejection prevents and obstructs public recognition but in no way undermines our will to carry on the educational innovation and expansion of this cultural initiative.

Today we appeal to you to help us in our hour of need. This is indeed a turning point for the Breton language. We need everyone to contribute at this critical time. Join the population of Brittany, ex-pats and friends everywhere so that Breton may thrive!

HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET. SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRETAGNE

### THERE'S NO BRITTANY WITHOUT BRETON

10,000 contributions of 50 Euro will allow 2,800 Diwan pupils to continue their education in Breton and the growth of the Diwan network. However little all contributions are welcome.

Cheque to be sent to: DIWAN BP 147 29411 LANDERNE BRITTANY  
<http://www.diwanreizh.org/>



**RONAN HUON  
PROMINENT FIGURE IN  
BRETON CULTURAL  
MOVEMENT DIES**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, at the age of 81 years, of Ronan Huon, a prominent figure in the Breton cultural movement. In early October following a heart operation his condition deteriorated and he died on Saturday 19th of October. There was great difficulty in having a Breton mass in the church. The family had to say "No Breton, no mass!" - and the Breton mass was then accepted and held at Iliz St Mark, Brest

A lifelong worker and significant figure in the Breton cultural revival he was born of Breton speaking parents in 1922 and during his life remained fervent in his support for all things Breton, becoming a prolific writer and publisher in the Breton language. He was for many years editor of the Breton literary revue *Al Liamm*. He founded a publishing house of the same name which published over 200 books in Breton including the dictionaries of Roparz Hemon. He played a pivotal role as a leading figure in several Breton cultural organisations.

Per Denez

**Plaid condemn Labour's  
reluctance on Welsh-  
medium schools**

Plaid Cymru Shadow Education Minister, Helen Mary Jones congratulated students on their "tremendous achievement" after the publication of A-level results in August showed that pupils in Wales had done better than ever before, but expressed her concern about lack of progress by the Labour Government in the Assembly in extending and securing the provision of Welsh-medium higher education. She said:

"These results are astounding and I congratulate all the students and teachers involved. However, I have grave concerns about future generations of pupils in Welsh-medium education. Our Welsh-medium schools consistently secure impressive exam results but the Labour Government in Cardiff is unwilling to make any moves to secure their future in terms of educating the teachers of the future."

"We must make sure that the pupils leaving school today have access to Welsh-medium higher education at university. If that option is closed to them, where will we find the teachers of the future to maintain the high standards we see in Welsh-medium schools?"

"Labour's Education Minister in the Assembly, Jane Davidson has rejected every single proposal to expand this sector - including one which was fully costed in a report which Ms Davidson herself commissioned.

The Celtic League had joined the widespread condemnation of Davidson's refusal to allow Caerffili council to open three new Welsh-medium primary schools, on grounds so pedantic that it could only be unionist-motivated hindrance of the restoration of Welsh.

**Commission must  
move quickly to  
protect minority  
languages**

Plaid Cymru MEP Eurig Wyn has pressed for urgent progress on minority languages ahead of European Union enlargement, saying that the key demand from a recent major conference on linguistic diversity at the European Parliament in Brussels was that the European Commission must not delay in preparing adequate support measures for minority languages ahead of EU enlargement.

The conference heard that after the 2004 EU enlargement an estimated 46 million minority language speakers will live within the Union's borders. Euro-MPs have already backed



*Eurig Wyn*

proposals to set up a European Agency for Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning and the establishment of a multi annual funding programme for linguistic diversity. The conference was addressed, amongst others, by Slovak Deputy PM Pál Csáky. Chairing the conference, Eurig Wyn MEP (Plaid Cymru) said "We are on the eve of an unprecedented enlargement of the European Union. Next year, 10 new countries will join the Union and both their official and regional or minority languages will be added to the European linguistic mosaic. It is crucial therefore that we assess the emerging linguistic situation and we bring together and put in direct communication those people concerned by the challenge of Linguistic Diversity in the new Europe.

"The new, enlarged European Union will include at least 46 million speakers of minority languages. This is a substantial number of people who speak a language other than the official language of their nation state, a language in which they may conduct their everyday life or which may well be the main language of their communities. The Commission must acknowledge - as I'm sure they will - that this is no trivial matter."

**DEMONSTRATION FOR THE BRETON POLITICAL PRISONERS  
Nantes on February 21st, 2004**

C.A.R.B (Coordination Anti-Répressive of Brittany) has called a demonstration in support of the Breton political prisoners on February 21st, 2004 in Nantes. (14.00 hrs, in the Place of Business).

CARB calls on every person, political movement, association or syndicate in agreement with the subject of this event, "Condemned before being judged, More than 2, 3 and 4 years of temporary detention for Breton 6. "to come along and support us. Updated information will be posted on the Internet site: <http://manifnantes.iquebec.com> and the Web site of CARB: <http://www.prizonldi.org>.

Let us note for information that of these 6 persons, 1 is in temporary detention for more than four years!!!! 4 for more than 3 years and 1 for more than 2 years!!! One of them is really at risk of death in prison because he suffers from diabetes, type 3, which cannot be correctly looked after in prison. Amnesty International has noted this situation in one of its last reports. Another one of the prisoners also has health problems, a file has just been sent by the CARB to Amnesty International on this subject.

Also let us note that in the case of one of them, Judge Thiel, antiterrorist judge, ordered his continued detention against the opinion of the antiterrorist public prosecutor's department which asked on three occasions for his release!!! Thiel opposed the public prosecutor's department by advancing his "personality" and, its "indisputable influence on the Breton independence movement."

Let us mobilize to denounce this situation! BE IN NANTES ON FEBRUARY 21ST at 2 PM FOR THE PRISONERS

Contacts: by telephone: 06.72.35.13.27 By e-mail: [Manifevrier@aof.com](mailto:Manifevrier@aof.com)

Write to the political prisoners; see addresses on web sites of CARB (above) and Skoazell Vreizh [www.skoazell-vreizh.org](http://www.skoazell-vreizh.org)

## “BE’ ??” Gwnewch fatha’r Saeson!

Pasiwyd cynnig mewn cynhadledd yn yr haf y llynedd (2003) yn galw ar Gymry “i gynnal pob sgwrs yn y Gymraeg ac i fynnu gwasanaeth Cymraeg yn mhob agwedd o’u bywydau”. Mae hyn yn bofisi y dylai aelodau’r Undeb Celtaidd fod yn ei weithredu, yn enwedig pan fyddwn ni yn y Fro Gymraeg lle colons, nid brodorion di-Gymraeg, fydd y Saeson yn gweithio mewn swyddfeydd a siopau. At ei gilydd nid oes gan Saeson barch tuag at ieithoedd eraill, ac mae hyn yn fwy gwir, o bosib, am Saeson America a’r di-Gymraeg yng Nghymru nag am Saeson Lloegr. Pan fyddant mewn gwlad arall, a dieithryn o’r wlad yn digwydd siarad â nhw yn iaith y wlad, “Pardon??” neu “Wha’(t)??” fydd yr ateb yn ddigon croch, ac os daw’r un cwestiwn eto, yr un ateb fyddan nhw’n weiddi, yn uwch na’r tro cyntaf. A thrwy agwedd fel hyn mae’r Saeson yn araf gymryd drosodd y byd yn ieithyddol, yn ogystal ag yn wleidyddol. Agwedd sy’n ennill sydd ganddynt. Efallai y buasai’n talu i ni gopïo peth o ffordd ein gormeswyr, nid mewn

gwledydd eraill, ond yn y Fro Gymraeg ei hun. Mewn gwledydd eraill dylai Cymro bob amser drïo arfer iaith y wlad mae ynddi. Ond yn y Fro, pan fydd colons yn trio gwithio Saesneg arnoch, yn lle eu hateb yn Gymraeg a rhoi cyfle iddynt regi arnoch, neu gymryd arnoch beidio â deall, beth am olyn yn ddigon uchel “Beth ??”, ac ar ôl yr ail dro cerdded i ffwrdd os na ddaw’r cwestiwn yn Gymraeg. Dim angen eich cyfiawnhau’ch hun nag ymddiheuro na dim. Mae’n hawdd - yn hollol fel mae’r Saeson yn wneud, a nhw sy’n ennill. Efallai na fuasai’n deg gymryd agwedd felly hefo twristiaid a phobl eraill sy’n byw y tu allan i’r Fro, a gallai fod yn gall fod yn fwy hyblyg mewn ardaloedd Saesneg o Gymru. Ond mae’n werth ei drïo.

Rh. G.

### Précis

*English-speaking nations are taking over the world, linguistically as well as politically. Perhaps we can learn from some of their ways.*

## LABOUR TRY TO CENSOR CYMDEITHAS LOBBY ON HOUSING

Following publication of the Assembly’s draft budget in mid-October, Cymdeithas yr Iaith held a lobby of Assembly Members (ACs) to draw their attention to the lack of commitment shown to aid locals gain access to housing in the colonisation-threatened Welsh-speaking communities, with a view of improving the draft for the final version appearing in November. Cymdeithas Chairman Huw Lewis said:

*“With the present situation in housing, our communities are facing threats as never seen before. ... The government should ensure an increase in the money for the home-buy scheme. Also money should be provided for setting up a ‘Hawl i Rentu’ (‘Right to Rent’).”*

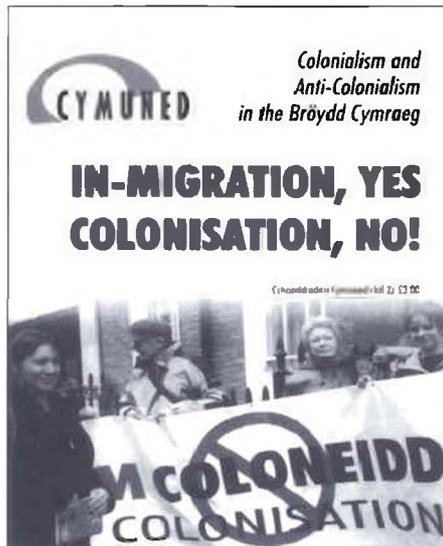
The lobby proceeded despite an attempt by some Labour party ACs to undermine it. The lobby had been booked for the main hall since July, but two weeks before the lobby Cymdeithas received a note from the Assembly saying such an event could not be held in the main hall and moving it to a side room. Subsequent investigations found that the arrangements had been changed because of complaints by some Labour ACs. Cymdeithas made a formal complaint, supported by the Plaid ACs Elin Jones and Leanne Wood.

## VICTORY FOR ANTI-COLONISTS IN CEREDIGION

Cymuned, together with Llais y Cardi and Cant Ceredigion, local groups in Ceredigion, and supportive individuals, have won an important victory against the treacherous plans of Ceredigion Council and their leader Dai Lloyd Evans to build 6500 new houses in the county, attracting enough English colonists to end any hopes of retaining Ceredigion as a Welsh-speaking area. The campaigners have succeeded in obtaining enough signatures on a petition to force the council to hold a referendum on creating the post of an elected mayor. The holder of such a post would be able to put a stop to the council’s housing plans, and without doubt there will be a candidate standing with the same intention.

Of course, the council leaders and their English friends can be predicted to campaign for a ‘No’ vote in the referendum. And if we gain a ‘Yes’ vote it is likely that Evans or one of his cronies will be a candidate in the election for mayor. So there is still a way to go.

Cymuned had put a major effort into this campaign and estimate that some 8,000 of the 8,474 signatures collected had been collected by their members.



A joint declaration by Llais y Cardi, Cymuned and Cant Ceredigion (our translation):

“Today we can announce that 8,474 inhabitants of Ceredigion over 18 have signed the petition requesting a referendum in Ceredigion on having an Elected Mayor to

lead Cyngor Ceredigion.

This amounts to about 15% of the population of Ceredigion aged over 18.

In order for the petition to be successful we had to obtain the signatures of 10% of Ceredigion electors that is 5,306.

(...)

If (the petition is validated) ... Cyngor Sir Ceredigion will be legally obliged to hold a referendum ... and to inform the Petition Organiser by 4 December 2003.

(...)

The widespread support for this petition shows the depth of the dissatisfaction in Ceredigion about the quality of democracy in the county. In particular, the petition is a proof of the dissatisfaction with the Unitary Development Plan, the plan to build up to 6500 new houses in the county.

No councillor was elected in Ceredigion on a manifesto of building 6,500 houses. The council have ignored the bulk of the 11,000 individual objections presented during the public consultation. Last year Cymuned presented a petition of 5,500 names to the Council asking them to reconsider the number of houses to be built, and the petition was ignored.

If a referendum to have an elected Mayor is held ... and won ... the electors, and not the councillors, will decide the fate of Ceredigion.”

# CYMRU IN BRIEF

## **New Plaid president:**

Plaid Cymru have elected Dafydd Iwan as their new president to replace Ieuan Wyn Jones AC. Dafydd Iwan has already a long and distinguished career in the national movement as a former leader of Cymdeithas yr Iaith, a patriotic singer, and a prominent councillor in Gwynedd. The other candidate in the leadership vote was the respected former AC and MP Cynog Dafis. Ieuan Wyn Jones AC (Ynys Môn) continues as the Plaid leader in the Assembly, and Elfyn Llwyd MP (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy) is the Plaid leader in the London parliament. The Cymru branch of the League wish renewed success for Plaid under Dafydd Iwan.

## **"Independence" allowed:**

Plaid Cymru's leadership have said that members may now describe the party's aims for Wales as 'independence' if they wish. Traditionally Plaid have not used this term, preferring 'self-government' or 'full national status', on the internationalist basis that no nation, even if sovereign, is independent of all others in the world. In this, Plaid have contrasted with the SNP who have always used the 'i-word'. But in recent years the hostile media, in the dumbed-down level of discourse they have created, have tried to confuse a word with the concept it stands for, and made out that Plaid were hiding something by not using this term, so the avoidance of the word 'independence' was becoming a liability. It is hoped that this change of approach will relax the situation.

## **'Anti-Welsh Mirror' no more - job done:**

The 'Welsh Mirror', the 'Welsh' version of the English daily the 'Daily Mirror', is no longer being produced. Since the first elections to the National Assembly, when Plaid Cymru threatened Labour more than expected, the Labour-supporting tabloid introduced a special edition for Wales, ostensibly to give coverage to the extra Welsh issues involved with the Assembly, but more apparently to counteract the increased confidence in Wales by giving the working-class Mirror readership a daily dose of antinationalism, invective against the Welsh language and Welsh-speakers, and Labour propaganda. Its attacks on Welsh Wales inadvertently drew attention to the colonization problem and influenced the development of Cymuned. However, with the 2003 election past, and Labour having recovered much lost ground and now running the Welsh government, it seems the controllers of the 'Welsh Mirror' saw that its job was done and that the extra expense of producing it was no longer necessary.



**Dafydd Iwan**

## **Cymdeithas rally for Welsh-speaking communities:**

Cymdeithas yr Iaith held a rally in Cardiff on November 15th to call for steps to alleviate the housing crisis in the Welsh-speaking communities, following publication of the Assembly's budget which did not include any significant contribution to the situation. The rally followed the lobby in October aimed at the draft budget. The speakers included the Plaid AC's Alun Ffred Jones (Caernarfon) and Leanne Wood (South Central list).

## **Speaking Welsh in parliament:**

In September, Plaid Cymru Euro-MP Eurig Wyn gave part of a speech in the European parliament, on protecting minority languages, in Welsh. The parliament translators had been given a translation of the sentences beforehand. It is not permitted to speak in Welsh or any other Celtic language in the Westminster parliament, and Plaid MP's who have used Welsh there have been ruled out of order.

## **Cymdeithas picket McDonald's:**

Cymdeithas held a series of protests in the autumn outside McDonald's restaurants in Caerfyrddin (Carmarthen), Aberystwyth, and Cardiff, to call on the fast-food multinational to introduce a proper Welsh language policy instead of the present tokenism. Spokesman Rhys Llwyd said (translated): *"Like so many other private companies, McDonald's do not respect the right of Welsh people to use Welsh. Sometimes there is an occasional Welsh sign here and there, but they do not make proper use of Welsh. The Welsh government need to ensure a New Language Act that*

*will compel such companies to provide a complete Welsh service."*

## **New company to run Welsh railways:**

The Strategic Rail Authority have given the new Wales and Borders train franchise to the Arriva transport group. Previously, trains on the north coast line were run by First North Western (that is North West England!), while the mid Wales and southern areas were run by Wales & Borders Trains, part of the National Express group. (Since Beeching in the '60s the Welsh railway system has been severed into three sections which are only connected by lines running through England). For the first time now, one company will run all Wales-internal services and control all Welsh stations. It is to be seen whether Arriva, who have not run trains in Wales before, will be good news for the status of the Welsh language. Of the outgoing companies, Wales & Borders had made some progress in enhancing the use of Welsh e.g. bilingual pre-recorded platform announcements, and they appeared more supportive than First North Western. But some ground has been lost since rail privatisation e.g. while permanent hard signs are often bilingual, temporary posters and notices are in English only, while British Rail used to provide some of these bilingually too, and Welsh-speaking staff on trains in Welsh Wales such as the Cambrian Coast line have become a lot less frequent. Language activists will be keeping a watch on the situation.

**RapT**

## **A year of picketing in Pwllheli:**

In August Cymuned marked the 52nd consecutive Saturday on which members of the Lleyn branch have picketed estate agent offices in Pwllheli. During the year of campaigning Cymuned have won concessions from estate agents such as Beresford Adams and Dafydd Hardy who have agreed to draw attention to the nature of Welsh-speaking communities in their literature, advertise bilingually, and give sellers the choice of advertising their house only locally. The picket would now 'move' to Porthmadog, it was announced. A similar picket in Caernarfon had been going for nine months.

## **Swyddfa Cymuned Office:**

Mae Swyddfa Cymuned wedi symud i: / Cymuned's office has moved to:  
Cymuned, 1. Rhodfa'r Gogledd  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. SY23 2JH

Yr un yw'r rhif ffôn - (01970) 617036 - is the 'phone number as before.

## **Cryno-ddisg Cymuned:**

Mae cryno-ddisg Cymuned, 'Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd', wedi ei gyhoeddi - cryno-ddisg ddwbl gyda 37 o ganeuon arni. Os na fu gennych gyfle i'w bachu yn yr Eisteddfod, gellir ei harchebu trwy'r post trwy anfon sicc am £15 i swyddfa Cymuned (1 Rhodfa'r Gogledd, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2JH) yn daladwy i "Cymuned".

# WELSH INTERNATIONAL SOCCER STATUS SECURED

FIFA, the international ruling body for football (soccer), at a conference in Qatar, has approved statutes recognising the right of Wales and Scotland to be represented at international level separately from England. While Cymru and Alba have always had their own international teams able to compete in the World Cup and European Championship, there has been through the years opposition to their presence, often politically motivated, with demands for a single "UK" or "GB" team, from elements within Wales, England and elsewhere. Therefore, as well as highly valued, Wales's international status has been felt to be, at times, rather brittle, it being rare for stateless nations like Wales to be allowed such status in world sport. With the new statutes in place, future amendments will require agreement from 75 percent of FIFA members.

MEPs from Cymru and Alba united to welcome the continued independence of the Welsh and Scottish football teams. Plaid Cymru Euro-MP Eurig Wyn, and SNP Euro-MP Ian Hudghton, speaking from the European Parliament in Strasburg, expressed their delight that the national teams have been expressly recognised in the new statutes of FIFA, ensuring their long-term existence.

The MEPs said that the news from FIFA was a tremendous result. Fans could now relax and look forward to future matches without any fear of the creation of a single "GB" team. Eurig Wyn, who represents the whole of Wales in the European Parliament,

said, "FIFA are to be commended for enshrining Wales's place in what is essentially the constitution of world football. Wales are on the brink of reaching their first international finals in decades - and the team have done the whole nation proud. The profile of Wales has been raised considerably in recent months - and it has been a wonderful example of what Team Wales can do when we stand up for ourselves. I look forward to the day when an Independent Team Wales stands up for the country on every international body".

## MP CALLS FOR FULL INTERNATIONAL STATUS FOR WELSH ATHLETICS

Adam Price, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, has called for Welsh Athletics to be awarded full international status. Speaking during the 2003 World Athletics Championship at Paris, Mr Price said that it would be a massive boost for Welsh Athletics if Wales would be allowed to compete as a separate nation in future

The World Championships are held every two years. If Wales were allowed to compete, it would improve the structure of Welsh



Adam Price, MP

Athletics, as it would create bi-annual cycles for Athletics in Wales to target ... At present Welsh Athletics is focused purely on the Commonwealth Games. Being allowed to compete at the World Championships would offer an additional platform. Our international profile as a nation would also improve. The impact a victory by a Welsh Athlete at the World Championships representing Wales would have on our international profile as a country is plain for everyone to see."

"My understanding is that the IAAF, which is responsible for organising the World Athletics Championships, recognises Wales as a separate Athletics nation, and would have little opposition to Welsh athletes competing under the Welsh banner. This seems to indicate that the opposition to a separate Welsh entity at the World Championships resides within athletics in the UK.

The situation with the Olympics is different, as the IOC only recognises nation states. Due to the present constitutional settlement, Wales would still have to compete as a part of the UK team."

## 'Break the Stranglehold'

A Welsh Euro-MP has called for cooperation between the small nations of Europe to break the "stranglehold" of the big member states on European Union affairs in the European Parliament. Plaid Cymru MEP Eurig Wyn, in a specially arranged meeting in the parliament between representatives of the European Committee of the Regions and members of the European Parliament, said:

"Five new countries smaller than Wales will join the EU next year. An alliance between these nations - Estonia, Latvia, Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia - is vital, if the EU is to progress along democratic lines. At present the EU faces a stranglehold through the increasing influence of large all-powerful member states wielding disproportionate influence in the Council of Ministers."

The meeting was called to discuss how the "regional" and small state agenda could be enhanced in a future Europe. Members from Catalonia, Ireland, Wales, the Basque Country and regions of England attended. Eurig

Wyn, a member of the European Committee of the Regions before being elected to the European Parliament, added:

"I see no reason why stateless nations and small nations could not appeal to the Court of Justice on the basis of the Treaty of Fundamental Rights that will be enshrined in EU law, in defence of their democratic rights as nations in Europe. Wales is likely to be offered only four seats in the European Parliament in the new term, in comparison with the 12 members who will represent Ireland, with a similar population, or Luxembourg, with the population of Gwent, who will have six Euro MPs.

The latest draft of the European Constitution calls for a representation in proportion to population numbers. Some calculations show that indeed, some countries are currently grossly over-represented, for example Ireland and Sweden. Ireland benefits from this imbalance more than any other country having more than twice the number of Euro-MPs than can be justified on the basis of population numbers.

Nice Treaty rules mean that, with ten new countries joining in time for the elections, the others must give up some seats to make room for the new MEPs. The European Parliament currently has 626 members. The Treaty of Nice would extend the upper limit on the number of MEPs to 732. The current 15 EU countries would then be represented by 535 members to make way for MEPs from the enlargement countries. The English state currently has 87 seats—one MEP for every 690,000 people. It must now drop its allocation to 72 seats, or one MEP for every 833,000 people. As a result Wales, will go from having five MEPs to four which means Wales, currently with one MEP for every 580,000 people, will have one MEP for every 725,000 people.

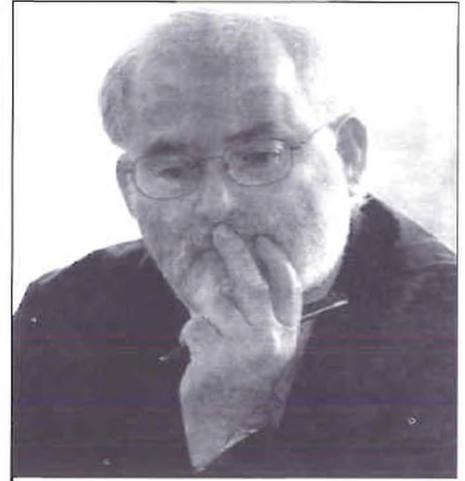
Ireland, currently with 15 MEPs, will lose only 3 members leaving it still over-represented with one MEP for every 300,000 people. Maybe more incomprehensible is the fact that Luxembourg will keep its 6 MEPs which equates to a quite astonishing one MEP for every 66,600 people.

# Celtic League Seminar on Language and Planning in the Gaeltacht and Bröydd Cymraeg

The Irish and Welsh branches of the Celtic League collaborated to organise a seminar on the Irish language and planning in the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking areas) and the position of Welsh in Bröydd Cymraeg (Welsh speaking areas of Wales) in mid October. The seminar entitled 'Tithe nó Teanga, Pleanáil nó Díothú?' (Houses or Language, Planning or Destruction?) was held near an Spideál, in the Conamara Gaeltacht. Introducing the seminar Cathal Ó Luain, Celtic League Convenor, said the aim was to share the experience of those in North and West Wales where language communities are suffering from the adverse affects of large scale English speaking immigration but have mobilised in recent years to combat this threat with language activists in Conamara where the same pattern has emerged. The Welsh branch made contact with the community based language body

Bernsford/Adams, which will make it easier for local people to buy housing. They actively canvass incomers to learn Welsh, run language classes and an 'adopt a learner scheme'. They are running a major campaign to elect a mayor in Ceredigion to try to stop that Councils plan for 6,500 more unnecessary houses ( see p.7 for update on this). On the planning side while Welsh can be regarded as a planning consideration for the last fifteen years there has been very poor use of this. The main mechanism is Section 106 agreements which require three, five or ten years residency.

The chair of the meeting, Seosamh Mac Donncha, outlined the situation in Conamara. Here many non Irish speaking people had moved into the Gaeltacht (amongst them families of returned emigrants). This was having a deleterious effect on the use of Irish as a community language



*Seosamh Mac Donncha, Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha, University College, Galway who chaired the seminar*

Carna, the villages on the edges of the real Gaeltacht as these are the areas most under pressure from people without Irish moving in.

- Those without Irish, particularly those with families, should be hindered from residing in real Gaeltacht areas.

- Housing schemes are a particular problem. All buyers should be able to qualify for the Dept of the Gaeltacht grant schemes (this would apply to resale buyer also) - that is by an Irish speaking family. Council housing schemes should be used to keep Irish speakers together in the Gaeltacht.

- Language Impact Statements (LIS): It is clear that these have had little impact in the way planning permissions were judged. If the LIS says a proposal will have a bad impact on language usage then permission should be refused. However there is little point in requiring them at all in areas within the official Gaeltacht where Irish is no longer spoken. The Dept of the Gaeltacht should have a role in LIS preparation.

There was a very good debate after the speakers presentations. There were many lessons to be learned from the community based activities of Cymuned. It was suggested that Conamara activists should examine founding an organisation similar to Cymuned. The event achieved extensive media coverage. It was included on TG4 news, on Radio na Gaeltachta news and on a number of R na G discussion programmes both before and after the event and also covered in an interview on Radio Wales.

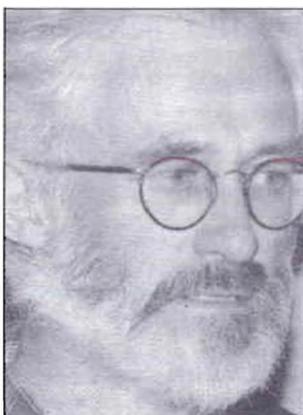
It will be of interest that in a landmark decision in early November Galway County Council only granted permission to an application for 12 houses in An Cheathrú Rua, Conamara, on condition that a legal requirement be agreed that the houses be sold only to Irish speakers. This decision has special interest for An Spideál where planning applications are with Galway County Council for a scheme to build 30 apartments in the middle of the village and another for 51 houses on the edge of the village. If permission is granted and the same conditions are stipulated for these (as they hopefully will be) it could have the effect of strengthening the position of Irish in An Spideál.



*Aran Jones and Simon Brooks of CYMUNED*

CYMUNED who supplied two speakers, Aran Jones and Simon Brooks (Chair of Cymuned), for the seminar. At the seminar they outlined how CYMUNED came into being and their policies and campaigns (See CARN 122 and 123) to combat the effects of the influx of English speakers. They had targeted auctioneers and estate agents and won concessions from a major one,

and has caused difficulties in the schools. Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge had run a campaign to have the need to protect Irish in the Gaeltacht in planning decisions recognised and at one level this was successful with a requirement being introduced in the Planning Act 2000 for County Councils in whose counties there are Gaeltacht areas to take account of the language in the county development plan. Conamara councillor P. Ó Foighil (who could not be present because of illness) had proposed that planning permission be given only to Irish speaking families.



*Donncha Ó hÉallaithe*



*Seosamh Ó Cuaig, who engaged in the debate*

Donncha Ó hÉallaithe, a long standing language activist in Conamara, outlined how matters had developed with Galway County Council and the submissions he had made on the local development plan for the Gaeltacht. These were essentially;

- Particular attention should be paid to An Spideál and



# Éire



## AN AIRGINTÍN CHEILTEACH

Agus an nuachtán cáiliúil The Southern Cross á fhoilsiú i mBuenos Aires céad bliain ó shin, bhí an chuma ar an scéal go raibh todhchaí bhreá i ndán do phobal Gaelach na hAirgintíne. Faoi stiúir an Ghaeil uasail úd, Liam Bulfin, bhí seasamh agus misneach araon ag Gaeil na tíre sin a raibh cuma thar a bheith muiníneach orthu. I gceantar na Patagóine, bhí pobal bríomhar Breathnach (agus Breathnaise) ag maireachtaint leo agus a dteanga agus a gcultúr féin á saothrú acu in aghaidh an lae. An tráth sin, bhí borradh nár bheag faoi na pobail Cheilteacha san Airgintín – bhí cumainn iománaíochta á mbunú, ranganna Gaeilge ar siúl agus irisí dá gcuid féin ag na Gaeil, agus pobal bríomhar Breathnaise ag na Breathnaigh.

Le linn an chéad bliain atá imithe tharainn ó shin, áfach, tá athrú mór tagtha ar na pobail Cheilteacha san Airgintín agus ar an tír ina maireann siad sa tslí is, nuair a d'imigh réaltóga iománaíochta na hÉireann ar cuairt ann dhá bhliain ó shin. ní chun imirt in aghaidh foirne áitiúla a d'imíodar ach chun cluiche taispeántais a chur ar fáil don phobal ansin. Mar, ar chúiseanna éagsúla, níl an fás agus an fhorbairt a samhlaíodh a bheith i ndán don phobal Gaelach san Airgintín céad bliain ó shin tar éis teacht i gcrích. In imeacht an ama sin, tá cúinsí áirithe tar éis bac a chur le forás an phobail Ghaelaigh ansin, rud a thágann gur ag snámh in aghaidh easa atáid le fada an lá.

Scéal difriúil ar shlí atá ag an bpobal Breathnach sa Phatagóin. Toise gur pobal tuaithe go príomha iadsan, táid tar éis a stádas pobail a chaomhnú agus teacht slán trí bhlianta achrannacha nuair a bhí an chumarsáid leis an mBreatain Bhig lag go leor. Maisiú ar gach Eisteddfod anois is ea an toisceaireacht ón bPatagóin.

Ach ní bhíonn ar aon ní ach tamall agus le roinnt blianta anuas tá forbairt as an nua ag teacht ar chúrsaí na gCeilteach san Airgintín athuair. D'ainneoin a thad ón máthairfhoirse is atá an tír ó thaobh an Cheilteachais de, tá díograis mhór le brath athuair i measc Cheiltigh na hAirgintíne agus Mheiriceá Theas i gcoitinne maidir le saothrú a gcultúir dhúchais. Ní hamháin sin ach, le roinnt blianta anuas, tá daoine as cúlraí eile a cuir suime i gceol agus litríocht na gCeilteach. Dáiríribh, ba sna 1950í a thosnaigh an próiseas seo nuair a tháinig Éireannaigh, Albanaigh, Breathnaigh, Astúraigh agus Gailísis le chéile chun taitneamh a bhaint as an gceol agus an rince Ceilteach. Ba iad an dá cheannródaí Manolo del Campo, cean-

naire an phobail Astúraigh, agus Fidelis Rush, as an bpobal Éireannach, a bhí chun tosaigh sna himeachtaí sin.

Sna 1980í, nuair a bhí an Ceilteachas faoi bhláth ar fud na hEorpa, tháinig cor dearfach eile ar ghluaiseacht na gCeilteach san Airgintín nuair a bunaíodh Gluaiseacht Cheilteach na hAirgintíne i mBuenos Aires. Ansin, sa bhliain 1986, tháinig Eliseo Mauas Pinto, Manolo del Campo, Manuel Castro agus Roberto Albarinos, i measc daoine eile, le chéile chun Cumann Ceilteach na bPíobairí Gailíseach a bhunú. Deineadh Conradh Ceilteach na hAirgintíne as an eagraíocht sin ina dhiaidh sin.

Tháinig cuid mhór buíonta ceoil chun cinn ansin – tá beagnach caoga díobh sin anois ann agus cleachtann siad bailé, claisceadal, ceol uirlise, srl agus léiríonn an ceol Ceilteach le huirlisí cearta Ceilteacha. Tá

léachtaí, cúrsaí agus saotharlanna ar siúl agus múinteoir Gaeilge, Breathnaise agus Gaidhlig anois. Bíonn imeachtaí den sórt sin ar siúl ar fud na tíre.

Ón mbliain 1996 leith, tá forbairt déanta ar na meáin chumarsáide Cheilteacha. Bhí saol gearr ag roinnt de na hiarrachtaí sin ach tá roinnt eile ag treabhadh leo i gcónaí: na nuachtáin Viajero Celta agus The Irish Argentine Times, na cláracha raidió Plum Pudding agus Resonancia Celta, agus an foilseachán ársa úd de chuid an phobail Éireannaigh, The Southern Cross (a bunaíodh sa bhliain 1875). Leis an nuachtán Ogham agus an leis an gclár raidió Faro Celta, cíortar gnéithe éagsúla den chultúr Ceilteach.

Aithnítear Roberto Rosaspini Reynolds mar bhard tosaigh Mheiriceá Theas. Is scríbhneoir eisean atá tar éis Cnuasach Ceilteach a fhoilsiú le Ediciones Continente. Is cnuasach é sin a bhfuil 10 n-imleabhar ann agus tá sé ar fáil i leabharlanna Spáinneacha ar fud na cruinne. Ina theannta sin, tá iris ar-líne Sitio al Margen ann, iris ar a mbíonn faisnéis chuimsitheach faoi chúrsaí Ceilteacha ar fáil.

Tá suim ghníomhach sa Cheilteachas ag méadú i gcuid mhaith de tíortha Mheiriceá Theas agus Láir – an Cholóim, Veiniséala, Cósta Ríce, Panama, Santo Domingo and Peiriú, mar shamplaí – ach tá an chuma ag teacht ar an scéal gurb é Buenos Aires príomhchathair Cheilteach an réigiúin anois, de bharr obair mhór na gCeilteach ansin. Tá cuid mhaith déanta agus cuid mhór le déanamh fós!

Vivian Uíbh Eachach.



Foireann Iománaíochta Fahy Boys, Buenos Aires, 1931

cuid mhaith de na buíonta sin ar ardchaighdeán – Bran (a bhunaigh Eliseo Mauas Pinto agus Xandru Reguera sa bhliain 1997) mar shampla, ag a bhfuil an t-aon chláirseoir i Meiriceá Theas, agus is fada ceoltóirí den scoth ag teacht as na tíortha Ceilteacha chun seinnt san Airgintín do na sluaite buíocha.

Ar an taobh eile, níl aon dabht ná go bhfuil Ceiltigh na hAirgintíne gníomhach ina mbuíonta náisiúnacha féin agus nach mbíonn siad i gcomhar lena chéile minic go leor. Ní chuireann sé sin cosc le lear nua ceoltóirí, taighdeoirí, staraithé, múinteoirí teanga, ceardaithe, ealaíontóirí, filí, dealbhadóirí agus saineolaithé bia teacht chun cinn. Bunaíodh Cór Gaelach ann le déanaí. Bíonn

*This article describes the Celtic revival of recent decades in Argentina. Carn would like to thank Susana Shanahan, an Argentinean journalist who produces the radio programme Plum Pudding and is editor of Horoscope Celta and Vergara 2001, and Secretary of the Celtic League of Argentina for providing the information for this article.*

Suímh Idirlín Cheilteacha san Airgintín:

[www.geocities.com/branawen](http://www.geocities.com/branawen)  
[www.plumpudding.com.ar](http://www.plumpudding.com.ar)  
[www.almargen.com.ar](http://www.almargen.com.ar)  
[www.thesoutherncross.com.ar](http://www.thesoutherncross.com.ar)  
<http://www.hurling-club.com.ar>

# THE NORTH - STALEMATE?

At the end of October a chance to make further progress in bringing back the local assembly and bolstering the pro-Agreement parties was squandered in what seems to have been a very badly managed set of events by the British and Irish governments. While obtaining agreement of the various parties to a sequence of events (which was to culminate in a UUP statement that the party wished to see the administration reformed and was prepared to enter it again) may be difficult, it seems hard to credit that Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble would declare, ostensibly because of lack of transparency, after a major act of decommissioning of arms by the IRA, that he was putting 'the sequence of events on hold' or at least that his attitude had not been confirmed beforehand. The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) was bound by its terms of reference to deal with bodies in confidence and its head, General John de Chastelain, could only outline in general terms the extent of this latest act of decommissioning. All parties to the Good Friday would have been well aware of this. However there was agreement that the extent of the act was considerable. One ex-Irish Army officer with experience of such matters in the Middle East and Yugoslavia gave his estimate that as many as 400 rifles and machine guns and 20 rocket propelled grenade launchers could have been destroyed.

The date for elections to the Assembly had been set in any case for Nov. 28th. and the focus moved on to the election campaign and particularly on how the UUP would fare in competition for the Unionist vote with the anti-agreement Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Ian Paisley. The results showed what some commentators had suggested - a major swing to Sinn Féin from the SDLP on the nationalist side and on the unionist side a similar move from the UUP to the DUP. If Trimble had gambled on his stance in October improving his electoral performance within Unionism that gamble did not come



**Gen. de Chastelain, Head of IICD.**

off. The outcome in terms of seats and votes in the election is given below. There was a 63.8 % turnout. While demographic changes have indeed occurred in the North (1971, Protestants 966,000, Catholics 562,500; 2001, Protestants 858,000, Catholics 820,000) they have not happened at such a level on electoral registers as to have any effect on these elections but could indeed be an influence in future ones.

Anti-agreement Unionists are now in a majority in the Assembly and the DUP position was improved even further with the defection soon after the election from the UUP to the DUP of Jeffrey Donaldson and others of the anti-agreement rump of the UUP, bringing the DUP numbers up to 33. The DUP as the largest Unionist party is entitled to fill the first Minister's position while Sinn Féin should fill the deputy minister's posts. However under the de Hondt voting system which governs the Northern Assembly 50 % plus one of the nationalist parties and 50 %

plus one of the Unionist parties must support the election of the first minister and the deputy first minister. Paisley and the DUP of course called for renegotiation of the Agreement (and also ruled out working with Sinn Féin) while Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin has made it clear this is not an option. So the reconvening of the Northern Assembly is not on the cards at present. However the choice for the DUP is essentially government with Sinn Féin or no participation in government at all. Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has said the Agreement must stay; it was an international agreement which could not be changed without a referendum in the Republic. A joint statement from both Irish and British Governments affirmed the Good Friday Agreement as the only viable political framework and their commitment that its wide ranging provisions would continue to be implemented. While a review of the operation of the Agreement will be undertaken its fundamentals are not open to renegotiation. The views of all parties were invited.

While there was a small unionist majority in favour of the Agreement when it was voted on it can be said that the UUP have been reluctant partners in the enterprise. They were in a claw back mode from the beginning and used every opportunity to stall progress. In this they were supported by the British and Tony Blair. He suspended the institutions, postponed elections and refused to implement many aspects of the Good Friday agreement, particularly the cross border ones. With the eclipsing of the UUP by the DUP it could be said the Unionists now are not prepared to share power with the party that represents most of their nationalist neighbours but would rather direct rule from London. The British are likely to increase their pro-unionist stance in the face of the DUP victory and will press for more concessions from nationalists including pushing for IRA disbandment. However this pro unionist stance should not be accepted. If the Irish Government, even with lukewarm British support, cannot get Unionists to accept that the Good Friday Agreement is the way forward they should propose that the British set a date for withdrawal from the North and initiate discussions on all implications.

	Seats	1st Preference Votes	%	%Change from 1998
UUP	27	156,931	22.7%	+1.4%
SDLP	18	117,547	17.0%	-5.0%
DUP	30	177,944	25.7%	+7.6%
SF	24	162,758	23.5%	+5.9%
AP	6	25,372	3.7%	-2.8%
Oth	3	51,476	7.3%	-7.1%

## New Language Commissioner

Near year end the announcement was made of the appointment of the Language Commissioner whose role is to supervise and monitor the Irish Language Act and ensure that it is implemented. The Commissioner will have the power to investigate complaints and take legal action against any public body where requested information is not provided. Seán Ó Cuirreáin, who was Deputy Director of Radio na Gaeltachta, was appointed to the position. His appointment was generally welcomed and he is seen as someone who will be effective in the role. However the position was not advertised but filled by appointment of the Minister, a weakness which could lead in future to an ineffectual commissioner being appointed by a Minister with little enthusiasm for his brief. An action plan was published for the commissioner's work also at the same time as the announcement of the appointment. The commissioner will be based in Conamara.

# Ireland, Neutrality and the U.N.

On the 27th September 2003, there was a march to the Government buildings in Merrion Square, where a rally was held. It was attended by approximately 12,000 people who were protesting at the occupation of Iraq but also the Irish Government's tacit support to the American/ British invasion by allowing the U.S. forces to pass through Shannon Airport and allowing their military planes to refuel there. This is not the first time that the facilities at Shannon were used by the U.S. military, indeed U.S. military planes refuelled in Shannon Airport back in 1991 for the Gulf War. According to recent statements by the Irish Government, this has been an ongoing arrangement with the U.S.A., even as far back to the Vietnam War. This has led to a debate on Ireland's current policy of neutrality or military non-alignment. Fine Gael, the biggest opposition party currently in the Dáil, has come out in favour of dropping our current policy, to sign up to a common foreign and defence policy in Europe and join N.A.T.O. It had led others to set up an organisation in 1996 called PANA (The Peace And Neutrality Alliance), to advocate that Ireland retain an independent foreign policy, remain neutrality; i.e. military non-aligned and maintain our involvement in a reformed U.N., as the only global body that can deal with international and human crises. The Irish Branch of the Celtic League is one of a number of groups affiliated to PANA that share the same goals and concerns.

Neutrality as a policy is not new to Irish Nationalism. Wolfe Tone advocated neutrality when England was going to war with Spain at the time. James Connolly also advocated it in the run up to World War One, summed up in a photograph of the Citizen Army outside Liberty Hall with a banner unfurled, "We serve neither king nor Kaiser but Ireland". The official policy of military neutrality first came about on the 3rd of September 1939, when the Dáil passed a bill declaring Ireland a neutral state, two days after World War Two started on September the 1st. It was a policy that had cross party and countrywide support with some dissenting voices: namely James Dillon and James Joyce. It was popular for a number of reasons, one: it wasn't long when Ireland regained its independence from England and along with the continued partition of the country, meant that these remained emotive issues for a lot of Irish people. A second reason was that Ireland in economic terms was weak after the economic war with England, which ended in 1938 with a settlement and the handing back of the treaty ports of Cork Harbour, Berehaven and Lough Swilly. A lot of people were left poor as a result and the government had scarce resources. At the time of the war, Ireland had only 7,000 men in the defence forces which were poorly

armed and the government was in no position to defend the state, let alone fight with the allies in the war. Through tough censorship laws on the radio and print media on reporting on events in the war, the Irish government of the day was able to control events internally and portray the country's neutrality to its citizens and the wider world. Covertly, the government was helping the Allies during the war by allowing their aircraft to fly over Irish airspace, helping the Allies in intelligence affairs and Allied aircraft that crashed in Ireland, the pilots were helped back to the north. This was all revealed when the government papers of the period were released to the public.

Ireland's policy of military neutrality was reinforced when Ireland refused to join N.A.T.O. in 1949 because of partition. The country joined the United Nations in 1955 at the second time; the old U.S.S.R. blocked our membership in 1946. The UN itself came into existence on the 24th of October 1945. Earlier that year, representatives of fifty countries met in San Francisco, California at the United Nations Conference on

International Organisation to draw up the United Nations Charter. Proposals on the Charter were worked out by representatives from China, the UK, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. at Dumbarton Oaks, U.S.A. in 1944. The Charter was signed by fifty countries on the 26th June 1945 and later by Poland. When China, France, the UK, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. ratified the Charter later that year, then the UN, as an organisation came about. Its headquarters is now situated in the UN buildings in New York City. There it houses the General Assembly and the Security Council, the body which draws up and passes UN resolutions. France, the UK, China, Russia and the U.S.A. are permanent members of the Security Council with the power to veto resolutions. To run the organisation, the Secretary General is appointed along with Commissioners to help the organisation deal with humanitarian and international crises across the globe.

Since our membership of the U.N., the Irish Defence Forces and later Gardai have taken part in thirty-two U.N. missions, which has also resulted in the tragic loss of 82 Irish Defence Forces personnel who gave up their lives for world peace. These missions have been observer missions, to peacekeeping, to peace enforcement, to stabilisation forces. Our first Observer mission was in 1958, UNOGII, to Lebanon from 28th June to the 18th December. On the 18th of December, the mission became UNTSO in the Middle East, which still has Irish Defence Forces

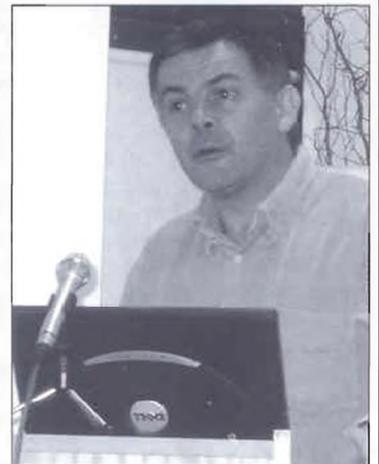
## CAER - Education Society of the European Regions

Caer, the Education Society of the European Regions, is going from strength to strength as evidenced by its very successful annual conference held in Dublin in mid-October last with the assistance of Gaelscoileanna

The event was opened on the Thursday evening with presentations from the CEO of Foras na Gaeilge, Seosamh MacDonnchadha, on the language implications of the Good Friday agreement, from Joe Hamill (Dept. of the Community and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht) on the new Irish Language Bill and from Muireann Ní Mhoráin (CEO of the Council) on the work of Council for Gaeltacht and Gaelscoil Education.

On Friday a broad range of presentations were given by speakers from a variety of countries. Topics included 'Welsh Medium Education in South Wales and the capital of Wales', 'Normalisation of the Basque Language', 'School Exchanges and Developing Contacts' and the 'Perspective of Small Islands' (Jersey) and a number dealing with teacher training.

Of special interest to those in the Celtic countries would be the lecture on 'Normalisation of the Basque Language' given by Julen Arexolaleiba of the University of Mondragon in the Basque Country. It outlined the systematic and well planned way that the Basque Autonomous Government went about extending and promoting the position of the Basque language in their school system on achieving autonomy and serves as a model for any country with serious intent to do the same. Further information from: [ulibbarri.info](http://ulibbarri.info), [berria.info](http://berria.info) and [bubet.net/BASQUE](http://bubet.net/BASQUE). CAER and its chairperson, Dónal Ó Conaill, and the organiser Nóra Ní Loingsigh, are to be congratulated on the scope of this year's conference. Further information on the aims and activities of Caer from [donal@oceanfree.net](mailto:donal@oceanfree.net)



Julen Arexolaleiba of the University of Mondragon

## IN MEMORIAM



*Risteard Ó Glaisne*

### RISTEARD Ó GLAISNE

The death occurred in November of Risteard Ó Glaisne, a prolific writer in Irish. He had 27 books to his credit. He was a Methodist from Bandon in West Cork and a republican to boot. His books covered a wide range of subjects quite a few of them being biographies and for decades he practiced journalism in Irish. He had a particular affinity for the Great Blasket island and was always to the fore with assistance for Irish causes. He was for many years a member of the Irish Branch of the League.

### PROINSIAS Mac AONGHUSA

In September the death occurred of Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, broadcaster and journalist and a one time President of Conradh na Gaeilge. He was reared in Rosmuc in the Conamara Gaeltacht, a son of the writer and language activist Criostóir Mac Aonghusa. He started his broadcasting career on radio with Aeris and came to more prominence with the RTÉ Irish language TV current affairs programme FÉACH. He wrote widely in a number of newspapers and Irish language magazines and spent a term as Chairman of Bord na Gaeilge. He wrote at one time that if his funeral services were not in Irish his friends should leave and take him with them, unfortunately it seems that the large part of the funeral mass and service was in English.

### TREASA agus TOMÁS Mac GABHANN

In late September the deaths occurred in a tragic accident of Treasa and Tomás. From Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, Tomás spent his life working in the Irish language movement and became very well known across the length and breadth of Ireland in his early years promoting the sale of Irish language books. He worked with Gael Linn also and with Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge for many years. He was a pioneer in the Credit Union movement in Ireland. He was a founder of Gaelscoileanna and had a term as President and maintained his support for the organisation over the years.

Personnel at present. It has observed a number of conflicts in the Middle East over the years and also has contributed to the UNIT inspection teams based in Baghdad, (Iraq) and Tehran (Iran) and later UNIMOG, which supervised the ceasefire and withdrawal of troops to the internationally recognised borders of the two countries and ended on the 10th May 1991. Ireland is currently still involved in UN observer missions in El Salvador (ONUSAL), in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), two missions in Africa (MINURSO) in Western Sahara and (UNMEE) in Ethiopia & Eritrea. The first peacekeeping mission that Ireland was involved in was the Congo in 1960 (ONUC) where nine Irish soldiers were killed in an ambush on the 8th of November. That mission ended on the 30th of June in 1964. Ireland has since been involved in three UN peacekeeping missions and two UN stabilisation forces. From the 13th May to November 2001, Irish Defence Forces were part of UNIFIL in the Lebanon for twenty-three years at infantry battalion strength (approx. 540 personnel) and the biggest contribution Ireland made to a UN mission with their base in Tibnin, South Lebanon. Forty-seven Irish soldiers lost their lives in that time. Ireland is still in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964 thus making it Ireland's longest peacekeeping mission. The two stabilisation force missions are still ongoing in the former Yugoslavia, (SFOR) in Bosnia and (KFOR) in Kosovo. On the 8th of August 1993, Ireland sent troops on a UN peace enforcement mission for the first time, to Somalia (UNOSOM II) and later in 1999 to East Timor (INTERFET). Both these missions are also ongoing.

The extent that Ireland, a small country has participated in so many UN missions, for so many years, with so many personnel which has been supported by successive governments is one of the more positive outcomes, since becoming independent. It's something which Irish people can be proud of and has promoted a very positive image of the country abroad. No doubt, that we're a neutral country has enabled and assisted the Irish Defence Forces to carry out their duties in such missions. In September 1993, the government of the day restated the roles of the Defence Forces. One was "to participate in United Nations missions in the cause of international peace". In 1996, on the Government White Paper on Foreign Policy, Ireland's commitment was re-affirmed: "given the unique role and authority of the United Nations and the fact that its peacekeeping activities have proved an important element in containing conflict, the Government are committed to sustaining the overall level of Ireland's contribution to peacekeeping". In 1998, Ireland signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for UN Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS). The UN however is not the only international organisation that Ireland has sent Defence Forces personnel on missions for. From 1984-1994, Defence Forces were in the CSCE (Conference of Security and Co-operation in Europe) in Vienna, Austria. Defence Forces personnel were sent in the

EC Military Mission to the former Yugoslavia (ECMM) and also the task force (ECTF[Y]) from 1991-1994. Three personnel were also part of a task force sent to Russia (ECTF[R]) in 1992 while two personnel were part of an EU Mission in South Africa.

Those who opposed Ireland's membership of the then EEC in 1973, after the referendum in 1972, fearing that it would erode the country's sovereignty and neutrality were a minority to those who voted in favour, who viewed receiving financial structural aid from the EEC and a gateway to a bigger markets for Irish goods were to the betterment of the country as a whole. This was also the case in further referendums for The Single European Act in 1987 and The Maastricht Treaty in 1992. Fianna Fáil promised in their manifesto, for the general election in 1997, to hold a referendum in joining the Partnership for Peace. This would involve Ireland working with N.A.T.O. on international missions be it UN or otherwise. Ireland joined the PIP in 1999 with a straight vote through the houses of the Oireachtas, without a referendum which legally wasn't required. In 2001, The Nice Treaty was defeated in a referendum. One of the issues that concerned many voters was the erosion of Irish neutrality and the increasing militarization of the EU through the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF). After the serving government was re-elected in 2002, they set about reversing the people's original decision.

After the defeat of The Nice Treaty, the government brought in legislative changes to the Referendum Commission. The Referendum Commission came about after the Supreme Court ruled in the McKenna case in 1995, that governments spending tax payers money to finance its side of the argument in a referendum was unconstitutional. After that judgement, the government of the day had to enact legislation that brought about the Referendum Commission, whenever there was a referendum was being held. The Commission, headed by a judge, explained the Amendment to the Constitution, be it an international treaty or changes to an Article(s) in plain simple language to the voters and it had to put arguments for and against equally to the public since it was the only legal body to do so with allocated public funds. The changes the government made were: the Referendum Commission could only explain the Amendment to the voters and the cap to finance one side of an argument or another was lifted so long as it was not public tax payers' money. This meant that big businesses and political parties' who favoured The Nice Treaty could finance the 'Yes Campaign'. When The Nice Treaty came again before the people, there was a change to the Amendment. It stated that if Ireland were to join a common and defence policy in the EU, it would require a referendum by the people. That and the Madrid Declaration that the Nice Treaty did not impinge on Ireland's policy of neutrality, a declaration which is

not legally binding, were put there to dissuade concerns of voters who worried about neutrality. The Nice Treaty was passed in 2002.

Last October, the Irish Government went to an Inter-Governmental Conference of the EU to discuss the proposed constitution of the EU. Seven articles in the proposed constitution deal with the EU's competencies on foreign and defence issues. Article 11.4 allows: "The Union shall have competence to define and implement a common foreign and security policy, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy". In article 15.1: the EU's competencies should cover all areas of foreign policy which might include a common defence policy. In article 15.2 states that Member States should support the Union's common foreign and security policy loyally and refrain from actions likely to impair its effectiveness. Article 27 deals with the Foreign Minister and Vice-President of the EU Commission. The appointment is decided by q.m.v. or qualified majority vote by the European Council and agreement of the President of the Commission and is bound by Commission procedures. The task of the Commissioner by his/her proposals is the

development of a common foreign policy mandated by the European Council which also applies to a common defence policy. Article 39; deals with the implementing of such a common foreign policy based on unanimous decisions, except on cases of enhanced co-operation in article 43. Article 40; deals with the common security and defence policy being an integral part of the common foreign and security policy that can be used outside the Union for peacekeeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The capabilities of which are to be provided by the member states and that they are to be upgraded. It also deals with the framing of a common Union defence policy, leading to a common defence when the European Council unanimously decides. It also goes on to respect policies of member states in N.A.T.O. and deals with enhanced cooperation, that group of states can carry out EU tasks. Article 42; deals with the solidarity clause.

Pro EU integrationists would see this as Europe getting its house in order and taking on the responsibility of a major international organisation in the world, after the debacle of trying to stop the war in the former

Yugoslavia. They would be able to argue that the UN hasn't been successful in stopping major conflicts either and they would be right, pointing at the failure of the UN to stop the genocide in Rwanda. As the war in Iraq has highlighted once again, the EU is much divided when trying to find a common strategy in dealing with an international crises. The British, the Poles and the Spanish are in Iraq with the U.S. forces. The Italians and most countries in Eastern Europe have also backed the coalition forces going to war in Iraq while France, Germany, Belgium and most countries in Western Europe as well as a sizeable number of the population in Europe opposed the war. The same happened in the former Yugoslavia, when Europe was divided over whether to recognise the break away republics or not and later in their efforts to stop the war in Bosnia, ending in complete failure. The only success that the EU had was the brokering the new federation agreement of Serbia & Montenegro recently, only because they wouldn't recognise Montenegro if it separated from Serbia but the nationalist breakaway feelings in Montenegro haven't gone away. The UN wasn't successful either when it set up the safe havens for the Bosnian Moslem popula-

## Campaign for Official Working Language Status for Irish in the EU

It may surprise our fellow Celts but when the Republic of Ireland joined the then EEC in 1973, although the Irish language is the first official language in the constitution of the State, the status of an official working language in the EEC was not sought for Irish. This was even though this status was available for the asking, an indication of the low regard in which the Government of the day held their national language. A campaign is now under way, spearheaded by Conradh na Gaeilge, to rectify this betrayal. The campaign is calling on the Irish Government, during its tenure of the Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2004, to introduce amendments (which can be quite simply done) to the Council of Ministers to give Irish the status of an official EU working language. This is the position which all the new 10 entrant states languages (including Maltese, Latvian, and Lithuanian etc) will have when they officially accede next year.

There are fundamental implications in this not only for Irish speakers but for the whole Irish community in regard to employment, resources, educational system and the effect of international status of a language on its speakers and learners. All employment positions in the EU carry the requirement of knowledge of two official languages and Irish is not recognised as such. There are for example competitions at present for 1,640 secretarial positions in the

European Institutions and a further 400 administration positions and Irish people are at a disadvantage in these. Practically speaking English, French and German are the daily working languages



**A group of schoolchildren picketed the offices of the European Commission in Dublin just before Christmas demanding official working status for Irish and presented a Christmas card for Commission head, Romano Prodi, outlining their request. At the Forum on Europe meeting in Dublin in Jan a demonstration of Wexford pikemen took place.**

of the EU however all official working languages can be spoken in the European Parliament, all laws and legislative instruments and the European Journal is published in them. This will be the case for example with Maltese next year but not for Irish unless official working status is gained.

In the programme for government published by the Fianna Fáil/Progressive Democrats in 1997 the following was stated 'The new government supports the campaign to have Irish an official language of the EU....' When the second FF/PD government was formed in 2002 the following was stated 'The Government will use the Report of the Gaeltacht Commission 2002 as the basis for its policies henceforth'. The third proposal in that report is 'The status of an official working language for Irish in the European union should be achieved'. Despite these promises statements from Taoiseach Bertie Ahern at the European Forum do not bode well - he made reference only to attempting to preserve the present position of Irish. It is time that he and his government honour their commitments and bring forward proposals to the Council of Ministers for official working language status for Irish and ensure these are accepted. With the changes about to take place in the EU this could well be Ireland's best and last chance to remedy the previous betrayal - it must not be let slip.



# Kernow

## 'Gwlasegориeth ha Mebyon Kernow'

Nebes prederow yn kever lyver nowydh a re istor berr MK ha'y wryansow ha'y worlanwes.

MK a veu fundyes neb hanterkans blydhen alenma. Ow honan, my a welas neppyth a'n oberow hag a'n omgusulya yn moy es ugens anedha.

Mebyon Kernow a sevis ughella, martesen . orth an prys na, mes ny'n gwelis vy ow sedhi 'mes a wel. A lies tu an moyans a wrug seweni, yn unn lesa fordlow diblans a weles Kernow, ken es rann ankevys, hen ha koynt, a Bow Sows, Ia, an tybyansow a veu degemmerys menowgh gans partiow erell, mes fyllel a wrons, drefenn nag eus dhedha an unn dra neb usi owth anella nerth ha gwres aberth yn MK: henn yw an spyrts a wlasegориeth Kernow.

### 'Mebyon Kernow & Cornish Nationalism' Published by the Welsh Academic Press, 2003

Several new books have appeared lately pertaining to Cornish history and politics. Or perhaps it is truer to say that they describe the methods, once military and later political, that those Cornish with power have sought to make the best fit possible with a ruthless invader. For that is the situation ever since 936AD when Athelstan of Wessex tore up the treaties which until then had allowed Cornish and Saxons to co-exist in South West Britain.

In 'West Britons' (published by Exeter Univ. Press), Mark Stoyles shows how much the Cromwellians, and indeed the Cavaliers too, were driven by English Nationalism. (This, of course, does not exist - according to the media. Only the Celts, on these islands, hold such childish and small-minded ideas).

Now Cornwall has to be included in a totally artificial region, the 'South West'. Why? Because it was the easiest thing for the bureaucrats to arrange. No-one is asked - democracy in this parody of devolution is not on the cards for years to come. Respecting the views of the people comes very low on the Blairite agenda. How else would we have been embroiled in an American colonial adventure in Iraq?

Meanwhile, where is Cornish opinion demonstrated? Certainly by the 50,000 signatures collected on a petition calling for a Cornish Assembly. This was binned by the Ministry who said it was an answer to a question they had not asked. Yet it was by far the biggest response on the subject from any part of the UK.

All this is very sad. Culturally Cornwall is looking up and, politically, some of Mebyon Kernow's projects, such as affordable housing and the promotion of local agricultural products are being taken up by the establishment - twenty years later!

MK has not gone away: MK members are active on councils all over Cornwall.

More importantly, they are to be found at the heart of several other popular Cornish pressure groups. Here, local spokesmen of other parties, notably the Lib. Dems, often make the right noises but, invariably, cave in later to the (English-based) party machine.

The lesson of MK is the importance of the one factor other parties utterly refuse to accept: the motivation provided by Cornish patriotism.

The book may be purchased direct from the publisher, via his website at [www.ashlevdrake.com](http://www.ashlevdrake.com) or through all good book shops.

Julyan Holmes

## MIS LYVROW BRETONEK

Yn lyverjiow Breten Vyghan, yntra an 15 a vis Gwynngala ha'n 15 a vis Hedra, ha dell yw synsys pub blydhen, synsys veu *Mis Lyvrow Bretonek*. Pareusys yw an darvos ma gans *Kresenn-rannvro an Lyvrow Breten Vyghan, Olis ar Brezhoneg* ha *Coop Breizh*. Dyllys yw yntra 60 ha 80 lyver yn Bretonek pub blydhen gans 20 dyller. Pub dyller a wra dyllo yntra 2 ha 10 lyver yn Bretonek pub blydhen. Yntra 500 hag 800 dasskrif a'n lyvrow bretonek yw dyllys pub blydhen ha gwerthys yw yntra 500 ha 600 anedha. Treweythow moy es henna yw gwerthys, rag ensampel, "*Ar 1000 ger kentañ e brezhoneg*" (An kynsa 1,000 ger yn bretonek) dyllys gans *Skol an Emsav* hag a veu gwerthys anodho bys yn 20,000 dasskrif. Res yw dhyn notya bos gwerthys warlyna 60 % moy a lyvrow skrifys yn Bretonek a-hys Mis an Lyvrow Bretonek ages a-hys mis kemmyn!

Ni a allsa ordena yn Kernow Mis an Lyvrow Kernewek yn termyn a dheu ha martesen henna a via da rag dyllo ha gwertha lyvrow yn Kernewek!

### Summary

The « *Month of Books* » written in Breton took place between the 15th September and the 15th October last. It is estimated that around 80 books are published in the Breton language every year by 20 publishers. Usually between 500 and 800 copies of each book are sold. It is remarkable that during the Month of Breton Books, sales increase by 60% in comparison with a normal month! It could be excellent for books written in Cornish to organize such an event in Cornwall!

José CALVETE.  
dhiworth/from Bremañ

## BRO DHE WERTHA

Gans towlenn sowsnek henwys "*Dream Holiday Home*" y hyllir gwaynya chi yn Breten Vyghan ow pellgewsell dhe'n dowlenn, yn unnsel. Ugens chi yw profys dhe'n dus ow mires orth an dowlenn ma. Lieskweyth ordenoryon an dowlenn a bren chioh koth dhiworth tus koth. Arnowydhys yw an chioh gans kowethasow ow tos dhiworth Pow Sows, yn skon, ha lieskweyth nyns yw gwrys yn ta an lwelyow. Meur a Sowson a gar kres Breten Vyghan. I a dheu dhe gres Breten Vyghan dres meur a vlydhynow. Sowson a biw meur a jiow yn Breten Vyghan. Pris an chioh yw pur ughel rag Bretonyow lemmyn gans ynkressyans an prisow a-dhiwedhes. Mes an prisow yw

hwath 40% isella ages prisow kresck an chioh yn Pow Sows! War-lergh govynnadow gwrys gans "*PACT ARIM 22*" prenys yw 8 chi yn mes a 10 gans Sowson y'n eur ma. Devedhyans an Sowson yn kres Breten Vyghan a vydh sywys gans kudynnnow gans tus an vro. Nyns yw anusadow lemmyn gweles "Brits out!" payntys war fosow an chioh. Aswonnyys yn ta yw an kudynn ma, soweth, yn broyow keltek erell kepar ha Kembra ha Kernow!

### Summary

The programme "*Dream Holiday Home*" enables spectators to win a house in central Brittany with just a phone call. Usually the

programme buys up old houses from old people and they modernise them. A lot of English people like central Brittany and a lot of them have already bought a house there. In spite of a big increase in the price of the houses prices still remain 40% lower than the average price of houses in England. According to an inquiry, 8 houses out of 10 are now bought by English people. This English "invasion" is creating problems and it is not uncommon to see "Brits out!" painted on walls, a problem well known, alas, in other Celtic countries such as Wales and Cornwall!

José CALVETE  
dhiworth/from Bremañ

# Cornish in Europe

On 13th November at their General Conference in Brussels, the European Free Alliance (EFA) voted unanimously in favour of admitting Mebyon Kernow (MK) as full members.

The European Free Alliance is a federation of progressive autonomist and regionalist political parties from throughout Europe, with which MK has had informal links for a number of years. Political parties within the EFA include Plaid Cymru from Wales, the Scottish National Party and the Union Democratique Bretonne from Brittany.

The EFA backed two motions proposed by MK calling on Westminster to institute a referendum in Cornwall on devolution. Calling for Cornwall to be recognised as a distinct entity within Europe, with its own Euro MP and representation on the Committee of the Regions.

Dafydd Hicks, represented MK at the conference and began his opening address by saying: "Lowen ov vy ow tos omma dhe gewsel orthowgh hwi yn kever Kernow ha Mebyon Kernow - an Parti rag Kernow, ha ow kovynn rag eseleth leun a'n bagas ma." He went on to say: "In Cornwall, MK is making significant progress in elections at all levels and is playing a leading role in the Campaign for a Cornish Assembly, which is winning increasing support from local people. The UK state has devised a new artificial region called the 'south west', and an EU constituency elected by proportional representation. We would like to stand in the European elections but Cornwall only makes up 10% of the entire south west seat - and it would cost a massive deposit of £5000. We would need a quarter of the Cornish vote just to save our deposit.

This brings me to the democratic deficit that Cornwall faces and, more than that, a human rights issue. Even if everyone in Cornwall voted for us, we would not win one of the seven 'south-west' seats. Needless to say we do not feel represented in Europe at all. If we have ever wanted to raise issues in the European Parliament we have always approached Welsh MEPs.

Working here in the European Parliament, I see a constant Welsh presence, a Scottish presence, but when it comes to the so called 'south west office' they are the invisible people of Europe, doing little to represent Cornwall on the European stage.

We have to change this situation and we want Cornwall to have its own EU constituency. Cornwall has a population of half a million, bigger than some member and accession states and the same as some successful autonomous regions such as South Tyrol. It is our right to be represented in Europe, but this will not occur until the UK lets us have our own constituency. It was in the late 1970s when MK stood in what was then a Cornwall and Plymouth constituency. In this MK won over 10% of the vote; this may explain why the UK does not want a Cornish constituency.

Moreover, when we have our own 'region' it means that we will be able to participate on the Committee of the Regions which, at a European level, is pushing for more powers and more influence for the regions of Europe. While trapped within the 'south west' we are missing out on this increasing influence and, therefore, investment."

## 10 percent of an MEP!

### The Vision of a Europe of Regions

As a Cornishman I am a member of a National Minority numbering about 300,000, as you can appreciate living in a state with a population of 60 million people we are a very small minority.

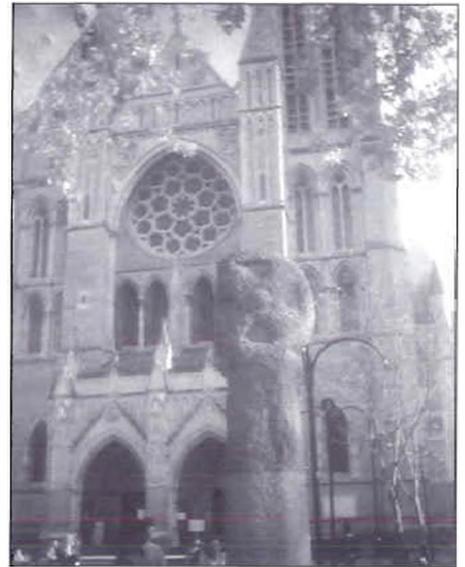
It concerns me that the European Union is currently run by the State Governments. The EU itself does not seem to be interested in the internal workings of States or Minority issues.

To take for example when the European Constituencies were set up in the U.K., the Government decided that Cornwall should be in the same constituency as the neighbouring English city of Plymouth. A storm of protest followed, from a great number of individuals, every political party active in Cornwall and Welsh and Scottish Nationalist MPs even tried to intervene in Westminster. To no avail The "Mother of all Democracy" (self proclaimed) at Westminster decided to put Cornwall with Plymouth. A few years later Cornwall was submerged into a wider South-west "region". To this day Cornwall is part of a region with a population of 5 million people only 10 percent of which live in Cornwall. So how can this MEP fight for the Cornish language and way of life when Cornwall is only 10 percent of his constituency?

Which leads me to how this is relevant: The EU did nothing. I could go on listing insults to the Cornish nation as we all could with our own respective Nations.

I like the idea of a Europe of regions but if London, Paris, Madrid and the other Imperial Governments of Europe are allowed to represent and decide the futures of the National Minorities of Europe who will be better? To take Cornwall as an example if we are let down by the Institutions of EU and the U.K., what will we have as a means of redress? 10 percent of a MEP!

Robert Simmons M.S.P.  
Truru Kernow



High Cross with Truro Cathedral behind

## Free the Spirit

A campaign to disestablish the Church of England in Cornwall, by establishing a Church of Cornwall, in the same way that the Church of Wales and the Church of Ireland were created.

Fry an Spyrys (Free the Spirit), the name of the steering group set up take the campaign forward, believes that the Church of England should show "h humility and penitence" by admitting to the mass murder and suppression of the Cornish people in the sixteenth century.

In 1549, the Church of England, under Thomas Cranmer, ordered the cessation of all services being held in Cornish and Latin and imposed a Book of Common Prayer, written in English, on the mainly Cornish speaking parishioners.

Incensed by this act of political interference in Cornwall's religious affairs and threatened with the suppression of Cornwall's language, religious traditions and culture, thousands of people rose up in 1549 in defence of their civil liberties.

The King's forces savagely put down the rising, killing all Cornish prisoners and subsequently continued to murder, what amounted to, roughly 10 percent of the population of Cornwall.

Fry an Spyrys say that now the time for atonement is at hand. With the apology to the Maoris by the Queen for the breaking of Treaties and the apology to the Irish for their oppression, it's time for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, to ask for forgiveness, on behalf of the Church, from the people of Cornwall.

By offering an apology in this way, it is campaigner Andrew Phillips opinion that "The Church of England in Cornwall could then make a clean break with the past and make a new start, renewing itself by returning to its more tolerant and inclusive Celtic roots, and re-establishing itself as the ancient Church in Cornwall".

# NEWS IN BRIEF

A new web site was launched in August 2003 for Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall.

The site was designed by Celtic League and Mebyon Kernow activist Martin Sanders who recently graduated in Graphic Design from Falmouth College of Arts. The new site includes profiles of leading MK and Councillors, up to date news stories and press releases, archive stories and some other interesting features.

Martin said that he created a site, which he hoped would be fresh and user-friendly.

Martin said that "Mebyon Kernow is a progressive and forward looking political party campaigning to win a better deal for all the people of Cornwall. The new site will provide considerable information about Mebyon Kernow to a wider audience around the globe"

## Sustainable Tourism

After another summer in Cornwall where tourists flocked in their thousands to make the most of the sunny weather, by clogging the roads and littering the land with their unwanted rubbish, it was a refreshing piece of news to hear that a new initiative has been funded to promote sustainable tourism in Cornwall.

The Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project (CSTP) will work with the tourist industry, organisations and visitors to promote socially and environmentally aware tourism, while at the same time helping to ensure that Cornwall benefits from tourism.

## Cornish Gorsedd

The 75th anniversary of the Cornish Gorsedd took place in Launceston Castle on Saturday 6th September 2003, amid a large crowd of participants, supporters and those who were merely curious. Due to the growing number of members of Cornwall's Gorsedd, work is currently being undertaken to find a permanent venue for the event.

At this year's event sixteen new Bards were welcomed, including two from Australia, one from United States and four through success in Cornish languages exercises. As always, representatives from the Gorsedd's in Brittany and Wales were present.

## House price spiral

House prices in Cornwall are continuing to spiral out of Control, with new figures from the Joseph Rowntree Trust showing that in the district of Carrick the gap between wages and house prices is worse than that in the south east of England and London. North Cornwall too is especially affected with house prices higher than anywhere else in Cornwall, but throughout the whole of the nation people who live and work locally are being completely priced out of the market.

A study by Halifax published in September last, has shown that despite a house price



*Rishiart Tal-e-bot with Martin Sanders (right) who designed the new MK website.*

slow down across much of the island, the seaside areas of Cornwall continue to rise, resulting in prices doubling in seaside towns and villages over the past two years.

The blame is being attributed to a rush of retirement and second home buyers from over the border. For many young people in Cornwall, owning their own house seems like an impossible dream with prices reflecting what the very rich can afford and not local wages. With more council-owned properties being sold off each year, the lack of funding for Housing Associations and the ever greedy house letting agencies, even affordable rented accommodation is proving extremely difficult to find. Consequently, key workers like nurses and teachers are finding it increasingly difficult to find a place to live.

## Regional Insult

The undemocratic 'regional chamber' in Exeter, which is acting as an assembly for the 'South West' and Cornwall has made a decision to centralise planning away from Cornwall and place it in the hands of a 'regional planning body' based in Exeter and Taunton.

The chamber stated that some detailed planning could still be carried out sub-regionally, which means in places like Cornwall, according to the Government. Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall have stated that: "it is a deliberate and calculated insult to define Cornwall as a 'sub-region'".

In addition, the 'regional chamber' has expressed a wish for a zone to be created that will merge Cornwall with about half of Devon, after a exceptionally short consultation period that failed to consult such democratically elected bodies as Cornwall Council.

**R. Tal-e-bot**

## Carlyon Bay Demonstration

The demonstration on Sadorn 13ves mis Kevardu/December took place in heavy rain with fewer numbers than expected. Members from Cornish Solidarity, Carlyon Bay Watch and a civil rights group attended and BBC Radio Cornwall and the Cornish Guardian were also present.

Representatives from the Branch met with the Ampersand Sales Director during the demonstration and a letter from the Branch was handed to him for the attention of the Managing Director.

Press releases sent out by our Branch and by Cymuned and full details of all PR's can be obtained by e-mailing [celticleaguekernow-branch@hotmail.com](mailto:celticleaguekernow-branch@hotmail.com)

## Second Home Protest

The Cornish Branch of the Celtic League were joined by other organisations, in a demonstration about the proposed development of over 500 second homes at Carlyon Bay.

The demonstration was the first of three planned protests to take place over the next couple of months, with the intention of working with other organisations and groups to support the campaign of Carlyon Bay Watch. Cymuned, the Welsh Housing campaign group, sent a message of support to the protesters and expressed a hope to collaborate in future.

Members of the Cornish Branch decided that opposition to the proposed development was an important issue to tackle, after it was raised by a young Branch member who had become frustrated by the second homes crisis effecting Cornwall.

The Ampersand Group is ignoring the widespread concerns of residents, organisations and councils by ploughing ahead with the development and impacting negatively on Cornwall's environment and economy. At a meeting following the demonstration, Branch representatives argued that if the national resources of Cornwall, in this case one of its beaches is to be developed, it should be done so for the benefit of all.

The next demonstration at the site will take place in January. Environmental groups Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Surfers against Sewage and Friends of the Earth will be invited to attend.



# Mannin



## Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain

Ayns y "Time Educational Supplement" jeh'n 2600 Mean Fouyir, lhiah mee mychione scoill neuchadjin ayns Lunnin. She'n un scoill ee, cheu mooie jeh'n Vretyn, boayl ta ny paitchyn g'ynsaghey dy-chooilley red ayns changey nyn ghoioe, Cymraeg. Va'n scoill currit er bun 'sy vlein 1958 agh ayns 1999, chaill ad nyn chied hroggal as v'eh jeeaghyn dy beagh yn scoill dooint. Cha row agh shey paitchyn foast er mayrn agh hug yn Coonseil Brent cooney lhieu tra hug ad kied daue goll dys troggal feer veg elley. She shenn bunschoill v'ee agh goll-roosyn foast ry-gheddyn 'syn cheer Vretnagh hene ayns baljyn beggey.

Ec y traa t'ayn, ta nane paithchey jeig kionefenish agh b'hreisht lhieu geddyn tooilley ynnydee er y gherid. Mlecaney ta daa phaitchey ayns blein shey as myr

shen nee ad soie yn ardan scanshoil jees (Key Stage 2). Ta shoh gollrish ny scoill-lyn ayns Bretyn, boayl nagh vel ad soie ardan scanshoil nane, agh t'ad goaill toshiaght lesh ardan jees. Ta'n fer-ynsee red anveagh my-y-chione agh, cha nel ny paitchyn boirit er-chor-erbee. S'mian lhieu prowal dy vel ad chammah as paitchey erbee elley.

Ta dagh lught-thie g'eeck shey cheead punt dagh traa himbee, as ta

shiaght as feed cheet voish Bretyn. Ta'n chooid elley goll y chosney ec she-shaghtyn Bretnagh ayns Lunnin. Cha nel ad cosney ping voish Sostyn.

### Summary

*In London, there is a Welsh medium school. It is only a small school but the ambience is much like a similar school in a Welsh village. The regular number on roll is eleven but expansion is likely.*

Colin y Jerree.



*Welsh Teacher, Matthew Davies, in his classroom in London.*

## MANX LANGUAGE - LAST NATIVE SPEAKERS PROJECT

In early January 2004 Manx National Heritage launched a collection of CD recordings of native Manx speakers. The recordings were made following an intervention by former Irish Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera, in 1948 when the Irish Folklore Commission dispatched a recording vehicle (quite a novelty in those days) to the Isle of Man. De Valera had been concerned when meeting Manx native speakers a year earlier that the Gaelic language on the Island might be lost if not recorded.

The work, started by the Irish Folklore Commission's Kevin Danaher in 1948, was continued by members of the Manx Language Society (Yn Cheshaght Ghailkagh) over the subsequent years and ensured that an accurate record of the last Manx native speakers exists for posterity.

Some of the recordings were subsequently released on vinyl LP record and the material has been a tool for linguistic researchers and academics.

Now Manx National Heritage has had the recordings digitally remastered and these are now available with full transcriptions, translations and background in a six CD set entitled Skeealyn Vannin.

An MNH spokesperson has described the project as; "A major contribution to the resources available for today's lan-

guage students" which "will offer an insight into the historical pronunciation of Manx Gaelic and Manx English dialect".

The project comes at a time when the fortunes of the Manx language are much revived with an ambitious programme of teaching in schools ongoing.

**Bernard Moffatt**



*Fiona McArdle of MNH presenting a copy of Skeealyn Vannin to Leslie Quirk, who worked with the Irish Folklore Commission recording the native speakers.*

## NATIONALISTS LAUNCH WITHERING ATTACK ON MANX GOVERNMENT

The annual Iliam Dhone Commemoration at Hango Hill took place on January 2<sup>nd</sup> when nationalists gathered to pay tribute to the seventeenth century patriot William Christian, executed by the English

To begin the commemoration an oration in the Manx language was given by Fiona McArdle. Giving the English oration, Mec Vannin Chairman, Mark Kermodé launched a withering attack on various facets of Manx government policy over the last quarter of a century. He stated that those responsible for planning debacles in the early part of the last decade on the Isle of Man are "not capable of understanding their wrong-doing"

In relation to the Mount Murray (Planning) Inquiry he said:

"We have seen the Mount Murray Inquiry expose corruption and name some of those who manipulated and some of those who helped them to the detriment of good government in our country. But what has come of this? How many of us, in our walks of life, could expect to be found to be a central figure in a matter of corruption and carry on with impunity?"

And if we believe that we should favour the devils we know we will always have devils about us. Even now, after being exposed as having taken part in corruption, those involved are simply not capable of understanding their wrong-doing. And the business community is unlikely to call for any changes when it's there in black and white that favourable decisions don't even have to be bought in the

Isle of Man. That's a boat worth not rocking isn't it?"

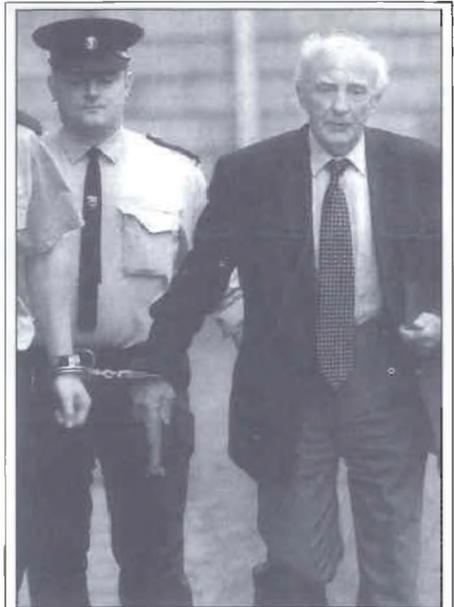
Speaking about government's employment policies the Mec Vannin leader said that whilst "we have not had some very capable people come here and contribute over the years, but how many have used us as an easy stepping stone in their career development, or an easy wind-down into retirement at the expense of competent Manx people, or have been, quite simply incompetent?" The full text of his speech and the Manx Language Oration can be accessed at: <http://www.manxman.co.im/mecvan/pb32.html>

### **Breton prisoners' plight highlighted as Manx commemorate martyr**

Nationalists should remember those suffering for their beliefs at the present time in the various Celtic countries, the annual Iliam Dhone commemoration was told.

The Secretary General of the Celtic League in his concluding remarks to the gathering urged those present to remember those imprisoned today in the Celtic countries and specifically highlighted the plight of the Breton prisoners, some of whom have now been in prison almost four years awaiting trial.

The Iliam Dhone commemoration is jointly organised by Mec Vannin (The Manx Nationalist Party) and the Manx branch of the Celtic League.



*George Redmond leaving the court in Dublin following his conviction for corruption.*

## **JAILED REDMOND EXPOSED SEAMY SIDE OF MANX-IRISH BANKING INTERESTS**

The former Assistant Dublin City and County Manager, Mr Michael Redmond, who was arrested at Dublin Airport in February 1999 getting off a plane from the Isle of Man with a bag containing £300,000 in cash and cheques collected from a Manx bank, has been sentenced to one year in prison.

The jail term is unrelated to Redmond's Island escapades but relates to a conviction for accepting a bribe during a sale by Dublin City Council of a right of way. Redmond is believed to have been given a fairly light sentence because of his age - he is in his 80<sup>th</sup> year.

In 1999 the detention of Redmond focused attention on the use being made by individuals, banks and institutions in Ireland to secret sums of money offshore.

The issues subsequently raised were wide-ranging and prompted calls for action in the Irish parliament.

Paradoxically, the Redmond arrest did the Isle of Man a favour because at a time when the Manx government was patting itself on the back and proclaiming how squeaky clean the finance sector was it exposed that there was still a seamy side to commercial relations between Irish and Manx banking interests.

At the end of last year national newspapers in Éire carried further reports of Irish nationals evading their tax obligations by depositing money in off-shore accounts in Irish Banks operating in Mannin. It was alleged that the banks were encouraging individual customers to do so. The Irish government, in an attempt to stamp out tax evasion, has launched an enquiry into the matter.

**Bernard Moffatt**

## **PROBLEMS ABOUND AS MANX YEAR BEGINS**

The fortunes of the Isle of Man were mixed as 2003 came to a close. The smallest of the Celtic countries it has enjoyed unprecedented prosperity in recent years and has enjoyed growth comparable to Ireland's 'tiger' economy.

This year also looks promising with both Industry Department and Treasury holding forth positively for prospects in the short to medium term.

However the other side of the coin is that social problems abound and, if anything, became more compounded in 2003.

The Island is shortly to face a major enquiry into child care provision following a double murder trial. In addition, despite all the prosperity, thousands of people find it impossible to get into the home buying market - effectively priced out by soaring property prices. There have also been cutbacks in medical provision which prompted a major protest in the north of the Island about out of hours medical cover.

The government itself is mired in controversy as a long-running planning enquiry grinds on with more revelations scheduled for 2004. Even the police service is enmeshed in controversy with several officers, some senior, suspended and an enquiry into complaints against the Chief Constable just announced.

Another worrying feature of the past year had been the scarcely concealed admission that several key government Departments do not welcome local applicants for senior positions. It is the most open manifestation of discrimination against the resident population.

The Island can only hope for a better year in 2004!

**Bernard Moffatt**



# Celtica



## Editorial

### The New Colonisations

For a number of decades now Celtic speaking communities have been under threat from a new form of colonisation – the uncontrolled inflow of those who have no regard for the languages or cultures of the Celtic speaking communities. This lack of regard is based in a colonial mind set which sees these languages and cultures as inferior and the Celtic lands as only a cheap (and scenic) material asset to be availed of. This is equally true when the incomers are of the same nationality; they have little regard for the linguistic well being of their own language communities but simply operate for their own gain. Now in recent years however Celtic

language communities have organised to combat this and have made significant progress in Wales and advances in Ireland.

Carn has been covering these issues and the Celtic League has taken the initiative in organising contacts between groups in the various countries, a development which will be ongoing and which is reported on in this issue. The issue of second homes, the scale of immigration and its effect on housing in changing the character of some of the smaller Celtic countries such as Mann and Kernow, leading to the lack of affordable local housing with consequent emigration, is of grave concern also. The League will continue to assist those in the Celtic nations who organise against these threats.

### An EU Constitution or a Two Tier Europe?

Following the failure of the last EU summit to agree a final version of the proposed constitution and disagreement on voting representation on the Council of Ministers (the EU's decision making body) between some of the larger countries (France and Germany, Spain and Poland) the two tier Europe is being pushed strongly again by the French-German axis and also it seems Head of the Commission Romano Prodi. Ireland now holds the six month presidency and is charged with the task of getting agreement and undertaking consultations to try to achieve that. Prodi, on a visit to Dublin, stated that if agreement could not be reached the two tier option was the only alternative.

At this stage the whole project of the EU constitution (which itself is fairly flawed as a document), driven as it is by the Commission rather than the citizens and coupled with collapse of the fiscal policy rules and all the concerns with regard to defence policy, is surely in trouble. Neither it nor a two tier Europe would be to the benefit of the smaller nations of Europe. They must cooperate to put forward an alternative vision.

**TERRAS de MERLIN**

For further information, please visit the programme website which is available in Galician, Spanish, English and French at:  
[www.terrasdemerlin.com](http://www.terrasdemerlin.com)  
 or you can contact the staff at:  
[terrasdemerlin@terrasdemerlin.com](mailto:terrasdemerlin@terrasdemerlin.com)

Galiza, one to Eilan Vannin, one to Cymru, one to Kernow and the last is a kind of best of, and excellent résumé of all the programmes. The programmes were produced by Luis Menéndez, a Galician journalist, who studied the different Celtic countries for two years before the filming. The filming took 20 months and the staff travelled on the roads of the Celtic countries for 33,000 km. The result is an excellent series and I highly recommend it!

The programmes were very interesting because they presented the different countries as lively lands with strong, ancient roots and at the same as modern countries looking at the future with serenity and hope, and proud of their past and their history. We saw people at festivals, at local shrines, people telling us old legends. Luis Menéndez showed us different gastronomic peculiarities, we walked around historic ruins with him, we were delighted by the impressive landscapes... In a few words, we appreciated, the lively richness of the different cultures of the Celtic countries.

On his journey, Luis Menéndez suggested that we should to find similarities and differences between old and present times, close and faraway places.

The programme was broadcast this summer as I told you in Galicia and in the countries where TVG is broadcast through its international channel to places where there is an important Galician Diaspora such as Argentina... The programmes were of course in Galician. It would be very interesting and important to have his programmes broadcast in the other Celtic countries not only to know and learn more about the other countries but also about our own Celtic country. It would be interesting to see the programmes broadcast by TV Breizh, S4C, TG4, etc...

## TERRAS DE MERLIN

This summer, TVG, the Galician TV channel has broadcast an excellent documentary series about the Celtic countries called Terras de Merlin, that is to say Merlin's Lands. The series consisted of 13 programmes and began with a programme about Kernow. Each programme is 26 minutes long. Three programmes were dedicated to Éire, two to Alba, two to Breizh, one to Asturias, one to

José CALVETE

# BOOK REVIEW

*To Hell or Barbados: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland*  
BY SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

This 226 page tome is a fine examination of a little known aspect of Irish history. It tells the story of thousands of Irish who were forcibly "removed" from Ireland to work at hard labour in the Caribbean.

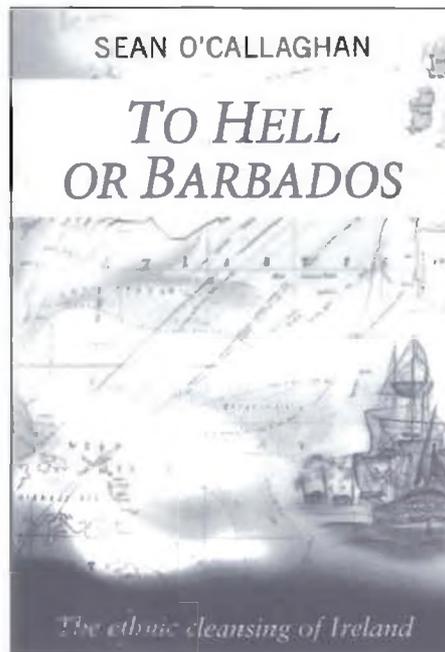
O'Callaghan begins his tale in the Cromwellian Years, the first half of the 1600's, and discusses the atrocities committed by this English leader in Ireland, and he adeptly challenges the view that Cromwell simply drove Irish Catholics into the far reaches of the West of Ireland. There was a concerted effort to drive the Irish beyond their homeland into hard labour in the New World. Cromwell and those who followed him realized that they could solve two problems in managing their Empire. Shipping the Irish to the Caribbean cleared Ireland of some of its "undesirables" as well as providing a solution to the labour problem in her other colonies. The author notes that the Welsh and Scots were also part of the cargo shipped to the Caribbean to work as slaves. Interestingly, Sean O'Callaghan informs the reader that information on this resettlement is scarce in British and Irish archives. He found much of the documentation by travelling to, and completing research in the libraries of the Caribbean, primarily Barbados.

O'Callaghan's work is interesting because it provides a retort to the popularly held belief that the Irish were brought to the New World only as indentured servants. He documents that the Irish held this status and also the status of slave. He describes the beatings, back breaking work in tropical heat and the sexual exploitation of slaves to produce new generations of slave labour on plantations and mansions in the Caribbean.

This work is of particular interest to me because it offers an historical backdrop to the relationship not between the British and Irish, but between Africans and the Irish. Both groups were brought to the New World and were exploited by the European powers of the time. O'Callaghan's work shows that these two groups had a common oppressor, but I also recommend another book that covers the topic and how there was competition and conflict between Africans and The Irish in the New World.

In Noel Ignatiev's book, *How the Irish Became White*, there is a detailed analysis of the relationship between these two groups and how they were played off against each other in terms of competing for a limited supply of unskilled jobs ...echoes of how British occupiers of Northern Ireland made sure that Irish Protestants and Catholics were set in competition in order to ensure that the British could maintain control of their neighbouring island.

To Hell or Barbados provides material to enter into a dialogue about the common heritage of slavery that African-Americans and Irish Americans have - a controversial dis-



cussion no doubt! Irish Americans, and all Celtic readers interested in this topic will no doubt once again ask the question, how is it that in all the time that we studied U.S. History, we never learned about the enslavement of the Irish, and other Celtic peoples, in the New World? As a wise old Xaverian brother who taught me high school Chemistry would say when such questions were asked, "You know doubt were absent that day!"

My only concerns about To Hell or Barbados is that at times the author fails to give a more complete explanation about the political conflicts in England leading up to the mass resettlement of the Irish. It would have been helpful if this background information were set in the broader context of European politics and religious struggle of the 17th-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also, at times, O'Callaghan is a bit too close to his subject and makes a reference to a geographic location without providing more information about where exactly it was located. Perhaps in a future edition some detailed maps could be included of Ireland, Jamaica, Barbados etc., so the reader can more easily follow the ramblings of the characters in this history. I, for one, am a firm believer in "indexing" maps so that if the author mentions a place in the text, it should appear on an accompanying map. Finally, illustrations and photographs (then and now) would also help the reader get a better idea of the locations discussed. In spite of these limitations, the book is an excellent source of information about slavery in the New World and the complex relationships among the European powers and their victims.

Terence P. Hannigan

## Cofia 1404 -

### 'Year of Independence'

June 21 'Mid - Summer Day Is  
'Parliament Day 2004'.

In 2004 we mark, Commemorate and celebrate 600th anniversary of the establishment at about mid-summer of 1404, of a Welsh Parliament at Machynlleth and the Coronation there of Owain Glyndwr as Prince of Wales. Further, in 1404 both France and England recognised the sovereignty of Owain Glyndwr and thus also recognised the Independence of the Welsh Nation - Cenedl Glyndwr. Worthy of celebration by communities throughout Wales and Welsh exile community internationally

Commemorate Nationally with a Mid - Summer Machynlleth Medieval Mobilisation

LLYSGENHADAETH GLYNDWR, 41, HEOL CONWY, TREGANNA, CAERDYDD, CYMRU.

Tel: 029 2030 7018; m07952 523508 E-bost: [siart@embassy-glvndwr.co.uk](mailto:siart@embassy-glvndwr.co.uk)

## Irish Language Support

One group taking positive action with regard to the pressures on the Irish speaking areas in Conamara (both from immigration and from within, see report on CL Seminar.) is one of the local Co-operatives, Comharcumann Shailearna. They have published a paper calling for the establishment of a Family Support Centre in the Conamara coastal region. A wide range of services are proposed but the key ones with regard to language support are to provide family services and supports through Irish, to contact young couples and talk to them directly on language choice, to provide pre-marriage courses and modules on language in the family, to advise couples wishing to cultivate Irish as a family language and to focus on helping returned immigrants and in-migrants develop their language skills.

## Irish Laws Bilingual website

December also saw the launch of a new website [www.achtanna.ie](http://www.achtanna.ie) where all Acts of the Oireachtas passed since 1922 will be available in Irish and English. Gearóid Ó Casaide, Chief Editor of the Translation Section of the Dáil, said that Irish and English language versions of the Acts are interlinked so that it is possible to go directly from a clause of an Act in one language to the same clause in the other language. There is also a search facility based on words and sentences. In addition to ensuring that translators and drafters of official documents use the correct terminology it can effectively be used as a two way dictionary. The development of the site took two years and the work was carried out by an Irish company, Propylon, in close co-operation with the Translation Section.

## International Branch Internet Site

<http://homepages.enterprise.net/mlockerby>

e-mail International Branch Secretary  
[mlockerby@enterprise.net](mailto:mlockerby@enterprise.net)

## Mec Vannin

<http://www.manxman.co.im/mecvan>

Mec Vannin is a republican independence party that has been operative in Mannin for over 40 years. A newlist goes to media and individuals throughout the world. Further information e-mail the list-owner at [mec\\_vannin-owner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mec_vannin-owner@yahoo.co.uk) with contact details.

Yahoo! Groups Links

To visit your group on the web, go to:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mec\\_vannin/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mec_vannin/)

## American Branch Internet Site

[www.celticleague.org](http://www.celticleague.org)

## Ar Bed Keltiek

On line books, records, Celtic art.

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<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>

e-bos: [arfur@eurabretagne.fr](mailto:arfur@eurabretagne.fr)

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When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.



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All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership/ subscription rates (including *Carn*) are: Stg£12; €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* should be sent on disk preferably in Microsoft Word or e-mailed to the Editor

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# IRISH DEMOCRAT

For news, analysis, reviews, features, and an independent voice

Published continuously since 1939, the Irish Democrat is the bi-monthly journal of the Connolly Association which campaigns for a united and independent Ireland and the rights of the Irish in Britain. Regular contributors include the respected Celtic historian Peter Berresford Ellis whose regular column Annon is Anail has been a feature of the paper for over ten years.

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