

# COMANN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 125

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- Opportunities in Scots Independence Movement
- Breton Cultural Forces Tarred
- Cilmeri Rally Reclaimed
- Call for National Plan for Irish
- Environmental Rights Campaign in Cornwall
- Manx in Court
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ALBA: COMANN  
CEILTEACH • BREIZH: KEVRE  
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE





Fuadach nan Gàidheal  
 Gura mise tùrsach.  
 A' caoidh cor na dùthcha,  
 Bha cliùiteach is treun;  
 Rinn uachdrain am fuadach  
 Gu fada null thar chuantan.  
 Am fearann chaidh thoirt uapa  
 'S thoirt suas do na feidh.

"...agus caoraich cuideachd!" arsa sinne.

Tha na trì leabhraichean seo ri fhaotainn bho Birlinn Ltd, West Newington House, 10 Newington Road, Dùn Eideann EH9 1QS, no an leabhar-reiceadair agaibh.

**AN TUIL...** dheasaich Ragnall Mac ille Dhuibh an leabhar seo agus dh'fhoillsich Polygon, 22 George Square, Dùn Eideann e. Seo agaibh Duanair Gàidhlig an 20mh Ceud.

Tha gaol mòr mòr againn air, bhon a tha e cho beò co-aoiseach. A bhàrr air seo, bha sinn eòlach air mòran daoine nach maireann a rinn bardachd anns an duanaire seo agus feadhainn eile a tha beò fhathast, taing do'n Ni Maith.

Tha dà roimh-ràdha ann, fear sa Ghàidhlig agus fear eile sa Bheurla. Aig deireadh an leabhar seo chì sibh Cùl-Cinn no eachdraidh aig faisg air a h-uile bàrd a bha ri fhaotainn.

Thoiribh maitheanas dhuinn! Tha cus ri ràdh m'a thimcheall bhon a tha an leabhar seo cho sonraichte, farsaing, beòthail iongantach.

Ma cheannaicheadh sibh e, bhiodh sibh sona fad bhur beatha!

### SUMMARY

*This is a discussion on four paperbacks that give a selection of our Scottish (Gàidhlig) poetry and song over 400 years.*

*Gàir nan Clarsach covers from 1600 to 1700, An Lasair from 1700 to 1800, Caran an t-Saoghail from 1800 to 1900. All three are published by Birlinn Ltd, West Newington House, 10 Newington Road, Edinburgh EH9 1QS and obtainable through your bookseller.*

*The fourth paperback An Tuil is published by Polygon, 22 George Square, Edinburgh and covers the years 1900 to 2000 AD.*

*On the left is the text in our language while on the right there is a translation in the English language. Each poem or song is matched with its Note in English, illuminating it and its author both in depth and with great acceptance. In the earliest paperback, Gàir nan Clarsach, one even finds the melodies of songs.*

*With four such anthologies, one realises that there is no place for English literature for any school in Scotland. The place for such is in universities, and the language of schools is Gàidhlig!*

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich (Gilleasbuig Lachlainn "Ileasbuig)**

## AR BÀRDACHD ann an ceithir duanairean

**GÀIR NAN CLÀRSACH**...thagh Colm Ó Baoill seo agus dh'eadar-theangaich Meg Bateman e. Tha dà fhichead is trì dàin Gàidhlig ann eadar na bliadhnan 1600 gu 1698. Cha d'rinn neach an aon rud riamh.

Seo agaibh linn gaisgeil nuair a bha an ceann cinnidh ann an talla aige: far an robh na leòis no torches a' nochdadh an luchdleanmhainn aige ri iomaire air gheall no gambling, no ri clàrsaicheachd no ri bardachd...nuair a bha an fheadhainn eile a'dèanamh feisid no feasting agus ag òl.

Air an laimh ehlì, chì sibh a' Bhàrdachd sa Ghàidhlig agus air an laimh eile chì sibh eadar-theangachadh gu Beurla. Barrachd air sin tha roimh-ràdh, notaichean agus faclair sa Bheurla agus ceòl air ioma dàin. Abair gu bheil an leabhar seo ainmeil!  
Seo agaibh eisimpleirean....

### XX

Na cuala sibh-se tionndadh duineil  
Thug an camp bha an Cille nhuimein?  
'S fada chuidh ainm air an urram:  
Thug iad as an naimhdean iomain.  
Dh'riach mi mach madainn Dòmhnach  
Gu bràigh caisteal Inbhir Lochaidh,  
Chunnaic mi an t-arm dol an òrdugh  
'S bha buaidh a' bhlaire le Clann Dòmhnail

### XXVII

S mòr mo mhulad 's mo phràmhán  
'S mí gu mhaenas gum mhànan  
Anns an talla an bu glmàth le Mac Leòid.

Taigh mòr maenasach meadhrach  
Nam macaomh 's nam maighdean.  
Far 'm bu tartarach gleadhraich nan còrn

Tha do thalla mòr prìseil  
Gun thasgadh gun dìon ann,  
Far an faca mí fion bhith ga òl.

**AN LASAIR**...tha sinn fada nas eòlaiche air a chruinneachadh seo a rinn Ragnall Mac ille Dhuibhe agus na tachartan seo o cheann gu ceann da'n ochdamh linn deug. Seo agaibh roimh-ràdh agus notaichean air a h-uile dan ach chan eil ceòl ann.

Bhon a tha trì fichead 's a trì dàin anns an leabhar seo chì sinn an spairn aca an aghaidh nan Sasannaich, ceannsaich agus geur-lannbharan. Ach mu dheireadh thall chì sinn Albannaich a' cogadh air son nan naimhdean agus an ionpareachd aca!

10  
Oran nam Fìneachan...  
Seo an amhar 'n do dhearbhadh

An targainteachd dhùainn - -  
Bras meanmnach fìr Alba  
Le'n armaibh air thùs  
Nuair a dh'èires gach treunlaoch  
Le'n èideadh glan ùr,

... Gur mairg nàmhaid a tharladh  
Ri àrmainn mo ràin:

Seo agaibh cuideachd dòbrainn na ban-  
ntraiche an deidh  
Blàr Chuil-lodair...

### 32

Och a Theàrlaich òig Stiubhairt,  
Se do chùis rinn mo léireadh,  
Thug thu bhuam gach nì bh'agam  
Ann an cogadh 'nad adhbhar;  
Cha chrodh is cha càirdean  
Rinn mo chràdh, ach mo chéile  
On là dh'fhàg e mì 'm aonar  
Gun sìon san t-saoghal ach léine  
Mo rùn geal òg.

...no geur-leanmhainn

### 35

An t-Èideadh Gàidhealach  
Thàinig ach ro chruidh oirn  
A-nuas à Sasainn.  
Maoidheadh air ar n-èideadh-  
Chan eil e tlachdmhor.

...Thèid e Latha Lùnastail  
Ann an cleachdadh  
Èideadh clann nan Gàidheal  
A chur à fasan—

(Ach a dh'aindeoin sin, chan eil ar fèileadh-  
beag gràdhach à fasan fhathast!)

Ach, anns an dàn mu dheireadh...63 Blar na  
h-Olainn... tha nàire oirn gu bheil uiread de  
luchd brathaidh ann!

**CARAN AN T-SAOGHAIL**... na bìthibh  
ro dhuilich! Ged a tha dealbhan nan  
saighdearan Albannaich a' cogadh air son an  
taoibh eile ann, air a' chòmhdach, ...chan eil  
sin ach aon earrann a-mhàin...seo agaibh  
dusan earrannan eile!

Gus an d'rinn an Rìghaltas Sasannach an  
Hereditary Jurisdictions Act sa bhliadhna  
1747 bha gach ceann-cinnidh mar athair na  
lìne aige; ach an deidh sin dh'fhàs e na  
h-uachdaran agus bha feadhainn seo,  
dh'fhuadaich neach-cinnidh a cnasadh tuil-  
leadh airgid. Ach, taing do'n Ni Maith bha  
Cluanaidh, ceann-cinnidh Clann Mhuirich  
daonna coibhneil, bàigheil, coir do'n  
luchd-cinnidh aige!

# SNP President joins the League

As a much younger man of twenty eight I fine well remember the Hamilton Bi-Election of 1967 which brought to the fore that now internationally known figure of freedom, Winnie Ewing, better known in the European Union as Madam Ecosse, an accolade she got as the longest serving member for the largest constituency in Europe (The Highlands and Islands) which she held for the SNP time after time, undefeated, until her retirement. She then moved on to be a prominent member of the new Scottish parliament retirement again sent her for a long and well-deserved rest.

She *aint* finished yet! Oh No! as she has just joined the Alba branch of the League, and there is no doubt we will be hearing from her quite soon.

However, to get back to that Bi-Election, Winnie won by a substantial majority. It was the first time that the TV had put on a new trick, an outside broadcast at the polls, tied up with a studio panel back in the city. All week leading up to the election, the English propoganda machine, via the media which they then controlled, and still do, had said it would be a straight fight between the two

main unionist parties, i.e. Tweedle Dee Labour and Tweedle Dum Tory. They were so convinced of their own deception that they had only invited representatives of the three unionist parties – Labour/Tory/ Liberal – along to the studio. The Nationalists, Communists and others were of course not invited. This made the job of the poor comper of the programme extremely difficult, if not embarrassing, as the news from the outside broadcast kept, at regular interval, informing him of the steady pile up of the nationalist votes. The nationalist victory left him stunned, as all he could do with his three unionists was to interview each one to ask them why they had lost.

Having personally stood some 13 times for the SNP and having been on candidate lists at European and other levels I can only empathise with just how hard Winnie has worked for her country since 1967. Although a member of the Celtic League in the past, the new Scottish Parliament kept her more than busy. Now that she had retired she has not by any means hung up her spurs. Winnie, I am sure, will be an asset to the League and proposals have been moot-



Winnie Ewing

ed to make her our honorary Vice President of the Alba Branch, a proposal I don't see as having much in the way of opposition. If you are reading this and live in Scotland, then contact me (my address is on Carn pg.24). We trust you will join the steady trickle of new and former members who are returning to put the Celtic League back on the map and back on the cultural and political agenda.

Iain Ramsay

## STREET NAMES STORM COULD BE CULTURAL LOSS

There will be a feeling of *deja vu* to those active in the Manx language movement who read about the current furore in parts of the Highlands of Scotland over Gaelic place names.

Local people living at Kilmallie near Fort William have apparently reacted strongly to plans to give three new streets in the town Gaelic names. They are apparently concerned that the names, derived from historic battles in the area, such as Inbhir Lochaidh Road (Battle of Inverlochy Road) etc. could prove too difficult and tongue-twisting for anglicised ears.

Proponents of the move argue that the move would promote a sense of place and culture to both residents and visitors - so far their argument is falling on deaf ears.

Paradoxically over twenty five years ago when there was a real drive to introduce (and in some instances restore) Gaelic place names in the Isle of Man there was a similar reaction in some quarters. However the programme went ahead and these days many new streets and roads have Manx or bilingual naming. No difficulty has occurred as a result of the policy.

Certainly some of the arguments now being used in Scotland about promoting a sense of culture and place are true for the Isle of Man. The place-names campaign became the first in a series of steps which not only strengthened the Manx language but also the sense of Manx identity.

In the Highlands the final decision will be made next week with the Lochaber Area planning committee of Highland Council due to have the last word.

We hope that wisdom will prevail when Lochaber Area planning committee of Highland Council come to a final decision!

JBM

## Scotland's newest National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Knockan Crag, Scotland's newest NNR, in Wester Ross is to become a centre for environmental education in English and Gaelic. Knockan Crag has for the last 30 years been an important training ground for students of geology.

To mark the establishment of the centre, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), is launching a education pack for Knockan Crag, available in Gaelic and English, and local schools are to be presented with their own copies.

SNH invested over £200,000 in the Knockan project. More than £300,000 came from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £150,000 from the Highlands and Islands Objective One partnership. Ross and Cromarty Enterprise, and Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise also backed the project.

Iain Muir, local member of SNH's North Areas Board, said: 'I am delighted that Knockan Crag is becoming a National Nature Reserve in its own right. This is a truly magnificent site and with its internationally important geology and outstanding geological interpretation and visitor facilities, it is a real asset to the area. The new schools pack takes this a stage further by inviting teachers to use the site more formally in the teaching curriculum. Gaelic is one of the five languages featured in the interpretation at Knockan and it is entirely appropriate that the pack is bilingual, making it an equally useful resource for the growing number of Gaelic Medium Education units in the Highlands.'

An SNH review of all NNRs across Scotland resulted in the declaration of six other NNRs in north Highland. These are Achanarras Quarry, Dunnet Links, Gualin, Invernaver, Mound Alderwoods, and Strathy Bogs.

# Is the B.B.C. unbiased?

Many of us in Scotland envy readers in Brittany and Ireland who have been spared the tedious reporting over the last few months of the dispute between the B.B.C. and the British government, though it was instructive for us. It involved the reasons given to us why we should make war on Iraq in 2003, B.B.C. reporting of it, especially by Andrew Gilligan, and the tragic suicide of Dr. David Kelly, a civil servant who had given him information. In the event the result of an enquiry by Lord Hutton, an English High Court judge, exonerated the government of any false or exaggerated statements, and condemned the B.B.C. so thoroughly that the Chairman and Director General felt compelled to resign. The newspapers accused Lord Hutton of a whitewash, and represented the B.B.C. as seriously weakened with its independence put at risk.

At this time there is a natural tendency for people to rally to the support of the B.B.C., attempt to safeguard it from supposed government interference, and begin to ignore the many complaints made against the Corporation over the years.

Many of us have questioned the B.B.C.'s independence in reporting Scottish affairs. The Scottish National Party has the second largest number of members in the Scottish Parliament, but it is never treated as 'an official opposition' nor given exposure on either Radio or TV which its support in the country should command. The 'Scots Independent' has a regular monthly column written by Colin Campbell dealing with the B. B.C. and Scotland. In a recent issue he quoted a speech by Greg Dyke (B.B.C. Director General just resigned) in which he described the Corporation as the glue which holds the United Kingdom together! In the February 2004 issue Mr. Campbell says,

There is a growing public realisation that the B.B.C. is deeply involved in underpinning the political status quo in Scotland; yet has no democratic mandate or authority for its actions. This is a serious constitutional issue, which should unite all shades of democratic opinion in Scotland and surely it is our urgent task to muster these forces sufficiently to ensure either a root and branch pruning of the existing structures to make them publicly accountable, or to rid Scotland of B.B.C. control once and for all!

The B.B.C. Charter comes up for renewal in 2006, so there is time, beginning now, to influence what it will then become.

In the 'Scottish Socialist Voice (the weekly paper of the Scottish Socialist Party) on February 20th, the two middle pages are headed 'The battle for the B.B.C.' In an interview with Kath Kyle, Dr David Miller of Stirling

University Media Department says, 'The B.B.C. has been cowed ... It is similar to the fearfulness that existed over reporting the troubles in Northern Ireland for years. The government is continuing to pile on the pressure. They are allowing back bench Blairites like Peter Mandelson to make pronouncements on the B.B.C. and its journalists'. In another article by Paul Hollerton, the National Union of Journalists' Scots organiser, he points out that of the original 14 commercial TV franchises in Britain few remain, and there is a danger that by takeovers soon only one will remain. The government's Communications Act passed in October 2003 has made this possible. It is clear that the steady distillation down to the new I.T.V. giant ... is going to have implications for the diversity of news, programme making and local identities in the North East and Highlands and Islands of Scotland"

If we monitor the B.B.C. can we expect that notice will be taken of what we say? In fact the B.B.C. is very conscious of criticism, especially if it is constructive. For example I quote from the protest recently made by the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Glasgow and Birmingham, underlined on February 16th by Jack Longland in 'Thought for the Day'. The Archbishops were especially incensed by plans to show a cartoon called 'Popetown' depicting the Pope as a childish pensioner. They also pointed out aggressive and unsympathetic interviewing of the Archbishop of Westminster and of the Chairman of the Scottish Catholic Education Service. The Archbishop of Glasgow expressed sympathy for the B.B.C. reporter Andrew Gilligan—'at another time and in another place his error would have been immediately corrected and an apology issued and accepted. I have less sympathy for those within the Corporation who have encouraged a tabloid culture to grow which has seen the world's most distinguished broadcasting organisation employ tactics and standards unworthy of it'.

We would be better advised to place the future of Gaelic and of the Celtic culture generally in the hands of separate Scottish, Welsh, Cornish Irish and Manx Radio/TV authorities.

At its best the R.B.C. is very good, but even then it is English culture it is promoting. Well did the late Oliver Brown call it the 'Anglo saxophone'.

Ronald I. Matheson



## Europe: Democracy and Language Rights

### *The future of our languages without hegemony*

A European-wide demonstration is planned for 9th May in Strasbourg, France: it will be open to all those people and associations which would like to hold a public debate on the future of languages in the European Union.

In 2004, the European Union will become enlarged to include 25 countries in all; and it will have 20 official languages (although, in fact, many more than 20 are used in the European Union). Nevertheless, the linguistic aspects of the European Union have not yet been seriously considered: in theory, the European politicians say that the European Union will be multilingual but, in practice, multilingualism is not respected, and some languages are preferred to others. We risk having languages divided into "important" and "not important"; and what will happen to all those languages defined as "minority languages"? How can we prevent hegemony by one language or one small group of languages?

If we do nothing to protect all the languages of the European Union (including the so-called "minority languages") and consider them all on the same level, the cultural diversity of Europe will be severely endangered.

The above-mentioned demonstration is also an opportunity to show language and cultural diversity, as it is inter-associational and because it includes participants from different European countries. The web-page of the demonstration is: <http://europa.bunto.free.fr/> and has been translated into 35 of the languages of the European Union. If your association is interested in participating and would like more information, it should contact the co-ordinator for the UK, Elizabeth Cirio, at: [prezidanto@iejb.org.uk](mailto:prezidanto@iejb.org.uk)

If your association is interested, we can also include its name (eventually with a link to your home page) in the demonstration's home page:

<http://europa.bunto.free.fr/asocioj.htm>

We would also much appreciate it if you could publish information about this demonstration in your magazine

Sebastien Erhard  
(Co-ordinator of Europa Bunto)

# Breizh

## Irish... e-tal an dazont...

Er niverenn diwezhañ (N°:124), ez eus bet graet ur sell diwarbenn istor hag yezh e bro Iwerzhon. Ar pennadskid-se zo tennet eus ul levrig embannet gant burev Europa ar yezhoù nebeutoc'h implijet. Er pennad-mañ e vo graet ur sell war ar mediaoù, an arzoù hag an armerzh. Evit echuñ e vo anv eus an deskadurezh ha religion hag all.

Al lezenn savet e 1998, diwarbenn ar radio hag an TV, o deus lakaet e plas ur gomision (IRTC). He fal a zo an diorren er servijou ar c'hleweled. Radio-one (RTE) skign tro dro 100MN bep sizhun. Radio na Gaeltachtu a ra 90MN dre sizhun ivez. E Dulenn Radio na Life a ginnig 60 eurvezh bep sizhun...dreist holl ar radioioù zo ur gwir benveg evit derec'hel ar yezh.

An TV a ra ur sapre labour ivez. TnaG zo ganet er bloavezh 1996. Skign a ra 1800MN bep sizhun. D'ar mare-se an TV iwerzhonad oa unan eus ar re gwellañ tout, en Europa, war an dachenn teknikel. Mod all, RTE-one a ginnig 180MN. Da lavaret eo dek gwech nebeutoc'h eget TnaG. Mod all an eil chadenn anvet NETWORK2 ne ra nemet 10MN. Eus he zu, ar pevare channel n'eo ket dedenet gant ar yezh. Memestra, ar chadenn-

se zo a du evit implij bruderezh paet gant ar stad.

Evit ar pezh a sell eus ar c'hazetennoù, ez eus a bep seurt. Memestra ul lodenn a zo muioc'h vicherel eget ar re all...Fionse, ar gazetenn-sul a ra 5000 skouerenn bep gwech. La, e vez gwerzhet e ker Belfast pad ar sizhun. Ar merc'her e vez kavet un hanter bajennad en Irish-Times. Saol, zo ur gazetenn miziek produet gant Bord na Gaeilge. Ar strollad-se o deus graet arc'hant evit sikour ur c'hant levr bennak e ti seitek embanner...An embann hag al lennegezh a seblant bezañ ya'h. Prizioù a bep seurt hag an Nobel Price Seamus HEANEY labour evit se.

War dachenn an arzoù ez eus bet kalz traou graet er bloavezhioù 90. Bruderezh, steunverezh ha skoazel a bep seurt. Siwazh kalz traou a chom da ober, evit mont war raok gant ar raktres orin. An Ao Ministr nevez e 1998 o deus lakaet 26M(£) war an daol.

An arc'hant-se o deus sikouret bed ar c'hoariva. Faibhdhearc, eus Galway a zo boazet da lakaat war sav c'hwec'h pezh c'hoari bep bloaz. E Dulenn, the Peacock, zo boazet da grouiñ un abadenn bep div vloaz.

Ouzhpenn-se an TV, a ra ul liv brav d'ar c'hoariva.

Kevredigezh(CCE) Gael-Linn he o deus savet ul labour abaoe pell zo evit saveteiñ ar music hengounel. E fin ar c'hantved tremenet an dud-se o deus adsavet "sessions" er puboù. An dra-se a zo bet graet gant sikour burev an douristelezh. Ar gevredigezh (CCE) e-giz ar sportoù gouezeleg a gemer perzh er yezh ar vro dre kreizhennoù lec'hel. Siwazh ar re-mañ ne deus ket labourer kalz. Ouzhpenn-se an traoù zo disheñvel e pep korn eus ar vro. Memestra ar c'hevredigezhioù-se, dreist-holl an hurling pe ar football gouezeleg a sach kalz tud.

Dre vraz ar servijou publik implij muioc'h muiañ yezh ar vor.

An tiez bank, post pe an tailhoù zo aozet evit digemer an oztizien e gouezeleg. Peadra da lakaat ar vreizhiz da huñvreal. Ar roll-labour anvet interCelt sikour raktresoù sevenadurel etre CYMRU & iwerzhon. Ar program ekonomikel souezhusañ zo anvet Fiontar. Ur stummadur huel tre, savet er skolveur Dulenn, war dachenn an arc'hant hag ar yezhoù.

Evit echuñ, dav eo lavar eo ar yezh skoazellet gant al lezennoù. Memestra dav eo evezhiañ ha krouiñ nerzh ha startijenn evit harpañ ouzh an american...

### Précis

Part 2 - This article continues to appraise the booklet *IRISH - Facing the Future* which deals with the history and present day position of the Irish Language (See *Carn 124*)

Gi Keltik



## Ur skinwel breizhat evit an holl

En darn vrasañ eus broioù Europa e kaver chadennoù rannvroel a skign programmoù digoust (Rouantelezh Unanet, Spagn, Alamagn h.a.). Ganet e oant evit an darn vrasañ anezho e penn kentañ ar bloavezhioù 80, berzh a reont holl pa grouont postoù labour ha mat int ivez evit skeudenn ar vro : 2000 post labour zo bet krouet gant chadenn Kembre S4C, 1000 post labour en Euskadi, daou film eus Kembre zo bet kinniget evit an Oscar pa n'he deus ar chadenn-se nemet ugent vloaz...

Evel boaz gant ar yezhoù bihanniver, warlerc'h eo chomet Bro C'hall, n'eus chadenn tele rannvroel ebet a zo digoust hag emren.

France 3 ne ra nemet diskregiñ eus he abadennoù broadel da skignañ un nebeud abadennoù rannvroel.

TV Breizh he deus ranket cheñch penn d'ar vazh en despet d'ar strivoù a oa bet graet e-pad tri bloaz evit lakaat anezhi da zont da vezañ ur gwir chadenn vreizhek. Deut eo da vezañ ur

chadenn hollek pa ne oa nemet 10% eus ar Vretoned a c'halle tapout anezhi (skignet e vez dre ar fun pe al loarell, paeañ a ranker).

Goulenn a ra groñs ar c'hevredad "Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl" ma vo savet e Breizh evel en holl vroioù en Europa ur gwir chadenn rannvroel digoust o skignañ war ar rouedad hertzian, analogel da gentañ ha niverel goude-se.

Evit ober an dra-se e c'houlennont digant ar CSA (Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel) dieubiñ an holl frekañsoù hertzian a zo tu da gaout e Breizh ha reiñ an aotre da skignañ war ar frekañsoù-se ur gwir chadenn vreizhat emren.

Evit gouzout hiroc'h ha kemer perzh er sinadeg:

Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl/Une Télévision Bretonne pour Tous

Hent ar Radom - BP2 - 22560 Pleumeur-Bodoù

Route du radôme - BP2 - 22560 Pleumeur-Bodoù BREIZH/BRITANNY via France

Rouedad : [www.tvbzh.org](http://www.tvbzh.org) - Postel : [webmaster@tvbzh.org](mailto:webmaster@tvbzh.org)

**Précis:** France is still lacking a TV channel broadcasting in Breton. The State TV channel *France 3 and TV Breizh* have very few and too short programmes in the Breton language. It is time to have a free TV channel broadcasting only through Breton. Take just one minute, visit their web site, sign the petition asking for a free TV channel in Breton and help «Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl» in their campaign!

José CALVETE

## Ar Bed Keltiek

On line books, records, Celtic art.

Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82

Brest: 02.98.44.05.38

<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>

e-host: [arbed@em.obrylaque.fr](mailto:arbed@em.obrylaque.fr)

Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. Ar Roue Grolon, 29000 Kemper).

When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

# BREIZH AKTU

## '70-80

Breizh Akту' is a Breton play performed by ArVroBagan (AVB). The 1970s and 1980s were very special years for Brittany. The so called *Beat Generation* showed a strong feeling for freedom. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, Breton people appear to be in a nostalgic mood, therefore, the play, Breizh Akту', depicts very forcefully our best memories of these years.

Breizh. Akту' tells the story of an old woman, Nikol ar Vourc'h, who travels around with a singer Jakez Ar Borg. These two comedians give a tremendous performance by successfully linking comedy to emotions throughout the play. They progress from social battles to economic crisis's a sort of laic 'Tro-Breizh'.

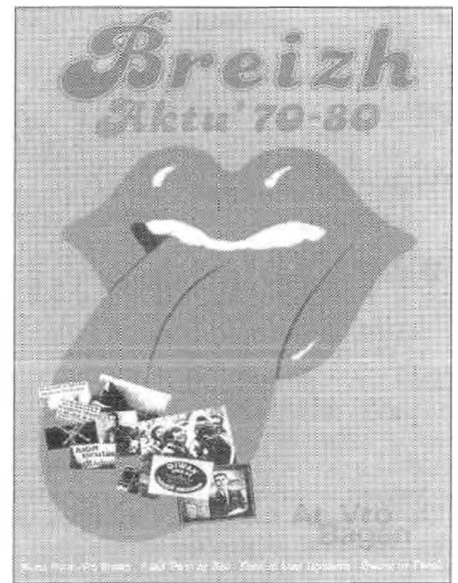
The first battle starts in the early 60's, with the Leon Veg's - Belt farmers. The two leaders Alexis Gourveneg and Marcel Leon join with the farmers to approach the 'prefecture' of Morlaix, who promises to oversee the development of the farming industry in Brittany in exchange for the support (votes) of the farmers' Trade Union ... thus, defying the French President, De Gaulle. Today these close links still exist. Thanks to Europe things are changing. Alexis Gourveneg is leaving his responsibilities at different levels: Credit Agricole and Cerafel etc. Fresh hope is growing in the cultural movement.

As expected, G. Kervella, the producer of the play, is eager to help his generation remember the seventies and hopefully to understand the implications of that era for today. In the 60s Brittany went through the vegetable crisis. Then ten years later they faced the milk crisis which was a new challenge for Brittany. In the Seventies, the Breton farming lobbies grew stronger within the EEC and by working hard in Europe solutions were found through the banks and also the Manshold Project.

In the sixties and seventies, left wing intellectuals, among others, fought hard against state colonialism. For instance R. Vautier produced a film along with the *fellaghas* which dealt with the colonialist war in Algeria, but as long as the french State controls the issuing of licences for films and television, R. Vautier has no chance of screening his film: 'avoir 20 ans dans les Aures'. Despite going on strike, his request to show the film was shot down by the state censors. One can also say that in spite of state opposition

to *any* language i.e. the diplomatic one: French. DIWAN opened it first class in Lambaol - Ploudalmeze in 1977). This century presents another important challenge for Brittany; in the face of globalisation it is vital that Brittany retains its social and economic values.

In 1978 another challenge came to the fore in Portsall with the Amoco-Cadix oil spill. Some 15 years after the oil spill, A. Arzel (Dem.) and CH. Josselin (PS), won the battle over Amoco. Dynamism, tenacity and solidarity against the French and American States as well as Amoco itself brought about their success. This was just the opposite of the recent Erica oil spill where the Gaullists and the socialists were unable to work together. Jacobinism is no friend to Breizh. It is precisely because of this philosophy that the state decided to build a power station in Plogou. However, the presidential election of 1981, gave F. Mitterrand and Louis le Pensec the opportunity to quash this project which also proved to be of benefit to the Green Party in Brittany.



The idea of going back to our roots and to nature, which is a central theme in Breizh Akту', gave the producer, Gouic'han Kervella the opportunity to put across this message and give us hope for the future. This play was a 'must see' in 2003 and...hopefully in 2004.

N.B.:

This year AVB will be performing the plays *Buhez Sant Erwan (21/05/04+...)* and *Pasion Plougastell (400th birthday!)*.

Gi Keltik

## Farewell Jean Guég'

A founder-member of the UDB, Jean Guegueniat, died as a result of a virulent cancer. Known to all as Jean Gueg', he was born at Brest in 1941. Following the 1984 UDB congress Jean Guégueniat became leader of Frankiz Breizh in order to develop his ideas for the Brest region. The following extract from *Le Peuple Breton* in May 1984 typifies his style:

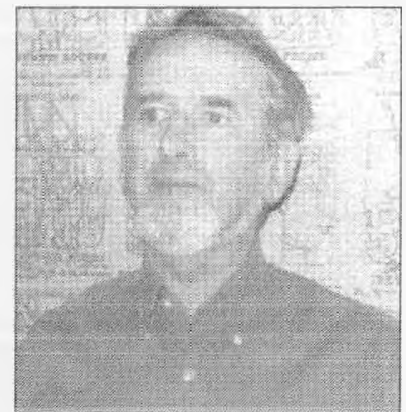
"Who then is threatening the Breton identity?

There is no shortage of answers; we know them by heart from the uniformity seeking propensity of the State to our inherent alienation towards capitalism, from the schoolmaster persuaded to do the best for his pupil to the colonised mind who refuses his own language. It is exactly the same processes that deprive the Breton of his culture and refuse to let the immigrant have his own identity. And it is the same responses that the one and the other uses to resist.

The inward-looking Brittany is finished. No more the nonsense about "true Bretons" with blue eyes, dark hair, and, why not, a round hat. No more the stereotypes of the coloniser. Today Japanese write in Breton, Portuguese workers have learnt it from their co-workers in the work-place, and people from all over Europe may be found in Breton courses.

Morvan Lebesque related many years ago in *Le Peuple Breton* how a young black man wanted to join a Celtic group but was worried that this would cause a problem, to which Morvan Lebesque simply answered "What problem?"

What problem indeed, if not that of identity. An identity not rooted in race, nor in the ghetto, but in the desire to construct a country with all those who live there or want to live there. Let the dinosaurs become sterile - let us oppose them with a Brittany of all colours!



# Is the French state tarring the cultural forces of Brittany?

On November 4, 2003 the arrest in Gwengamp of five members of the twinning committee Gwengamp-Shannon came as a shock. The five were accused of helping the "True IRA", an Irish terrorist group. The question must be asked, is the French state bent on criminalizing what is known here as the Emsav, the Breton Renewal and especially the cultural renewal? It is all the more indicative of a political scheme when it is known that, at the end of March 2004, regional elections will take place and, at the same time, there will be the trial of eleven Breton activists who have been held in pre-trial detention, for more than four years for some of them, which is obviously contrary to the rule of law in a democratic nation and, moreover, in stark opposition to every international charter of human rights.

So, on November 4, 2003 members of the regional police and of the state special antiterrorist brigade arrested five very honourably known citizens of Gwengamp on the flimsiest of suspicions. Among them, Jean-Pierre Ellien, former town councillor, president and a prime mover of the Saint Loup Festival, one of the great Breton cultural events of Gwengamp each year and one of the five most important Summer festivals in Brittany.

It is especially shocking to see people, presumed to be innocent, arrested under threat; transferred to Paris, incarcerated in revolting conditions and assimilated, without the beginning of proof, to the worst international terrorists and, to add insult to injury, have their homes violated in the worst possible fashion by the French police!

Meanwhile back in Gwengamp a support committee was organized and the entire population, shaken by these scandalous arrests, took to the streets in ever greater numbers as the days went by. After a few days the police victims were released under judiciary control and will have to face trial, needless to say that although sure of their innocence they are shaken by these judiciary developments, this is the case of Jean-Pierre Ellien, questioned by, "Cam": I have always been active in the cultural life in Brittany. I founded the bagad (pipe band) of Gwengamp in 1973, soon after I became a member of the Saint Loup Festival committee which has been in existence since 1958. When I was a member of the city council, Mr Lessilour was then mayor: I initiated the twinning with Shannon. I received the support of the just deceased Polig Monjarret, the great renovator of Breton music and the man who did the most to forge strong links between Éire and Brittany. With the twinning committee I soon realized that the best musical groups in Éire were to be found in the pubs. Thereafter I spent all my vacations in Éire with musician friends. As a result of these trips my visiting card is in the hands of hundreds of publicans in Donegal, Kerry and elsewhere in

Éire. One day I was introduced to somebody in Dundalk near to the northern border. I was there with members of the pipe band, on the road to Belfast we had stopped to pay a visit to the grave of Bobby Sands, for us it was a kind of pilgrimage as we would do for the tomb of Yann-Vari Perrot. Subsequently, in a pub, I met a fellow by the name of Frankie Macgown, we became friends and he came to see us every time we visited Éire, he has arranged for three musical groups from Éire to come here, we have very good souvenirs to share and so, last May, when we were in the Galway area Frankie came to see us and that's it.

Therefore, it seems that it is this purely personal and cultural contact that attracted on Jean-Pierre Ellien and his friends the wrath of the French police forces and justified the accusation of collaboration with a terrorist group by the French judiciary.

Needless to say that Jean-Pierre Ellien and his friends, who claim that they are totally innocent of these charges, cannot understand why the French police forces moved with such speed and strength when all of the accused could have readily answered all the questions relating to their "Irish links" upon a simple call to the local police station. Whatever the outcome of the police inquiry Breton solidarity with the five "presumed innocents" has already been demonstrated and on Saturday, the 22nd of November last, more than 4000 people coming from all over Brittany were marching in protest in the streets of Gwengamp, in spite of a pouring rain.

This gathering, which went beyond the usual circles of Breton militants was supported by Jean-Yves Cozan, the vice-president of the Regional Council in charge of Breton identity, he was to declare: Past the first few moments of shock and disbelief we are all scandalized by the humiliating arrests which are totally out of place as well as ungrounded. This despicable attack obviously had the objective to tarnish the reputation of a respected cultural leader and belittle him through a suspicion of terrorist activities; such methods are beyond belief in a proclaimed "state of right"!

As far as he is concerned Jean-Pierre Ellien will not cave in and he is more determined than ever to continue his activity in the cultural field, he said:

Three of us have been indicted, yet my lawyer could have asked for a *nonsuit* judgement immediately, but there was a risk that the judge could ask for a complementary inquiry and send me to jail for six months!

Now, I can look up the police file but I cannot leave France without the authorization of the judge and moreover I cannot even meet the friends with whom I used to go to Éire.

It is obviously quite amazing and, in fact, beyond belief said Jean-Yves Cozan that in country, considering itself a member of the "Western World" and supposedly "democratic", apparently innocent people can be arrested as if they were dangerous terrorists even though the only "proof" of their "guilt" is purely circumstantial.

It is quite clear that, sooner rather than later, the European Human Rights Commission and Court will have to investigate the operation of the French police and justice departments whose methods are undoubtedly soiling the image of the police and justice establishments of the other member states of the European Union.

Thierry Jigourel



## 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.diwanbreizh.org>

# Cymru

## Streic newyn dros y Llydaweg

Gofynnodd un o aelodau seneddol Ewropeaidd Plaid Cymru i Senedd Ewrop ymyrryd yn achos merch ifanc o Lydaw oedd wedi bod ar streic newyn dros ei hiaith am dros 7 niwrnod.

Roedd y ferch ifanc, Sabrina Salvar, sy'n astudio Llydaweg fel ail iaith yng ngholeg Kempezec yn Kemperle yn ardal An Oriant, yn protestio yn erbyn cynllun llywodraeth Ffrainc i gwtogi ar nifer yr athrawon sy'n

dysgu'r Llydaweg a ieithoedd difreintiedig eraill yn Ffrainc. Byddai gorffen y cwrs Llydaweg yn Kemperle yn golygu gorfodi'r myfyrwyr deithio i ardal arall am eu had-dysg.

Yn Senedd Ewrop dywedodd Eurig Wyn ASE wrth Michel Rocard, cyn-Brif Weinidog Ffrainc a chadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant: "Mae'r Ffrancwyr yn barod iawn i gwyno am effaith ddifaol y diwylliant Saesneg ar eu

gwlad ac eto'n gwrthod parchu ieithoedd a diwyllianau llai o fewn eu gwlad eu hunain. Mae Cytundeb Hawliau Sylfaenol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn cael ei dramgwyddo yn yr achos hwn ac mae angen i chi gysylltu â Llywodraeth Ffrainc ar unwaith".

Cytunodd Michel Rocard y byddai yn archwilio i'r sefyllfa. Deallir fod 20 o athrawon sy'n dysgu Ocitaneg i golli eu swyddi hefyd. Yn ôl awdurdodau Ffrainc 'does dim digon o fyfyrwyr yn astudio'r Llydaweg na'r Ocitaneg i gyflawnhau ariannu gwersi arbennig iddynt.

*A Breton schoolgirl went on hunger strike for 7 days as a protest against the French government's proposed reduction in the number of teachers of Breton. The matter was taken up in the European Parliament by Plaid Cymru MEP Eurig Wyn.*

## Grŵp Ieithoedd Difreintiedig wedi'i sefydlu yn San Steffan

Mae Grŵp Trawsbleidiol Seneddol am Ieithoedd Difreintiedig wedi cael ei sefydlu yn senedd San Steffan. Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod agoriadol yn Nhy'r Cyffredin ddydd Mercher yr 21ain Ionawr 2004. Mae'r grŵp wedi ei sefydlu gan grŵp o aelodau seneddol sy'n cynnwys AS Plaid Cymru Caernarfon, Hywel Williams, AS Plaid Genedlaethol yr Alban Gogledd Tayside, Peter Wishart, a'r Arglwydd Laird - unoliaethwr o'r 6 sir! Byddant yn edrych ar ffyrdd i hyrwyddo'r ieithoedd difreintiedig yn y wladwriaeth.

Roedd cyflwyniad gan Gadeirydd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, Rhodri Williams, a'r Prif Weithredwr John Walter Jones, am "Cynllunio Ieithyddol, Gwersi o Gymru". Dywedodd Hywel Williams AS: "Rwy'n croesawu sefydlu'r grŵp trawsbleidiol hwn. Mae hi'n gyfle i Seneddwyr ddysgu am y llu o ieithoedd gwahanol a siaredir yng ngwledydd Prydain - Cymraeg, Gwyddeleg, Sgoteg, Gaeleg, a Chemyweg. Ein gobaith fydd i godi ymwybyddiaeth o fewn y drefn ddeddfwriaethol o anghenion arbennig siaradwyr ieithoedd heblaw am y Saesneg. Gyda dyfodiad 10 o wledydd newydd i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, mae'n bwysicach nag erioed i sicrhau ymrwymiad i amddiffyn a datblygu ieithoedd llai." *A cross-party group for the minorized languages in the English state has been set up in the London parliament.*

## Mynnwch stampiau Cymreig!

Clywyd yn y Wasg dipyn yn ddiweddar am anawsterau a gafwyd gan rywrai wrth fynnu prynu stampiau post Cymreig. Mae fersiynau Cymreig o'r stampiau mwyaf cyffredin - y dosbarth cyntaf a'r ail ddosbarth - ar gael ers degawdau. Ond ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol maent yn fwy gwahanol i'r rhai Prydeinig. Yn lle pen mawr brenhines Lloegr a draig Gymreig fach fel y byddent, ers 1999 mae pen y frenhines yn fach a bathodyn Cymru yn fawr - draig ar y rhai dosbarth cyntaf a chenhinen ar y rhai ail ddosbarth. Mae stamp ar gyfer llythyrau i dir mawr Ewrop hefyd, a daffodil arno. Cafwyd yr un fath o newid yn stampiau'r Alban a'r Chwe Sir hefyd, ac am y tro cyntaf dechreuwyd cynhyrchu stampiau cyfatebol i Lloegr a llewod arnynt.

Ond nid yw mor hawdd gael stampiau Cymreig mewn swyddfa bost ag y byddai flynyddoedd yn ôl. Rhaid gofyn armdanynt yn aml, neu stampiau Prydeinig heb ddim ond pen brenhines Lloegr a gewch. Ac os prynwch stampiau mewn archfarchnad neu o beiriant stampiau ni chewch ddewis hyd yn oed. Mae'n debyg bod y bai ar y stampiau hunanludiog (nad oes angen eu llyfu) a geir mewn llyfrynnau neu ar roliau nad yw ar gael ond fel stampiau Prydeinig. Mae Postwatch - y sefydliad i ddefnyddwyr post - wedi ymddirori yn y mater ac argymhellwn i rywun sydd yn cael trafferth gael stampiau Cymreig gysylltu â nhw ar [www.postwatch.co.uk](http://www.postwatch.co.uk) (e-bost: [cymru@postwatch.co.uk](mailto:cymru@postwatch.co.uk), cyfeiriad: Golwg ar Bost Cymru, Lefel 5, Cwrt y Groes Hir, 47 Heol Casnewydd, Caerdydd, CF24 OWL).

Mae'n werth gofio bod stampiau yn effeithio ar edrychiad post i bawb sy'n ei weld ac mae defnyddio stampiau Cymreig yn ailadrodd y neges mewn ffordd fach bod Cymru yn wlad ar wahân. Mae hyn yn werth gorfod llyfu cich stampiau!

*Since devolution Welsh postage stamps have been made more different from standard British stamps, and there are now distinctive English stamps sold in England too, but they have become more difficult to obtain due to new self-adhesive stamps which are available only in standard British form. In order for our post to reflect the distinction between our countries we recommend members to insist on buying national definitive stamps in Cymru, Alba, and England. Use [www.postwatch.co.uk](http://www.postwatch.co.uk) in case of difficulties.*

*Robot ap Tomos*

## GLYNDŴR CORONATION COMMEMORATION

The six hundredth anniversary of the crowning of Owain Glyndŵr Prince of Wales in 1404 is being commemorated in events across Wales this year, the centrepiece of which is intended to be a 'Glyndŵr's Nation Weekend' at

Machynlleth between the 18th and 21st of June when it is hoped thousands of people will come to the town in west Powys. Events now at the planning stage include a recreation of Glyndŵr riding into the town on horseback, a medieval market and the presentation to the town of an exact copy of the sword sent by the French king to mark the coronation to mark Machynlleth's role in the bid for Welsh independence from the English throne.

Embassy Glyndŵr, set up in 1999, has liaised with councils across Wales in an effort to promote the anniversary as a tourism winner. They are trying to persuade communities with connections with Glyndŵr such as Machynlleth, Harlech, and Dolgellau to organize commemorations this year, pointing out how Welsh towns can copy how other countries promote their historical connections to boost their tourist trade.

# Cilmeri Rally Reclaimed

The traditional rally at Cilmeri, Powys, took place this winter to commemorate the killing of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd ('Ein Llyw Olaf') by the English on December 11th 1282 which marked the end of the independent princes of Gwynedd and thus the end of continuous Welsh independence (restored temporarily by Owain Glyndwr 120 years later). Usually held on the Saturday nearest the 11th, this annual rally has become more establishment-oriented in recent years, with Plaid Cymru career politicians, some with a dubious political colour, using the rally as an opportunity to publicize themselves. Last winter, 2002, Liberal Democrats, who want more power to be given to the National Assembly but who are really unionists, even turned up and spoke at Cilmeri. This dilution of the event prompted a group of nationalists, including those who initiated the Cilmeri rally in the 1960s, to hold an alternative rally on the 6th December, a week before the 'official' rally on the 13th.

The march to the commemoration



stone from the place of assembly was led by a colour party from the Welsh republican movement. The speakers at the stone included a representative of Cymru 1400 and a delegation from the Kernow branch of the Celtic League who had been invited to express inter Celtic solidarity. Several members of Cymru branch were also present and a meeting of League members and other nationalists held immediately after the rally was addressed by the Kernow and Cymru branch secretaries who were able to stress the value of inter Celtic cooperation.

The (nationalist) rally this winter was

smaller than usual since many attending the establishment rally would have come to the former if they had known about it. It is expected that if two rallies remain a necessity, the nationalist version will grow in years to come while the other, if it remains a semi-unionist affair, will decline and become meaningless. However, the 11th next winter, 2004, falls on a Saturday when it proposed to hold a nationalist rally on the same day as the other event, so that those coming can see both if dialogue between various groups in the meantime has not resolved the problem.

## CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TO LANGUAGE SINCE ELECTION

### Wales's Labour government is covertly anti-Welsh language

Education minister Jane Davidson of Wales's Labour government, and minister with responsibility for the language, Alan Pugh, declared at the beginning of the year, in words meaning nothing less, that they were opposed to the opening of more Welsh-medium schools as they did not want to see the "ghettoisation" of the language, and preferred rather the development of Welsh-medium streams in English-medium schools. It is difficult to believe that this new-found 'caring' stems from any *bona fide* concern for the children's education or the language. It looks like part of a covert policy of the Labour Party to slow the growth in bilingual education for fear of the long-term effects an increase in bilingualism on the national and political outlook of the population.

For many years now, organizations concerned with the development of Welsh and educationalists have been unanimous that schools run through the medium of Welsh (or another Celtic language) where the children can be immersed in the language are more effective in developing the children's bilingualism than Celtic-medium streams in mainly-English/French-medium schools where the children are in a Celtic-medium

atmosphere only in the classroom and are discouraged by the presence of their monoglot peers from using Celtic elsewhere. The statement from the ministers confirms what was suspected when Davidson overruled Caerffili County Council's decision to open three new Welsh-medium primary schools last year. Even though the level of protest caused Davidson to backtrack verbally, "of course" she was in favour of Welsh-medium schools, we are left in little doubt that there has been a swing in the attitude of the Welsh government since the general election last year. Under the Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition that ran Wales up to 1st May 2003 a consensus formed among the four establishment parties in the Assembly that the Welsh language was to be promoted with the long-term aim of creating a 'bilingual' Wales. This consensus was frustrating for the Welsh language movement because of the unwillingness of the Assembly politicians to make a principled stand for steps to protect Welsh-speaking communities from the *Mewnllifiad* and to support the calls for a new Welsh Language Act. But the consensus had the effect of marginalizing the anti-Welsh too. The policy document on the language, *Iaith*

*Pawb*, produced under the auspices of the coalition government last year, was widely condemned for its lack of substance and commitment, but did reiterate the need for developing Welsh-medium schools hand in hand with local demand. But with last year's change to an all-Labour administration with its unionist wing boosted by the decline in the Plaid Cymru presence and the disappearance of several prominent Welsh-speakers from the Assembly, it is widely felt that the former 'consensus' has gone. *Iaith Pawb* has effectively been shelved. As minister with responsibility for the language, instead of the naive but 'nice' quasi-English Liberal Democrat Jenny Randerson, we now have the hard unionist Alan Pugh. And while publicly the liberal pro-bilingualism rhetoric continues. Rhodri Morgan's new administration increasingly views Welsh-speakers with suspicion and hostility in private. (Actually, from the point of view of Labour hegemony in Wales, there is some justification for this attitude.) Above all, it is the element of good-will that seems to have disappeared.

It is significant that the former Secretary of State for Wales and Assembly Member Ron Davies, who led the 'Yes' campaign in the devolution referendum in 1997 and is regarded as the founder of devolution in Wales, has left the Labour Party, citing the increased hostility to Welsh-speakers as a major factor in leaving.

Robot ap Tomos

# CYMRU IN BRIEF

## **Orange attacked as Cymdeithas visit quango:**

14 members of Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg were arrested in a protest at the Orange mobile phone shop in Cardiff in January during a demonstration calling for a new Welsh Language Act.

The protest for a New Language Act had started at the nearby offices of the government's language quango where attention was drawn to the glaring defects in the quango's approach, and then moved on to Orange where protesters occupied the shop and chained themselves to it. Police arrested the protesters, 13 of whom were released without charge. In a statement Cymdeithas said, "Orange has been targeted because the Welsh Language Board announced as far back as the Llanelli National Eisteddfod in 2000 that they were involved in talks with Orange concerning the adoption of a Welsh language policy. We still await the outcome of these talks." Before the protest at the quango HQ spokesman Rhys Llwyd said, "This is only the first of many visits we will make to the Welsh Language Board this year. We shall also continue campaigning against Orange and similar institutions that are not answerable to the present Welsh Language Act. If we are to witness a growth in the use of Welsh then a new Welsh Language Act is urgently needed."

## **Plaid AC slams Labour hypocrisy on second homes:**

Plaid Cymru's Shadow Environment Minister, Helen Mary Jones AC, accused the Labour party of "total hypocrisy" after its members voted in January against proposals to include second homes as change of use under the 'Use Classes Order' (under which planning permission would be required before changing the status of a first home to a second home) despite committing to do so in the Culture Committee meeting of July 2002. Speaking after an Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee meeting she said: "Today's decision by Labour members of the Environment committee smacks of hypocrisy and inconsistency. Labour members of the Culture Committee agreed with these proposals in July 2002 yet in January 2004 Labour members of the Environment Committee have changed their minds." The Culture Committee's Review of the Welsh Language states "The committee recommends that planning permission should be required before changing the status of a permanent dwelling into a holiday home in areas where the number of holiday homes exceed a threshold of the existing housing stock. The Environment Minister should consider this recommendation alongside other measures to ensure sufficient availability of housing stock for people within their communities". Ms Jones added "The increase in second and holiday homes and the significant lack of affordable housing means that people are being forced to leave their communities resulting in them becoming unsustainable. Allowing second homes to be classed as 'change of use' could have had a huge positive impact on safeguarding our rural communities. Instead, Labour has chosen once again to turn its back on the countryside."

## **Homebuyers' pack should include information on local community, says MP:**

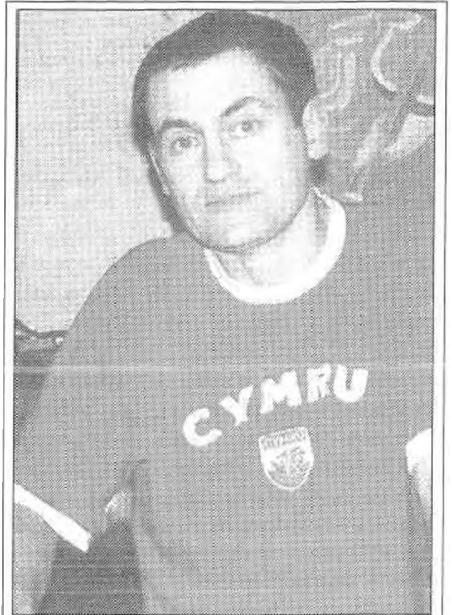
Simon Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Ceredigion, has called on the London government to include a provision in the Housing Bill, debated in the House of Commons in January, which will require sellers of property to supply a home information pack for buyers. According to Mr Thomas, in Wales, this pack should include information about schools, the Welsh language, and the local community.

He said: "This could be done voluntarily through the National Assembly. Its purpose would be to better inform those moving into Wales or from area to area about the nature of the local community. There are still people who do not realise Welsh is a living language, for example, or used in our schools".

## **End of Welsh rail information line?**

It looked at the beginning of the year as if the Strategic Rail Authority was going to end the telephone service for providing information about rail travel through Welsh. This service - on 0845 60405000 - was set up some years ago to allow Welsh-speakers to obtain train information in Welsh as an alternative to the English-only enquiry service on 08457 484950 that operates from Plymouth, England. But the workers at the Welsh call centre in Cardiff were told that their contracts were not to be renewed and recently it has become much more difficult to obtain an answer on the service.

Robat ap Tomos



*Welsh language poet, Ifor ap Glyn, a winner of the Eistedfod crown who had a very successful week long poetry tour in Ireland in mid February. His novel presentation where he uses a video medium with English subtitles, while he delivers his poems in Welsh, was really well received.*

## **CONSEU MEETING**

The Celtic League was represented at the latest working meeting of the CONSEU (Conference of European Nations Without State) which took place in Nantes, Brittany in January. In addition to Breton Celtic League members, Mark Kermode attended and represented the Gaelic nations.

The two day meeting resolved to condemn the misuse of territorial special measures and anti-terrorist laws to further oppress nations without state. In an attempt to positively address this and collect reliable information on national oppression within European states, it was further agreed to establish a public access website listing reliable instances of oppression. To do this, it is necessary to establish a network of informants in each nation.

It is hoped that two representatives for each nation can be identified to relay reliable, objective information to the proposed web-site.

It is also hoped to take advantage of European law that permits lawyers from other jurisdictions to act as observers in trials.

The Conference was hosted by Skoazell Vreizh, the Breton prisoners support group. Included in the nations represented were the Basque country, Catalonia, Galicia, Sardinia, the Canary Islands, the Flemish people and the Berbers.

MK



## Ó thrádmharc go fealsúnacht

An féidir iomha chorporaídeach a bheith ag tír? Is dóigh le cuid de lucht fógraíochtra agus lucht gnó gur féidir ach níl siad ar aon intinn faoin chur chuige ceart lena leithéid a chruthú. Is díol suntais é do lucht fógraíochta an iarracht atá ar siúl faoi láthair thrádmharc nó branda a chumadh do Mhanainn. Is é atá taobh thiar den tionscnamh "Branding Isle of Man" iomha chorporaídeach dhearfach a cheapadh agus a chur chun cinn leis na turasóirí agus infestíocht a mhealladh agus meas na Manannach iontu féin a neartú. Is é an tOllamh Hugh Davidson atá i mbun an tionscnamh mar aon le coiste stiúrtha.

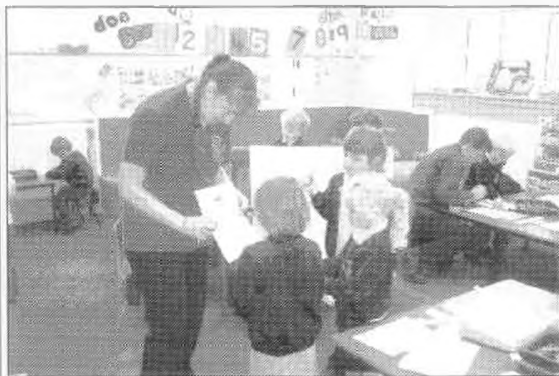
Rithfeadh sé le cuid againn láithreach gur seafóid é plé le tír amháil is dá mba chuideachta ghnó é agus go bhfeadfadh thrádmharc a bheith ina chur síos ar phobal náisiúnta dá laghad é. Mar sin féin tugann feachtas mar sin deis do Mhanannaigh machnamh a dhéanamh ar cé hiad féin. B'in díreach an cheist a tharraing cathaoirleach Corporate Edge, Creenagh Lodge, anuas agus í ag labhairt ag lón an Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce i mí Feabhra. Chuir sí ceist eile: "Céard a theastaíonn uaim a bheith ionainn i gceann 20 nó 30 de bhlianta?"

Bhí díospóireacht den chineál ata ar siúl i Manainn anois faoi réim sa Bhreatain Bheag sna 1990í. Stiúrthóir margadóchta Bhord Turasóireachta na tíre sin, Roger Pride, a bhí taobh thiar den iarracht ansin. Bhí tuiseint ar leith aigean ar an dífríocht idir thrádmharc a chur ar earra agus a leithéid a dhéanamh ar thír. Thuig sé, mar shampla, go gcaithfeadh thrádmharc náisiúnta a bheith inghlactha ag muintir na Braataine Bige féin liú agus é dírithe ar dhaoine ar an taobh amuigh, ábhar turasóirí den chuid is mó. Thuig sé freisin narbh leor teachtaireacht shimplí amháin nuair a bheadh rud eomh casta le tír i gceist agus í dírithe ar chineálcha éagsúla daoine thar lear. Ba é an meon a bhí ag Pride go gcaithfí sraith teachtaireachtaí a chur amach a bheadh bunaithe ar chroileacán d'fhínní faoin tír. Go luath sa phróiseas tháinig sé ar an tuairim nach bhféadfaí braithstintí éagsúla faoin Bhreatain Bheag mar ionad turasóireachta a scarúint ó Cymru, an tír, an náisiún agus an t-aonad polaitiúil. Ba é toradh a mhachnaimh cnuasach de thrádmhairc bunaithe ar ghnéithe éagsúla de shaol na tíre agus iad uile ceangailte le thrádmharc críche. Roghnaigh sé an focal hwyl mar chroílár an thrádmhairc sin. Focal do-aistrithe é ata lán de phaisean, de dheabhail agus de Bhreatainachas.

### Nollick sy Vunscoil (Nollaig sa Bhunscoil)

Cuireadh Y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh (An Bhunscoil Lán-Mhanainnise) ar bun cúig bliana ó shin le cúigear páistí mar aonad taobh istigh de bhunscoil Bhéarla. Tá a foirgneamh féin aici anois le cúigear páistí is fiche agus tá sí ag fas gach bliain.

Tá dhá rang sa Bhunscoil; Rang a hAon le ceathrar páistí déag agus Rang a Dó le aon pháiste déag. Tá na páistí sa chéad rang idir ceithre bliana agus sé bliana d'aois, agus tá na páistí sa dara rang idir sé agus ocht mbliana d'aois. Is í Julie Matthews an múinteoir i Rang a hAon agus is é Paul Rogers an múinteoir i Rang a Dó. Tá Cathy Clucas ag obair mar chúntóir foghlama i Rang a hAon.



Julie Matthews agus Rang a hAon

Baintear úsáid as an Mhanainnis gach lá i ngach ábhar ins an dá rang. Tagann an chuid is mó de na páistí ó theaghlaigh Bhéarla ach is iontach an dóigh atá siad ag foghlaim na teanga dúchais agus iad a húsáid, go gasta agus gan fadhb.

I Mí na Nollag réachtáladh ceolchoirm na Nollag i Manainnis ar fad. D'oibrigh na

páistí uile go crua agus bhí ceol agus amhráin ar fheabhas acu, cóirithe le Annie Kissack agus Bob Carswell. D'fhreastail neart daoine; meascán tuismitheoirí agus Gaeilgeoirí (Gaeilge Oileán Mhanann ar ndóigh!) agus bhain gach aon duine morán suilt as.

Tá Mooinjer Veggey (muintir bheaga) ag réachtáil Y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh in eindi leis an Roinn Oideachais. Comhlacht atá ag réachtáil naiolanna Manainnise ar fud na hOileáin is ea Mooinjer Veggey agus is buiochas ar Annie Kissack agus Phil Gawne, agus an obair chrua atá déanta acu go bhfuil Y Bhunscoil Ghaelgagh ann agus í ag dul ó neart go neart.

Paul Rogers

Tá an cheist faoi thrádmharc aonair nó sraith thrádmhairc faoi chaibidil i Manainn agus tá go leor daoine i gceirceail oifigiúla ar aon intinn go mbeadh ceann aonair rōshimplí. Tacaíonn Ardriat an Chonartha Cheiltigh, Bernard Moffatt, leo. Ag labhairt dó faoina chaipín mar cheannaire ceardchumaim deir sé gur fearr thrádmharc ar leith a bheith ag earraíochta éagsúla. Dar leis d'fhéadfaí an dochar a dhéanamh don thrádmharc aonair dá mbeadh tubaiste in earnáil amháin i Manainn. B'fhéidir go bhfuil an ceart aige nuair a smaoiníonn tú ar an dochar a rinne George Redmond agus an earnáil airgeadais d'iomha Mhanann in Éirinn.

Deir Phil Gawne MHK, ionadaí Rushen sa Teach Cheathrar is Fiche (parlaimint Mhanann) gur ceart don chultúr agus oidhreacht náisiúnta a bheith lárnach i gcur in aithne na tíre don saol amuigh. Dar leis nar cheart díriú ar Mhanainn a chur ar aghaidh mar ionad gnó agus díriú air sin amháin. "Ní aguisíní le hiomha iad an oidhreacht agus an cultúr ach is ceart go mbeidís de dhíth agus inneach ina leithéid," ar sé.

Aithníonn lucht na Manainnise go dtugann an díospóireacht seo deis dóibh tábacht na teanga a chur faoi bhráid an phobail. Ag serobh dó san Isle of Man Examiner le déanaí dúirt Oifigeach Forbartha na Manainnise (ar post rialtais a oifig), Adrian Cain, go bhféadfaid tairbhe a bheith in athbheochain na Manainnise do chúrsaí gnó ar an oileán. Measann Cain gur féidir leis an teanga a bheith ina luirlis mhargadóchta agus earraí Manannacha á ndíol. Luam sé an chaoi ina bhfuil Isle of Man Creameries agus an Roinn Turasóireachta tar éis glacadh leis an teanga mar chuid dílis dá n-íomha agus mar bhealach breise le hatheantas a bhaint amach dá dtáirgí. Deir sé freisin go mbeadh úsáid na teanga ina cúnaimh do dhaoine a

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 17)

bheadh ag plé le heagrafoichtaí idirnáisiúnta polaitiúla, eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta le cur ina luí orthu gur tír ar leith i Manaimn atá taobh amuigh den Ríocht Aontaithe agus a bhfuil leagan amach bunreachtúil ar leith aici. Buntáiste praiticiúil eile ar chóir a chur faoi bhráid lucht gnó, dar le Cain, an chaoi a mbíonn sé níos éasca do ghasúir a bhfuil Manaimnis acu Fraincis nó Spáinnis nó aon teanga eile a fhoghlaim.

Maidir leis sin ní beag an maítheas a dhéanann sé d'fomhā Mhanaim nuair a moltar an athbheochain thar lear. B'abhar suntais é ar an oileán an t-ardmholadh a thug an **Ollamh Colin Baker** ó Ollscoil Bangor le déanaí don bhunscoil Ghaeilge nua mar a bhfuil 25 daltaí á múineadh trí Mhanaimnis.

B'fhéidir gur beag an tabhacht sa deireadh a bhaineann le trádmarc ach tharlódh go mbeadh sé mar thoradh ar an díospóireacht seo i Manaimn go ndéanfaí plé ceart ar fhealsúnacht na náisiúntachta. Sa chomhthéacs sin ní miste smaoinemh ar a bhfuil ráite ag láithreoir Newsnight Channel 4, **Jeremy Paxman**, ina leabhar *The English: "Those countries which do best in the world – the ones that are safe and prosperous – have a coherent sense of their own culture."*

M. MacAonghusa

#### Précis

*This article reports on the campaign to 'brand' the Isle of Man. Some language activists argue that the Manx language and culture should be central to this.*

## New Irish Language Commissioner – 'Tread softly but carry a big stick'

The announcement that Sean Ó Cuirreáin, who had been assistant director of Radio na Gaeltachta, had been selected as the first Commissioner for Official Languages received a general welcome from the Irish language community. He was seen as someone who would take to the task of ensuring implementation of the Irish Language provisions of the new legislation with energy and directness. He was appointed formally in the position by the President, Mary McAleese, at the end of February and at the Irish Language Tostal (annual open meeting of Irish language groups organised by Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge) a week later had the opportunity to outline his strategy in his first public address.



Ó Cuirreáin said the Language Act was the most comprehensive legislative plan for the language since the foundation of the State and the foundation of that plan would be in the schemes which were called for. The provision of services in Irish was a right not a concession. He intended to adopt a practical, sensible and measured approach in seeking partnership from State bodies and the public. Initially the State services would be asked to fulfil their obligations through encouragement and co-operation but it would have to be understood that at the back of all was the threat of enforcement contained in the legislation. To quote the English proverb 'Tread softly but carry a big stick'. He did not accept that there would be too high a cost associated with services in Irish – a price could not be put on tradition, heritage and culture. The new Act was not an 'a la carte' Act but was very clear on the rights of the community and the obligations of the State.

## Call for National Plan for Irish

At the annual Tostal of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge the Director of Fionntar, Dr. Peadar Ó Flatharta, called for a task force to carry out a strategic review of the resources being used in the promotion of Irish, the use these resources and for identification of gaps in provision. He stated that this would be an important step forward in conjunction with the new language Act and provisions in legislation which could form the basis for a National Plan for Irish. As there was no National Plan (and the issue had not been addressed since the mid 1965 white paper on the Revival of Irish [Ed. *It may be noted that this document was ignored by the Government of the day and gathered dust on shelves, many of its worthwhile recommendations were never implemented nor adopted*]) it was difficult to maintain focus and direct energies and there was overlapping in some areas. Many initiatives were not maintained through lack of resources, there was also a lack of assessment and research. He condemned the recent closure of Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (Linguistics Institute of Ireland) which left a big gap in the research area.

The Minister for the Gaeltacht, Éamonn Ó Cuív, who attended the Tostal, later announced in a press statement the establishment of an Advisory Council on Irish, the aims of which seemed to mirror much what was called for by Ó Flatharta. The role of the Advisory Council was stated to be to provide advice to the Minister on:

- The desirability of preparing a twenty year plan for Irish in the State with a set of realistic aims.
- The short term strategic priorities for the conservation and promotion of Irish in the State.
- The priorities in the implementation of the Irish Language Act (Official Languages Act)
- The best and most practical methods to make progress in this work.

The Minister said he hoped to appoint the members of this Council before Easter. A guarded welcome was given to the proposal i.e. the Council should not be an internal Government one, and sound practical advice which should be acted on was necessary.

Where does now leave the cross border Foras na Gaeilge, was no advisory role seen for them?



## Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann

Founded in 1996, Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann is the national voluntary cultural organisation for the promotion of non-competitive Irish ceili dancing among all age groups. This is done by organising ceili dancing classes, workshops, training courses and exams for teachers and nights of ceili dancing known as Fíor Cheilithe. Over 10,000 people per year take part in the activities of the organisation. Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann is the only national organisation with the sole purpose of preserving the native group dancing of Ireland – ceili dancing.

We would like to invite all those with an interest in the native dancing of Celtic countries to come to our national residential weekend of Irish ceili dancing in St. Mary's College, Galway, Ireland from August 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2004. Accommodation will be available on the University Campus. This will consist of ceili dance classes, Fíor Cheilithe, lecture, Religious services and a training course for potential ceili dance teachers. A very reasonable weekend package including two nights B&B in en-suite accommodation. Further details from the national secretary Eilís Ní Mhearraí, 39 Moyne Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland. [www.ceilidancing.com](http://www.ceilidancing.com). Phone (00353) 1 4982422.

Eilís Ní Mhearraí

## SLUSH FUND ALLEGATIONS POINT TO ISLE OF MAN BANKING SYSTEM

Ireland has been gripped again with sensational revelations that infer bribery and corruption surrounding planning matters went right to the heart of government.

A tribunal enquiring into these matters heard testimony from developer Tom Gilmartin in which he indicated that almost half the Fianna Fail cabinet of the late eighties, including the current Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, were at a meeting after which he was asked to deposit a multi-million pound sum in an Isle of Man offshore bank account.

Bertie Ahern denies any involvement but at least one UK paper inferred that Ahern dubbed the "Teflon Taoiseach" because of his squeaky clean image would be tarnished by the allegations.

Gilmartin meanwhile with ironic humour records that he was so shocked by the bribe proposition that he declared "You (the Fianna Fail Ministers of the time) make the Mafia look like monks". The mood however darkened when he was told "You could end up in the (river) Liffey for that statement".

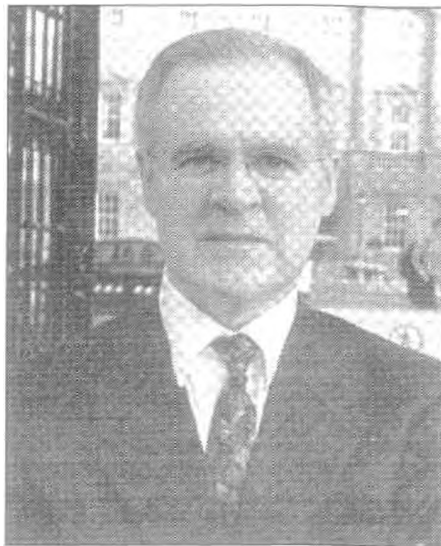
There is no doubt that Isle of Man accounts were in use by corrupt interests in Ireland at this time. George Redmond, a former Dublin planning official who was arraigned before the Tribunal previously, was arrested getting off a plane from the Isle of Man with £300,000. He was jailed.

However, as the flak flies in Dublin the Isle of Man and its secretive banking industry of the day has emerged relatively unscathed. It is passed time that full disclosure was provided by the Isle of Man government and its banking regulators into what was happening at the time. If Fianna Fail had a slush fund offshore who else was involved and what deposits were made into it? Did the Bank(s) have knowledge of these transactions? It seems incredible that any account linked to such high-profile figures could have been handled without Bank officials at the highest level being aware of it.

If as Gilmartin alleges he was threatened we are not talking about a bit of 'innocent' Irish tax dodging we are dealing with a serious criminal conspiracy and it's time the facts were published.

We have heard the revelations in Dublin. Now the focus should switch to Douglas, Isle of Man and the full details of all accounts linked to the Tribunal hearings should be published - that is of course unless someone still has something to hide!

J.B. Moffatt



*Pádraig O'Laighin, who was the first recipient of the 'Gael of the Month' award inaugurated by the Irish weekly newspaper Foinse in January. He received the award for his central role in the campaign for Official Status for Irish in the EU and the professional attitude and dedication he exercised in that role.*

## GAELTACHT PROJECT FOR THE NORTH

Plans have been unveiled which would see the creation of the North of Ireland's first Gaeltacht in Co Tyrone.

Cathal O'Donghaile, a former teacher from Belfast and Irish language enthusiast, has acquired a 52-acre site in Altmore, Co Tyrone which could house up to 20 Irish-speaking families. There are also plans for an education and cultural centre.

Mr. O'Donghaile was inspired to make the move following the success of the unofficial Gaeltacht on Shaw's Road in West Belfast. It is hoped that in time the new community will complement traditional Gaeltachtaí in Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork, Meath and Waterford.

He told a UK national newspaper:

"It's a big dream, but it's not impossible. Eventually, we hope to have a cultural centre at the heart of the village and to attract employment and tourists to the area. The centre would be the hub of the village, hosting a Gaelic college, education, music, social, environmental and health programmes. The Irish language is lying dormant in everyone, and we want to create a stress-free environment in which all sections of the community can enjoy Irish culture."

The projects success will depend on joint funding of £1.8m which Mr O'Donghaile hopes to secure from the Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Community, Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs in Dublin.

J B Moffatt

## EU Constitution Bad for Small Nations

Having had an undemocratic Convention to try to whip up support for the proposed EU constitution European leaders of course have no intention of allowing their own electorates (who survey polls have shown to be sceptical on the project and poorly informed) to participate in any decision making with regard to it. With a few exceptions, where referendums are required or seen as desirable, they intend to use their parliamentary majorities to vote through the constitution if and when final agreement is reached on what was seen as the last stumbling block, the allocation of relative voting powers between some of the larger countries. The EU presidency rests with Ireland at present and according to reports progress has been made on this issue with Poland ready to make concessions and a changed scene after the elections in Spain. The likelihood is that by year end proposals will be forthcoming for ratification of the constitution. It is timely then to recap on the basic flaws of the proposal and why it should be voted against.

What the proposed constitution will do is to wind up the EC/EU treaties that now exist by repealing all the existing European treaties, from the Rome Treaty to the Treaty of Nice. These will totally disappear. The Treaty then re-founds the EU on the basis of its own Constitution or fundamental law, just as with any other State.

This turns the EU into an actor on the international stage in its own right, separate from and superior to its Member States. Henceforth the EU rather than its component States will sign international treaties on virtually every area of policy.

The EU Constitution thus has primacy over the laws and the Constitutions of its Member States. Clearly States that put themselves under a Constitution containing such an Article can no longer regard themselves as independent or sovereign in the way the world's other 170 or so States are.

One important area it gives the EU power to make laws for is that of criminal and civil law and procedures, which could affect the right to trial by jury and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty that exists in countries with a common law legal tradition.

The Constitution changes the rules of running this new EU to make population size fundamental to Brussels law-making. It thereby lessens the protection for small nations and enables far more EU laws to be passed, because it is much easier to establish a majority for EU laws among States with 60% of the EU population than with 72% of weighted votes, as under the current Treaty of Nice arrangements. So long as the Big States with their large populations favour such laws. In fact there are proposals now from Germany to reduce the 60% to 55%



## DEW DENEWEN A'N UNN VRESEL?

My a redyas yn kever an galow dhiworth Adam Price F.S. ow tervynn studh kowall kysgwylasek rag para Kembra. Tra a'n par na meur a'gan deur yn Kernow. Yma prest ow sordya an kaletter a wodhyos (poken dewis) a-barth pana ranndir y tal dhe'n kernow/es gwari h/y rann.

(Nyns yw homma kudenn bersonek rag bydh ny veuv vy dhe les yn sport vydh, na ve goelya martesen). Byttegyns an vater yw onan a vem yn gwlas mar vunys a-vel Kernow.

Mar mynn nebonan avonsya war tu gwartha an skeul y'n sport a vo da gansa, kales yw, avel rewl, a-ji dhe'ga bro aga honan. Rag henna, kynth eus tus a vri ow tredhedes an ughella savon, ogas distowgh y fydhons ow kwari rag para a-ves dhe'n vro. My a woer yn ta nag yw tanow an kas ma y'n bys; byttefe dihedh yw na yll gwarioryon lel ha kolonnek sevel arwoedh aga bro, pan vynnons. Ensompel da a dheuth a-dhiwedhes pan wrug dewdhen a Gernow tonan.

Woodman, genesik ow flu) gweres 'Pow Sows' ow kwaynya hanav an bys rugbi.

Rugbi Kernow, pur wir, yw gwiw dhe sevel yntra'n gwella y'n bys ha pan vo chons y hyll omdhiskwedhes an par dhe dus pynag yn Breten Veur. An chons na a dheu treweythow yn kampsorieth 'konteth'. Ena an banerow ha'n lu-ganow a re dhe'n skoedhoryon an hanow a 'Lu Trelawny'. Y'n gwelir yn pub maner poran kepar ha fytt yntra-wlasek ha chons bras dhe ombrevi goethus a'n vammvro.

Lemmy'n, ha nyns yw efan an skifa, y fyn-nir gul diwedh dhe'n kampsorieth na. Unnweyth arta ny wrer vri a oryon Kernow; gorrys a vydh agan tus bras dhe wari y'n keth para ha'ga hyns- eskerens a-barth neb kwartron 'howlsedhes-soth'.

Peub a woer, ha ny skoelyas termyn ow terivas an kas dhe'n rewlorion, kemmys kolonn a via kellys ha dhe Gernow ha dhe rugbi, mar mynnens i pesya.

Pup-prys problemow a syw an fowt a

aswonnvos a'n savla a Gernow. Igor yw an vresel lemmy'n kepar y'n bys sportek hag y'n 'digresbeans', may fynir ynwedh agan enkleudhyes. Yth esov vy ow synsi y hallo an dhew denewen krevhe an yll y gila. Gweles a wren.

## IGNORED AGAIN

It is ironic that, just when John Angarrack's tireless campaign has achieved for Cornish pupils the right for their nationality to be recorded, Cornwall, ignored in the 'devolution' 'may-game', is threatened again, this time by the Rugby Union.

Widespread indignation has followed an ill-conceived plan which would effectively destroy 'County' rugby, where the Cornish squad enjoys great success. We hope that resentment at this proposal may strengthen the demands for Cornwall's status to be taken into account on the political field as well as the sporting one. Cornwall's supporters have always considered the 'County' Championship as an 'international' and the R.U. are mistaken if they think that the enthusiasm of Trelawny's Army will be transferred to support some concocted new team.

Julyan Holmes

## NOWODHOW DHIWORTH AN POWYOW BRYTHONEK

### Windows yn Kembrek

**Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg/Kesva an Yeth Kembrek** re beu ow kesoberi misyow gans **Microsoft** rag dyllo an dowlenn **Windows XP** yn Kembrek. **Microsoft** a vydh dyllys yn Kembrek a-rag diwedh 2004. Pur dhe les yw dyllans **Windows XP** yn Kembrek war-lergh ordenoryon **Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg**. Prenys vydh an dowlenn gans **Microsoft** yn unsell. Rag ordenoryon **Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg** an dowlenn ma yw avonsyans bras rag an yeth Kembrek drefenn bos moy ha moy poesek teknologiethow y'n bywnans pub dydh, yn skol po yn tre.

**Précis:** Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg/Welsh Language Board is collaborating with Microsoft in order to publish Windows XP. According to Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg this is a very important project as technologies are more and more important in our daily life.

### Google yn Bretonek

Aswonnys yw **Google** gans dus a wra devnydh a'n Kesroesweyth. Jynn rag kavoes derivadow war an gwias yw **Google**. Lemmy'n y hyllir gul devnydh a'n yeth bretonek rag kavoes derivadow war an gwias dhe'n le ma: <http://www.google.com/intl/br>

**Précis:** now it is possible to use **Google** in Breton to find information on the web at the above address.

### Skolyow Diwan

Pur dha veu gweles lyther dannvenys dhe Graham Sandercock, pennskriker **An Gannas** dyllys yn niver diweltha **An Gannas** (Niv. 236, Mis Hwevrer). Skrifys veu an lyther gans **Talat Chaudhri** a-barth an **Kowethas Kembra-Breton Vyghan/Cymdeithas Cymru-Llydaw** a-dro dhe ankombrynsi arghansek gans skolyow **Diwan**. Dell skrifas **Talat**

Chaudhri: 'my a grys bos res dhymm sevel ow lev a-enep dyghtyans skolyow **Diwan** gans Governans Frynk ha govynn gans seul a allo ri arghans dhe **Dhiwan** drefenn bos Bretonek an nessa hwoer-yeth dhe'n yeth kernewek. A pe skolyow a wre dyski pub testenn yn Kernewek y'n etegves kansblydhen, ny via ogas dhe varow agan yeth ni y'n ugensves kansblydhen.' Mar mynnowgh sevel agas levow hwi dhe skoedhya an yeth bretonek ha diskwedhes unnveredh gans an vreder vretonek y yllir kavoes pella derivadow war: <http://www.kembre-breizh.org.uk> po <http://www.diwan.org>

**Précis:** Talat Chaudhri member of Cymdeithas Cymru-Llydaw sent a letter to Graham Sandercock, editor of the all-Cornish magazine **An Gannas** calling for financial support for the **Diwan** all-Breton schools. It is good to see british solidarity. For further information: <http://www.kembre-breizh.org.uk> or <http://www.diwan.org>

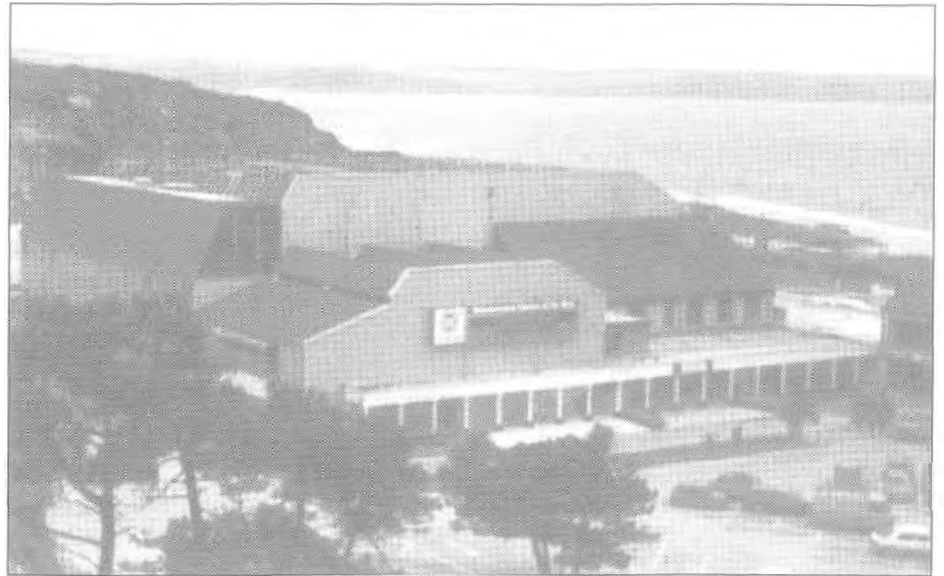
José CALVETE

# Environmental Rights

In the latest move by second-home developer Ampersand, access to Carlyon Bay, via the only road to the beach and the coastal footpath, has been blocked amid allegations that the development group have not followed the correct legal procedure.

The public have been prevented from gaining easy access to the beach for 'health and safety' reasons, as the development group say they are carrying out work on the cliff face: work that Carlyon Bay Watch, the organisation set up to oppose the development plans, say the builders are not entitled to do.

Peter Browning commented to the Kernow Branch of the League that "I am advised that it is necessary for them to make a planning application for any work to be undertaken on the cliff face and, at the moment of writing, that has not happened, so they should not be doing anything"



*The photo is of the proposed development site at Crinnis Beach, Carlyon Bay. Everyone agrees that something ought to be done about the site, where a disused nightclub now stands (shown in picture), but the building of second homes represents a slap in the face to the local and wider communities. The Cornish Branch argue that Cornwall does not need another second home (and definitely not 511 of them) and do not believe that the proposed Ampersand development will add anything to the Cornish economy, as Ampersand are arguing, excepting a few badly paid part-time jobs.*

## GONISOGETH KELTEK DHE BENN AN BYS

Dell welsyn yn erthyglow eus passydes, yma tus ow lavurya yn ta yn Argentina rag brashe ha ledanhe gonisogeth Keltek ena. Synsys yw meur a arethow a-dro dhe'n yethow Keltek, meur a dowlennow radyo war an yethow ha'n wonisogeth Keltek, korsow yeth Albanek, yeth Kembrek... Pur boesek yw kemmynyethow Keltek ena dres oll an kemmynyethow Albanek, Galithyek, Asturianek, Iwerdhonek ha Kembrek. Rag ensampel kevys yw 3 bagas pib Albanek yn Buenos Aires, synsys yw Gorsedh Kembrek yn Patagonia (yn deghow an vro)..

Kales yw lemmyn bywnans gonisogethek Keltek yn Argentina. Mes nyns yw es aga lavur. Aswonnyys yw yn la studh erbysek a-dhiwedhes yn Argentina, hep mar. Res yw dhyn perthi kov a'n lavur splann gwrys gans tus avel *Susana Shanahan* rag an *Movimiento Celta de Argentina* ha'y thowlenn radyo « *Plum Pudding* », *Manuel Castro* ha *Pablo Rodriguez Leirado* rag an *Liga Celta de Argentina* ha'n wiasva « *almargen.co.ar* ». Mars nyns yw es aga lavur yn pennsita an vro, kalessa yw rag tus ow pywa pell dhiworth Buenos Aires. Rag ensampel yn Patagonia. Ena y kevir den henwys *José Maria Walton* ow lavurya yn ta rag displegya gonisogeth Keltek a-dro dhodho. Toller yw ev. Ev a drig y'n sita henwys *Comodoro Rivadavia*, usi yn Patagonia, yn Argentina deghow, orth penn an bys. Aswonnyys yw Patagonia rag hy hemmynieth Kembrek mes yth esa ynwedh tus dhiworth iwerdhon hag Alban yn Patagonia. Profya a wra ev towlenn radyo henwys « *Viento Celta* », henn yw « *Gwyns Keltek* » pub dy' Lun. Esel ha skrifennyas an *Kowethas Iwerdhonek-Albanek* yw ev ynwedh. Hendasow *José Maria Walton* a dheu dhiworth iwerdhon dhe Argentina mes trevesigys yw y deylu yn Argentina a-dhia 5 henedh.

Yn y dowlenn radyo y hyllir dyski istori an gemmynieth albanek yn Argentina. diskudha ilow Keltek, dyski taklow a-dro dhe'n Gelyton goth. h. a. ...Soweth ny giv ev meur a dhevnydh ena rag y dowlenn radyo. Mars eus tus a vynno 'y weres gans devnydh rag y dowlennow, ottomma y drigva e-bost : [jm\\_walton@uolsinectis.com.ar](mailto:jm_walton@uolsinectis.com.ar)

### Summary:

*As we have already seen in previous articles Argentina is full of exciting initiatives concerning the Celts.*

*José Maria Walton, an Argentinean of Irish descent broadcasts a radio programme, called Viento Celta (Celtic Wind) from Patagonia which is well known for its Welsh community, but we also find important Irish and Scottish communities there. José Maria Walton is also the secretary of the Irish-Scottish Societies. His radio programme covers Celtic music, the history of the Scottish community, facts about the ancient Celts, etc... Alas as he lives very far from Buenos Aires, it is not easy for him to have access to material for his programme. If anyone is interested in helping him, please contact him at the following e-mail address: [jm\\_walton@uolsinectis.com.ar](mailto:jm_walton@uolsinectis.com.ar)*

José CALVETE

In trying to gain access to the beach via the footpath, CBW campaigner Peter Browning was told that he was not permitted on the site for purposes of 'health and safety', despite the fact that no work is being undertaken at present to affect that section of the footpath.

It seems that Carlyon Bay is not the only beach area in Cornwall that is being affected by the profit-driven demands of big business. Only last month, an organisation called Hayle SOS wrote to the League asking them to help in stopping the owners of Hayle Harbour from sand mining in the Hayle estuary.

The group say the mining is contributing to the destruction of the beach area and the dunes along the coast and is having a disastrous effect on bird migratory habitats. The mining work continues to be undertaken, despite intervention by English Nature, who succeeded in getting a Section 18 notice placed on the beach. However in the meantime, the Harbour Company, who was undertaking the mining was declared bankrupt and was bought by a Dutch investment company who completely ignored the Section 18 notice and carried on digging. It seems that big business in Cornwall think they can do as they like!

Hayle SOS are now seeking for the harbour to be brought into public ownership through a compulsory purchase order, with the aim of stopping further mining and are seeking the "sensible regeneration of the harbour facilities and permanent protection of the beach".

*Is it time to resurrect the Celtic Environmental Council?*

R. Tal-e-hot

## St Piran's Flag for tourists

The new St. Piran's flag symbol is beginning to replace the Tudor Rose on the brown tourist signs across Cornwall.

The flag symbol was the winning entry of a competition run by Cornwall Council to replace the despised Tudor Rose sign. Geevor tin mine in Penwith was the first tourist attraction in Cornwall to use the new symbol in October 2003 and it is hoped that many other attractions will follow suit.

The Tudor Rose was objected to on the grounds that it is an imperial English symbol and reflects a time when the English ruling monarchs tried to systematically destroy Cornish traditions and culture. The blotting out of the despised symbol with black paint by many aggrieved individuals landed one Celtic League member with a hefty fine and many hours of community service.

## Council Tax increase?

"Should Cornwall's six District Councils reduce Council Tax discount on second homes?" is the question that Cornwall's Council is asking in its monthly publication 'Homepage'. In a move which would have been unheard of 12 months ago, is this a signal that Cornwall's Council is realising that second homes are killing Cornish communities?

Currently, second home owners receive a 50% discount on Council Tax charges, but this could soon change in plans to allow district councils to charge up to 90% of the full council tax from this April. How the additional income will be then spent by the district councils will be discussed over the coming months.

In some facts and figures put together by the Council, we are told that in Cornwall there are now 11,000 second homes, with North Cornwall with 4,900 of them (8.3% of its housing stock) and Newlyn and Mousehole in Penwith having more than a third of its housing stock taken up with second homes. The price of the average house is now at £167,032, which is eight times more than the average salary of around £18,500, with 1 in 3 full-time workers earning less than £250 per week.

## New Chair for Fellowship

A new Chairperson was voted for at the Cornish Language Fellowship AGM in Truro in January. Loveday Jenkin will replace Jane Ninnis as the leader of the organisation, after Jane decided to step down due to family commitments. Loveday is a Kerrier District Councillor for Mebyon Kernow and a past Celtic League member.

# European Partnerships

The EU has affected our lives in an increasing number of ways over the last 10 to 15 years and it is extremely likely that this will continue in the future. For this reason I believe that it is important for each Branch of the League to stay abreast of new developments occurring at the European political level.

Many of us may be opposed to the current European political system and probably think that extensive reforms are needed, but with 10 new States joining the EU this May, taking membership from its current 15 to 25, it is important that the Celtic League build contacts with other organisations with similar aims in these new States.

This is already being done in purely political circles, for example in the European Free Alliance, but as the Celtic League already knows from experience, this is also possible at a non-governmental level too. In making such contacts, useful political allies and lobbying partnerships throughout Europe can be formed. In addition, undertaking such activities, the Celtic countries are able to make its 'national struggles and achievements better known abroad', which is one of the fundamental aims of the League.

It was with this in mind that the Cornish Branch decided to accept an invitation to become a co operational partner in a European project that had the intention of informing school children about the process of EU enlargement.

Late last year a representative for the Kernow Branch went to Denmark to work alongside members from other European groups, to prepare an educational publication for dispatch to every secondary school and College in Cornwall. The publication, which is written in English, contains articles by young people from mainly eastern European States, about their expectations and fears of joining the European Union in May 2004.

In addition to raising awareness, the publication is designed to provoke discussion among young people in Cornwall. The booklet will present young people with an opportunity to see for themselves what students of their own age, who wrote the articles and who come from completely different cultural backgrounds, are saying about Europe. There is also the opportunity for students in Cornwall to offer their own perspective and to contact the writers themselves, through the website address [www.people.hojjoster.dk](http://www.people.hojjoster.dk).

As part of the cooperation, the Branch was asked to outline the aims and achievements of the Celtic League. A brief summary of the Celtic League was written on the above website, as well as contact addresses and links to the official web site of the Celtic League.

As well as free publicity, the Kernow Branch will have played an instrumental part in educating young people in Cornwall and also made other organisations aware of the national struggles going on in Cornwall and the Celtic League's role in fostering cooperation between the Celtic countries.

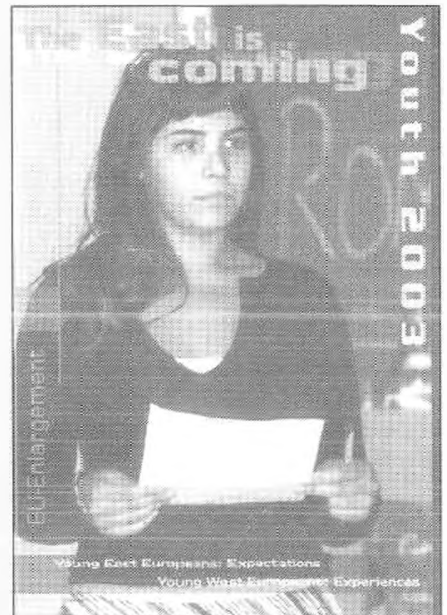
Engaging in European dialogue is imperative, if we are not to miss opportunities of working with others to bring about reform, both within our own countries and at a European level. In the case of Cornwall, with our political demands for greater autonomy being constantly ignored by Westminster, coupled with central governments determination to pursue cultural and political assimilation, it seems fairly likely that reprieve could come in the form of European political pressure. This has indeed been the case in the past few years and with EU influence growing, this also seems more likely in the future too.

### Youth 2004 - Faces on Europe

Højskolen Østersøen continues its tradition of inviting young Europeans active in NGOs/voluntary associations or students with a special interest in European issues to join up for debate in Denmark; at Højskolen Østersøen (June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup> 2004)

Young people (18-25 year olds) who want to spend an interesting couple of weeks in Denmark (virtually free) can obtain a detailed invitation, programme and practical information for the event from the People site at:

<http://www.people.hojjoster.dk/SEEEMS/1777.asp>





# Mannin



## Cowraghey Cheeraghyn

Ec y traa t'ayn ayns Mannin, ta lught-dellal ayns shen er chur er e hoshiaght shalee dy 'chowraghey' Mannin, ta shen dy ghra, dy 'chreck' Mannin da'n teihll cheu-mooie, goaill ymmyd jeh reddyn ayns Mannin t'ad coontey dy ve mie. Ta'n chalee shoh goll er leeideil ec dooinney veih'n Scoill Dellal Eddyrashoonagh ayns Mannin ta ny chaairliagh jeh bing dy leih ta coontit dy ve sauchey dy liooar. Fer ny ghaa veih'n cherroo-argidys, fer veih'n Rheynt Ynsee, y Stiureyder jeh Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin, as myr shen foast.

Cha nel y sleih ayns y ving shoh bolvaneagh. S'mie shen, er y fa dy nhegin daue gynsaghey dy tappee dy nee cheer er lueh Mannin (ny lhisagh ee ve), mannagh vel ad toiggal shen hannah. As shegin da'n chooid smoo jeu gynsaghey dy vel chengey as cultoor Vannin feer scanshoil dy jarroo sy chalee-chowree shoh. Cha nel paart jeh'n ving toiggal shen foast. Dooyrt y fer veih'n Rheynt Ynsee, 'Oddagh shin goaill ymmyd jeh'n eiraght as y cultoor as shynyn prowal cowraghey Mannin.' Cre'n yindys! Agh ta caairliagh y ving toiggal y scansh jeh eiraght as cultoor Vannin, ga dy vel eh baghtal nagh vel monney fys echey er ny nheeghyn follit shen foast. She dean y ving feddyn ny reddyn ta sleih ayns Mannin dy firrinagh credjal dy ve fondagh as mie, as eisht 'chreck' Mannin feiy ny cruinney as ad goaill ymmyd jeh ny reddyn shen. Ta lught-cowree (branding people) dy mentick cur yn Elveeish, yn Teelan Noa as Nerin myr sampleyrin jeh cowraghey cheeraghyn. Ta'n Elveeish coontit dy ve ny cheer stooalt as fondagh, lesh ooreydeyrn as cluig ardghooagh as jeshaghteyrys mie. Ta'n cheer coontit dy ve feer ghlen, lesh kerroo-argidys niartal. Ta sleih er chlashtyn mychione yn Elveeish as t'ad cur arrym jee, mie ny sie.

Ta'n Teelan Noa er chosney goo mie liorish troar-eiryns as liorish aalid ny cheerey, erskyn ooilley lurg filmyn 'Chiarn ny Fainaghyn.' As ta sleih gra dy vel ad jeeaghyn er Nerin er agh elley nish - cha nel ee shenn-emshyragh as ass daayt, t'ad gra. Cheu-mooie jeh Sostyn, ta sleih soiaaghey jeh ny Yemee son seyrey yn chooid smoo jeh'n cheer oc veih ny Sostnee as goaill ayn mooar syn Unnaney's Oarpagh (cha bee yn ving-chowree gimraa yn lheid).

Ta lught-cowree credjal (ny lhiggey er) dy vel fys feiy ny cruinney er yn Elveeish, y Teelan Noa as Nerin kyndagh rish

shaleeyn-cowree (branding projects). Agh foddee oo gra dy vel fys er ny cheeraghyn shen nish kyndagh rish reddyn ren taghyrt ayndaue fegooish shaleeyn-cowree erbee! Agh abhyr dy vod shaleeyn-cowree ve speeideilagh. Cre vees bing-chowree Vannin creck? Ta olteynyn y ving toiggal dy bee yn chooid smoo jeh cummaltee Vannin smooinghtyn dy vel y chalee-chowree ry hoi gloyr yn cherroo-argidys ny lomarcan - my ta ny cummaltee shen er chlashtyn mychione y chalee-chowree er chor erbee. My vees y chalee-chowree speeideilagh, shegin da'n they credjal aynjee as ta'n they feer foddey veih'n stayd shen ec y traa t'ayn.

T'eh aitt dy liooar dy vel Reiltys Vannin gra nish dy vel ad ayns foayr jeh cur er e hoshiaght 'jarroo-enney ashoonagh' Vannin. Lurg bleecantyn jeh lhiggey er nagh row Manninaghys scanshoil t'ad gra shen. As creid eh ny dyn, ta jarroo-enney ashoonagh ny aym mooar jeh'n chalee-chowree shoh. Ta pargys ny h-ashooneyryn er jeet fy yerrey.

Kyndagh rish sheelogheyn dy choloinaght, s'mie lesh Manninee ennagh jannoo beg jeh red erbee Manninagh - erskyn ooilley yn Ghaelg. Foastagh, cha jean ram Manninee coontey monney jeh nhee erbee ayns Mannin derrey t'eh er ny vannaghey veih Sostyn (cha neeu cheer elley erbee). Shen doilleeid vooar my t'ou cowraghey Mannin. Shimmeey red ta olk ayns Mannin nish, agh shimmeey red ta mie nagh vel shin clashtyn monney mychione. Myr sampleyr, son y chooid smoo, ta ny scoillyn Manninagh foddey ny share na adsyn ayns ymmoddee cheeraghyn elley. As oddagh ad ve ny share foast dy beagh Rheynt Ynsee Vannin shassoo er ny cassyn eck hene as jiooldey goaill stiagh tooilley boghtynid veih Sostyn.

Gyn ourys, bee ashooneyryn craidey mysh y chalee-chowree as ee goll er stiurey ec lught-dellal as Reiltys Vannin. Agh ta chaghteraghtyn feeu ec y chalee-chowree: soilshee ny reddyn ta shin jannoo dy mie, shass er ny cassyn ain hene, cur jarroo-

enney ashoonagh er e hoshiaght. Y doilleeid smoo, foddee, ta shen: cre'n jarroo-enney ashoonagh? Cheayll mish mychione y chalee-chowree shoh ec chaglym ayns Radio Vannin boayl va caairliagh y ving-chowree loayrt, mychione y chalee. Manninagh elley ta gobbraghey nish as reesh son Radio Vannin, dooyrt eshyn dy nhegin da cummaltee Vannin cheet ry cheilley fo'n lipeid 'Manninagh'. Sostnagh ta gobbraghey da Radio Vannin (goll rish y chooid smoo jeu), dooyrt eshyn dy row eh ayns foayr jeh shen, agh cha jin-nagh eh taghyrt: va Manninee ayn nagh lhiggey da joarreeyn gra 'Manninee' roo hene. She doilleeid vooar t'ayn, agh cha noddym fakin raad elley er lhimmey jeh gra 'Manninee' roosyn t'er jeet dy chummal ayns Mannin as ad ayns foayr jeh Mannin as gobbraghey son Mannin. My ta shin dooney magh sleih nagh vel Manninagh er yn chenn agh, ta shin er raad y vaais as dy firrinagh ta shin gra 'Lhig dooin cur seose nish.' Skeal elley bentyn roosyn ta craidey mysh Mannin as Manninee.

Dy firrinagh, shoh yn doilleeid t'ec ooilley ny Celtiee as (ayns y jerrey) ec y chooid smoo jeh ashoonyn y teihll. Cha nodmayd croghey er kynneecaghys dy reayll shin 'glen' - she ashlish foalsey t'ayn. Y noid smoo, shen downaghey (globalisation) as ny chaghtaghyn-dellal ta goll marish ec y traa t'ayn. As adsyn shirrey tooilley argid foastagh, ta fir-ghellal bwoalley sheese as sheese y faill jeh sleih ta boght agglagh hannah. Ta'n sleih boght shen debejagh son bee as obhyr as t'ad eginit faagarl ny cheeraghyn oc hene. Cha nodmayd, ny Manninee, gra 'Lhig da'n seihll goll mygeayrt' ayns lheid y teihll shen.

Ny ynrican reddyn oddys mayd croghey orroo, shen ny h-inchyn ain hene as y chengey as cultoor ain hene. Ta caa ain nish ashoon Manninagh noa y chroo nagh vees croghey dy bollagh er y cherroo-argidys. Va ny Manninee rieu feer vie as ad lheim veih un red gys red elley. Foddee dy row ad ro vie as ad ceau ersooyl ny reddyn nagh row ad coontey dy ve feeu keayrt dy row. Ta boghtynid dy liooar sy chalee-chowree shoh, agh ta stoo feeu aynjee ny yei. Choud's nagh vees mayd goll er daajey myr ollagh.

### Précis

*Possibly foreseeing a downturn in the Isle of Man's financial sector, business interests there are launching an exercise to 'brand' the Isle of Man internationally. While there are dubious elements to this exercise it could have some beneficial effects.*

Brian Stowell

**DID YOU KNOW?**



The Isle of Man was the first country in the world to grant women sexual equality, which came to the Isle of Man as early as 1881 when women were given the right to vote.

# Bloody Sunday Commemoration in Derry

*On that day which is called 'Bloody' Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1972 at a civil rights march in Derry, thirteen unarmed Catholic civilians were shot dead by soldiers of the British army Parachute Regiment.*

February 2004.

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February this year, Mark Kermode and I representing Mec Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Party, were in Derry in the north of Ireland to attend the Bloody Sunday Commemoration. We watched the wreath laying at the Bloody Sunday Memorial, and took part in the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary march.

Mark and I flew to Belfast on the Friday ahead of the Commemoration. We arrived in Derry on Saturday afternoon and, after picking up a local guide, made a tour around the city. I noticed a great many army observation towers and other heavily fortified installations, though apparently these are now disused.

Late Saturday night we enjoyed music at the Féile na Gaslainne event in the Dockside. There we enjoyed singing and instrument playing by Declan McLaughlin, the all girl band 'The Shambelles' and Terry O'Neill.

On Sunday morning we attended the wreath laying at the Bloody Sunday Memorial on Rossville Street. The rain held off for the whole of the wreath laying ceremony which was attended by several hundred people and was quite moving. Wreaths were laid by relatives of the murdered men, and also by the Mayor of Derry.

The starting point for the march was in front of the Creggan shops. We found the shops with the aid of directions from helpful locals. It began to rain quite heavily. The route of the march was the same as that taken by the NICRA marchers in 1972. Thousands of people turned out to join the walk despite the rain and cold. Many carried umbrellas, several had banners and flags. It took about an hour to reach Free Derry Corner. The only police presence that I saw was two PSNI land rovers which kept well back in the side streets. The whole event went off peacefully, there being no trouble of any sort. When the march reached Free Derry Corner we listened to speakers representing the families, Sinn Féin and the SDLP. They called for a just outcome to the Saville Inquiry when it makes its report later this year. Saville is a British government sponsored investigation into the actions of the British army in Derry on Bloody Sunday.

## Bloody Sunday 1972

A detailed study of the Bloody Sunday atrocity is contained in the book 'Those are real bullets aren't they?' by Peter Pringle and Philip Jacobson, published by Fourth Estate, London. (ISBN 1-84115-316-8). I can recommend the book, and I relied on it while writing the following brief resumé of the shocking events of that day in January 1972:

A large number, several thousands, of people assembled in the Creggan to take part in a civil rights and anti-internment march



*Mark Kermode at the H-Block Hunger Strikers' Monument in Derry.*

organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA). In the early stages of planning, it had been intended to march out from the Bogside, Derry's Catholic heartland, and walk to the Guildhall, symbol of Protestant rule in Derry. Later, the march organisers set the route to stay within the Creggan and Bogside. On the morning of the march, the British army put up barriers at roads off the route to ensure the marchers could not change course. The barrier on William Street blocked the way to the Guildhall. Expecting there to be some rioting, the army planned to use snatch squads to arrest rioters and especially stone throwing youths. Army reinforcements had arrived from Belfast, including paratroopers. Towards the end of a peaceful march, trouble flared at the William Street barrier when some youths confronted soldiers and RUC (NI armed police force, now PSNI). The march stewards could not prevent youths from stoning the soldiers and the youths began rioting. By Derry standards

the rioting was not severe, and uninvolved bystanders along with people just visiting relatives were all in that area close to the army roadblock on William Street.

The bulk of the marchers continued peacefully along Rossville Street towards Free Derry Corner.

Meanwhile, the army used a water cannon and CS gas to try to break up the rioting youths at the William Street barrier. The British military's planned operation to arrest rioters was launched. Paratroopers who had been waiting nearby swooped in to the crowd of people. In front of Press reporters and photographers, the paratroopers began firing live rounds indiscriminately and at close quarters against unarmed civilians on William Street and Rossville street. They continued this lethal fire for at least ten minutes. 27 unarmed Catholics were shot, four of them shot in the back. Thirteen men died in that massacre in Derry that day.

Mark Lockerby

## MANX IN COURT - IS IT LEGAL?

A series of questions aimed at clarifying the legal status of the Manx language have been set down for answer in the Manx legislature.

Phillip Gawne, Member of the House of Keys (MHK) and prominent language activist, is to press the Island's Attorney General about the status of the language if used in legal documents or proceedings in the Island's courts.

The text of Mr. Gawne's questions are set out below:

With a view to explaining the legal status of the Manx language will you explain whether:

1. In civil proceedings would documents and evidence in Manx Gaelic be admissible;
2. In proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters would documents and evidence in Manx Gaelic be admissible;
3. In criminal proceedings would requests and evidence, whether written or oral, not be considered inadmissible solely because they were formulated in Manx Gaelic; and
4. Would legal documents drawn up within the Isle of Man be valid if they were drafted in Manx Gaelic?

J B Moffatt

## TREASURY MINISTER MISLEADS AGAIN

In an inquiry chaired by an English QC into alleged corruption in the Island's planning system (the Mount Murray Inquiry), current Isle of Man Treasury Minister Alan Bell was identified as having wilfully misled the Island's Tynwald parliament.

The first part of the inquiry concluded that there had indeed been a corruption of the system of government though no evidence of money changing hands has yet been uncovered.

The second part of the inquiry, which has encountered repeated attempts at obstruction by at least one of the parties involved, is yet to be published but Mr. Bell is already trying to cloud the issue with dubious claims about the Inquiry's cost.

He claimed in a radio interview this week that the total cost of the inquiry, into what he described as a "minor planning matter" (it was actually into corruption and Mr. Bell was identified as a central figure) would exceed one million pounds and would be more costly than the UK's "Hutton" inquiry.

Firstly, that figure appears to be rather inflated but more importantly, it is impossible for Mr. Bell to truthfully make this claim since the cost of the Hutton Inquiry is yet to be determined, as confirmed by Mr. Michael Richards of the UK's Department of Constitutional Affairs in February..

Ultimately, there can be no price put on truth but if Mr. Bell and his colleagues in the Council of Ministers were more open and honest in their dealings, these issues would not arise

## MANX FINANCIAL WATCHDOG KEEP TABS ON TRIBUNAL REVELATIONS

Isle of Man financial regulators are 'closely monitoring' events at the Mahon tribunal in Dublin but 'at this stage there is nothing that concerns' them.

The Celtic League was advised of this fact when they queried the Isle of Man Financial Supervision commission this week.

There have been a string of allegations linking accounts at banks in the Isle of Man to corruption in public office in Ireland in the late 1980s.

Serious allegations were recently made in Tribunal evidence provided by property developer Tom Gilmartin (See Eire Section - SLUSH FUND ALLEGATIONS POINT TO ISLE OF MAN BANKING SYSTEM).

It is reassuring to know that Manx regulators are considering the situation. The FSC was established in the early 1980s and whilst the type of comprehensive financial controls that we have today did not exist in the period with which the Tribunal is currently dealing any suggestion of a breach of the regulations which were in place at the time should be pursued.

The FSC stance is also refreshingly more open than the Isle of Man Constabulary so far a telephone query to them has gone unanswered.

J B Moffatt

## BISHOP OF SODOR AND MANN

The newly appointed Bishop of Sodor and Mann, a Church of England Diocese, has been swift to politicise his position by making a statement supporting his right to vote in the Tynwald parliament of the Isle of Man.

The Tynwald is composed of two "chambers", the 24 member House of Keys, elected by popular vote and the eight member Legislative Council which is indirectly appointed by the House of Keys.

Whilst Mec Vannin does not advocate the abolition of the Legislative Council, it has actively campaigned for its system of appointment to be substantially modified, as demonstrated by its 2003 AGM resolution:

This AGM calls upon Tynwald to:

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

The Bishop is appointed by the Church of England which, unlike England, has no constitutional authority in the Island.

The Christian Church has several organisations and bodies through which it can make representation to government and has no case to call for special representation.

As a secular Party and especially in light of the increasing number of non-Christian religions being practised in the Island as the nature of the population changes, Mec Vannin would support any fresh initiative to have the Bishop's special political influence removed.

Mec Vannin is a republican independence party that has been operative in Mannin for over 40 years.

MK

## NO SENSE OF CULTURAL PRIDE WHILST CHRONICLES REMAIN IN LONDON

Whilst the Manx government may be prepared to 'sit on its thumbs' over the return of a long cherished artefact from the British Library to the Manx people there is no such reticence amongst authorities in various areas of the UK.

We reported some time ago on Welsh requests for the return of the "Gold Cape of Mold" for storage and exhibition near the site where it was located in North Wales. Now the North East of England is pressing a case for the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to a home there.

Campaigners, assisted by the local MP, are hoping that the British Library can be persuaded to part with the Gospels to allow their exhibition at Durham Cathedral or Holy Island.

The campaigners say, "Having the originals in the region would be a huge boost to the regions economy and to our growing tourist industry"

One would have hoped that the Isle of Man government might also have seen the advantage of having the mediaeval manuscript of The Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles returned to the Isle of Man.

It currently languishes as part of a meaningless and unrelated collection of papers in the British Library. Although it was loaned at one stage to the Manx for the opening of the MNH flagship heritage site, the House of Mannanan, the question of the permanent return of the Chronicles is repeatedly evaded by the government.

One of those campaigning for the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels is quoted as saying, "Culture is not an optional add-on these days it is very much part of the intrinsic attraction of the region and the intrinsic image of a region".

This is a commendable stance by a UK region which sadly is not mirrored by a National government, the Isle of Man.

J B Moffatt

## 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.com](mailto:mec_vannin_owner@yahoo.com) 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/)



# Celtica



## ***This is my truth, tell me yours***

On a visit to Wales some years ago, I looked out of the train window as we were approaching Cardiff Central Station. Staring back at me was massive poster showing the cover from the Manic Street Preachers new album, *This is my truth, tell me yours*. The title of the album was not in English, but in Welsh. What a good way, I thought, to show the public that the Welsh language is still a part of who this native Welsh and English speaking and singing rock band are.

On picking up a copy of the 'Western Mail' newspaper in Cardiff however, I was surprised to read an article that criticised the poster because it translated an English language colloquialism from the Welsh Valley's into Welsh. In Welsh, the English title of the album read *This is my truth, SAY yours*. The article stated that academics were incensed that the band dared to use slang in an English to Welsh translation so publicly on such a grand scale!

In my opinion, it is important for languages to develop if they are to keep alive in an seemingly ever changing world that's fraught by global pressures. Progressivism is not a word I associate with conservatism and in my view the academics sited in the Western Mail article were being conservative with a big 'C'.

In today's ever increasing global economy, it is not only necessary to develop the most appropriate means to communicate, but an essential part of being able to compete in a cultural domain that is dominated by a handful of languages. I'm not saying that the most appropriate means of communication is in the English language or Mandarin Chinese, but quite the opposite. My argument is best illustrated by taking the example of information communication technology (ICT).

As the Rough Guide's *The Internet* states, the Internet is "...about people, communication and sharing knowl-



*Manic Street Preachers*

edge" and as such it can be used as a tool to generate virtual speech-vernacular communities. ICT, of which the Internet is a part, can be used as a tool for lesser-used language groups to communicate in more effective ways than ever before. Despite the fact that ICT is dominated by English, there are nevertheless opportunities for other languages to take an active role in electronic (e) communication. These include free translation services on websites, Internet service providers in some of the Celtic languages and the many more channels of communication available to us to communicate in the Celtic languages.

The Celtic languages, like other lesser-used languages in Europe, face a major challenge in the English speaking electronic world of ICT. As more people in the Celtic speaking world communicate electronically, over the Internet, through text messaging and email, it is inevitable that language use will develop and change accordingly. It is important that people (especially young people) do not get into the habit of thinking that the language of e-communication is English. It is therefore essential that people are given the opportunity to use communication networks that are in the Celtic languages, so that people become familiar with seeing the Celtic languages on their phones and their computers. I am sure that this will encourage lan-

guage development to occur naturally within all linguistic realms.

Among the many points that the Welsh Language Bill 2002 failed to address, was the need to extend legislation to incorporate all private sector, enabling Welsh language speakers the right to use and see the language in relation to all their private business. This would have led to the situation where communication networks would be obliged to use the Welsh language in all areas of ICT. This, I believe, would have been a particularly important step in getting the mobile phone/Internet using generation to use the Welsh language (or at least making it more visible to them) in their everyday lives.

If the Celtic languages are to keep in-step with technological developments, it is vitally important for people to see that our languages are part of the ICT revolution that's gripping in the world.

The English language has developed enormously, due to the prolific use of the language in ICT, to the extent that it is highly possible that in the future, electronic 'easy-speak' will be an established part of the English speaking world's everyday vocabulary. But what effect does this have on those of us who speak a Celtic language? Will English easy-speak infiltrate the vocabulary of young Celtic language speakers and if so wouldn't it be better to develop a Celtic language easy-speak, by ensuring that communication networks are obliged to provide their services in the languages of the Celtic nations?

As the English language develops, as a result of e-communication, it is necessary for the Celtic languages to keep apace. This responsibility not only lies with those that seek to establish or amend Language Acts, but those of us who use e-communication in our lives. In creating a "loose" language style in our respective Celtic languages, when we are communicating electronically, we will be developing language use that will appeal to the younger generation.

Of course it will take a significant shift in cultural attitude, habit and outlook to achieve this end, but I believe this is a necessary step if our languages are to reach out into the post modern electronic era. In using a (W) English colloquialism in the translation of their English album title, I believe that the Manic Street Preachers were reaching out to a Welsh youth culture that needed to see a truth that reflected their own lives.

Rhisiart Tal-c-bot

## THE CELTS – A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION

Publisher : Oxford University  
Press (June 2003)

Paperback : 161 pages

ISBN : 0192804189

size (in cm) : 1 x 17 x 18

Price : £ 7.37

In 1995 Oxford University Press began to publish a series of books under the heading 'A Very Short Introduction' intended for anyone wanting to access a new subject in a stimulating way. The books are written by experts, and have been published in more than 25 languages worldwide. They cover a wide variety of topics including history, philosophy, religion, science and the humanities. Moreover, these small-format books are perfect to pop into your pocket for reading during a spare moment.

*The Celts – A Very Short Introduction* by Barry Cunliffe is an excellent introduction to the study and knowledge of the Celts of ancient and modern times.

Barry Cunliffe is Professor of European

Archaeology at the University of Oxford. He has excavated widely in Western Europe and is currently working in Spain, Brittany, and Wessex. His research interests have recently focused on the importance of the Atlantic sea routes to European prehistory and history. His books include *The Celtic World*, *The Ancient Celts*, *Prehistoric Europe*, *Facing The Ocean : The Atlantic and Its Peoples* (see Carn N° 118-120 Winter 2002/03), and *The Extraordinary Voyage of Pytheas the Greek*. He is also Trustee of the British Museum.

The subject of the Celts has always fascinated, from the Greeks and the Romans through the nineteenth century to more recent times. Barry Cunliffe tackles questions such as 'who were the Celts?', and explores the archaeological, artistic, and linguistic evidence to provide the answers, helping us to identify the ancient Celts and to trace their successors in the modern world. As Julian D. Richards (University of York) states, this book is '...essential reading for anyone interested in European culture and politics, past and present. This masterly survey ranges from Herodotus to Breton bagpipe festivals, and shows how the Celts have been harnessed in support of both the European Union and Scottish and Welsh devolution. Only Professor Cunliffe could range so widely but so authoritatively in time

and space to present an account that disentangles fact from fiction in the history of this controversial European people.' Professor Barry Cunliffe ends his work stating that 'the concept of the Celts is an ancient one that has changed with time : the Celts are always being reinvented, sometimes by outside observers, sometimes by the people themselves. If we were to take a tough purist line we might be prepared to admit that present-day Bretons could claim to be descendants of Celts, in that Caesar said that the inhabitants of central and western Gaul called themselves Celts, that their language and culture probably survived the Roman interlude, and that there has been comparatively little population change since then. No other region qualifies on all three counts. But many would find this definition unnecessarily restrictive, arguing instead that all those regions where Celtic languages are regularly spoken today may claim some relationship to Celtic roots in the prehistoric period. This does not mean that they were descended from Hallstatt aristocracies or La Tène elites but that they are the inheritors of an Atlantic culture and language that is far more ancient.'

Carn readers will find a Carn cover among the illustrations. This book is a model of good writing for a general audience.

## The Celtic Inscriptions of Britain: Phonology and Chronology, C. 400-1200

Patrick Sims-Williams

Publisher: Blackwell Publishing,  
(Publication of the Philological  
Society)

Paperback 480 pages

(March 2003)

ISBN: 1405109033 Price: £22.99

Celtic inscriptions have been largely studied by philologists, especially the Irish inscriptions. Most of these inscriptions inscribed in the Roman or Irish Ogham alphabets were made on stones.

The work of Macalister called *Corpus Inscriptionum Insularum Celticarum* (1945-1949) was a pioneer oeuvre which gave birth to later and more specialized studies on Celtic inscriptions such as Nash-Williams's *Early Christian Monuments of Wales*, Okasha's *Corpus of Early Christian Inscribed Stones of South West Britain*, or to studies on phonology such as the magisterial oeuvre of

Jackson's *Language and History in Early Britain* in 1953.

This book, written by Patrick Sims-Williams, is in the same line and at the same time a crossroad of works on Celtic inscriptions and Celtic phonology.

The fifth- to twelfth- century inscriptions studied in this book include almost all the roman-letter and ogham inscriptions of Britain that were listed in Macalister's *Corpus Inscriptionum Insularum Celticarum*, plus eighty-two additions.

It is indeed the first comprehensive linguistic study for 50 years of the stones from Western Britain and Brittany, inscribed in the Roman and Irish Ogham alphabets.

The author through a new study of the phonological development of the Brittonic and Irish branches of the

Celtic languages places the chronology of the inscriptions on a surer footing. Patrick Sims-Williams in his large chapter about Brittonic phonology enlarges, completes and goes beyond the magisterial oeuvre of Jackson by giving more examples, details and enlarging Jackson's examples. Moreover his treatment of Irish phonology is quite large as well.

This excellent book carries a large bibliography which will enable readers to find, or go further into more specific points. It will be of interest to archaeologists, historians and art historians, philologists interested in the methods and problems of historical phonology and onomastics as well as to native speakers and learners wishing to know the remote forms of their language and its first written witness.

José CALVETE

## *Fry an Spyrys / Free the Spirit*

Thank you for the piece about our campaign in Carn 124. We have set up a website at [www.freethepirit.org.uk](http://www.freethepirit.org.uk)

You might mention that I have compiled and we have sponsored the first ever bi-lingual prayer book in Kernewek and English which is available through Agan Tavas (link on our website.) in it we have prayers to commemorate those killed fighting for Cornwall in Cornish risings. It is suitable for personal use and in churches and chapels.

Yn Iel dhys  
Andy Phillips

# PLUM PUDDING

## *The voice of the Irish in Argentina is becoming the voice and the ears of all the Celtic Communities in the Spanish Speaking World.*

The Irish have been in Argentina for a very long time. We find Irishmen visiting the Rio de La Plata on the voyage made by Magellan in 1525 as there were two Irishmen in his crew. From that date on the Irish presence became more and more prominent. More and more Spanish expeditions had Irishmen in their crews. The internal history of Ireland also had an obvious connection with the presence of Irishmen in the Rio de La Plata area as the Irish chieftains and the Spanish crown were closely linked in their struggle against English colonization and imperialism and the Elizabethan conquest of Ireland. The 17th century with its brutal plans for the extirpation of the Irish as a national community saw a major emigration to Europe, mainly to Spain and France. As Spain was the ally, the Wild Geese naturally fled to Spain. These Irish migrants and their descendants were astonishingly successful in their new homeland. In the political field, they produced a Prime Minister of Spain, a daughter of Irish migrants became Queen of Spain and in the military field they produced several high ranking officers and Spain had an Irish Brigade in its army for a long time. We find these 'Wild Geese' or Spanish of Irish descendants soon afterwards occupying important positions in the Spanish army and in the colonization of the Spanish territories, especially in the Rio de La Plata area which was to become known as Argentina. By 1700 we find soldiers like O'Donnell or important persons like Doctor Miguel O'Gorman.

But of course most of the Irish emigration will be due to 'An Gorta Mór' or the Great Famine also called the '1845 Famine'. The Great Famine saw more than 2,000,000 native Irish leaving Ireland. Most of them emigrated to the English-speaking world as by then the linguistic change towards English was made. As Peter Berresford Ellis has pointed out in his excellent book 'The Celtic Revolution': 'It is interesting and perhaps a significant observation that during the centuries when Irish was the common language of Ireland, the emigrants tended to settle in Europe, particularly in France, Spain...'. But outside the English-speaking world Argentina holds the biggest Irish migrant community

with an estimated 500,000 scattered throughout the country but with the majority settling in Buenos Aires, the western part of its province and the province of Santa Fe. They came to Argentina attracted by the Argentinean laws which favoured immigration and the community was organized by Father Fahy in spite of the distance and the linguistic barrier. But they soon merged into the young Argentine nation to the point that they gave a president to Argentina.



*Susana Shanahan*

'Plum Pudding' is a radio programme broadcast since 1996. It is presented by Susana Shanahan with all her boiling Irish blood flowing in her veins. The programme is not only the voice of the Irish community in Argentina but is becoming more and more the voice and the ears of all the Celtic communities of Argentina. 'Plum Pudding' is also linked with the active 'Movimiento Celta de Argentina' (Celtic Movement of Argentina). Now it is not only broadcast throughout the whole country but worldwide as it is possible to listen to the programme every Saturday between 20h00 and 22h00 (GMT) through the web at [www.fm895.com.ar](http://www.fm895.com.ar)

This excellent programme deals with every aspect of Celtic cultural life from a national and an international point of view. The range

of topics is wide since news, culture, history, literature, politics, economics, science, fashion, sport, and gastronomy are dealt with. Celtic culture is promoted in particular and especially Celtic music, history, mythology, legends, literature and rituals. There is also Celtic live music every Saturday with national or international groups playing during the programme. But the national struggles of the modern Celtic countries are not forgotten. Recently, the programme has been campaigning to support the rights of the Breton speakers in Brittany and the official acceptance of the Irish language in the European Union. News from outside Argentina is given by correspondents in Ireland, Galicia, Asturias, France, the United States, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, etc...It is an invaluable reference and source of news for all the Celts in Argentina, Latin America and beyond for all the Celts of the Spanish speaking world. For further information, please contact Susana Shanahan at: [plumpu@arnet.com.ar](mailto:plumpu@arnet.com.ar) or visit the website of the programme at [www.plumpudding.com.ar](http://www.plumpudding.com.ar)

José CALVETE

## **WHO GUARDS THE GUARDIANS?**

Celtic League concerns about the lack of regulation of special police units such as the Special Branch in Britain, the SDU in Ireland and the RG (Direction Centrale des Renseignements Généraux) in France have been highlighted to relevant Departments of the Council of Europe.

A reply from Walter Schwimmer Secretary General of the Directorate General of Human Rights highlights steps already taken by the Council of Europe and its programme 'Police and Human Rights - Beyond 2000'. However the Directorate General has assured us that the Leagues concerns have also been transmitted to relevant Council of Europe bodies and departments.

In the past twenty years Special Police units have been involved in many alleged scandals. In the United Kingdom the Special branch is alleged to have withheld information which put the public at risk. In Ireland the activities of both the SDU and its offshoot the ERU has not been without controversy and in France the RG also has a controversial history.

As State security is quite properly tightened as the terrorist threat grows in Europe it is also important that appropriate checks and balances are put in place to control these special police units which to date have been something of a law unto themselves.

J B Moffatt

# Trial of Bretons

From March 1st to March 28th 2004, the trial of 11 Breton militants was held before the Paris special court of assizes. These people will be judged for their presumed responsibility in 17 attacks perpetrated in Brittany between 1993 and 2000.

This trial took place after more than 4 years of provisional detention for one of the six accused and nearly four years for four others, all of whom are still in provisional detention. The conditions in which these men were imprisoned in Paris jails - tougher prison regime due to the status of detainee under reinforced watch, detention of a militant against the opinion of the prosecution, detention of two other detainees who were seriously ill, have led citizens associations, artists, political, union and humanitarian organisations, to denounce this situation.

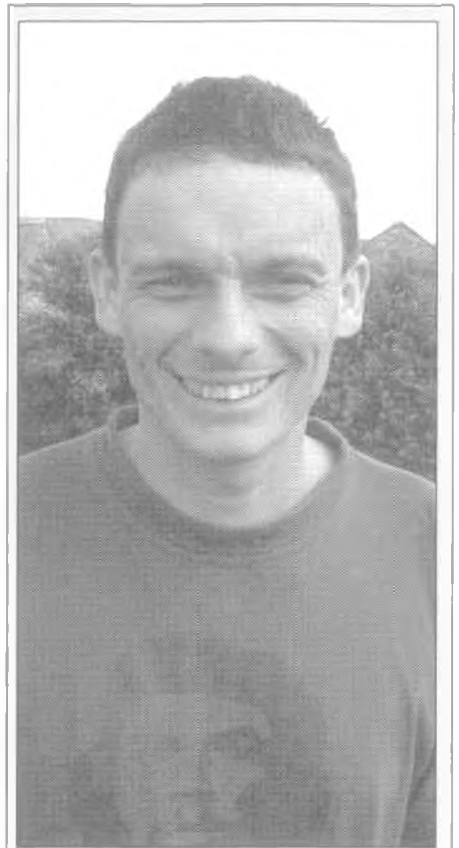
In Brittany, the wave of solidarity keeps on growing, and several observers from international organisations attended the trial where militants appear before a special jurisdiction that, clearly, will judge them more for their political beliefs than for what they allegedly did.

While some of the accused admitted involvement in ARB activities all denied having any involvement in the bombing of Mc Donald's in Quévert, where a lady was killed. The prosecution case was long on rhetoric and short on evidence. In the closing speech of the prosecution (before defence counsels and defendants speak) they demanded the following for the various individuals.

1. Christian Georgeault : An 18 year jail sentence of which he will have to serve at least a 10 year minimum mandatory before being eligible for release. He admitted being involved in some attacks, but not Quévert.
2. Gael Roblin : 15 years, with 10 years minimum mandatory sentence
3. Paskal Laizé. 12 years, 8 years minimum mandatory sentence
4. Stéphane Philippe. 10 years, 6 years of minimum mandatory sentence
5. Arno Vannier. 8 years, 4 years of minimum mandatory sentence. He already served some time and was released. If sentence is confirmed he will be jailed immediately.
6. Alain Solé. 6 years, no mandatory sentence due to poor health. As he already served much more than 4 years, he could be released quite soon if sentence is confirmed as such.
7. Philippe Jaumouillé, 5 years (he already served a few months, and was released)
8. Solenn Georgeault, Yann Solon, Paskal Scattolin, Jérôme Bouthier: nothing was demanded. The Prosecutor also apologised to Jérôme, saying he was "sorry that Jérôme should be in this situation". It's high time the Prosecutor realized that Jérôme has been in jail for nearly 2 and a half years.

The verdict may be delivered by the time you read this. At the time of going to press the defence case has yet to be heard.

Let's wait for the verdict and possible appeals.... Let's hope....



*Adrian Cain from Port St Mary, who was recently appointed to the position of Manx Language Officer. Phil Gawne, who held the position for many years, moved on to become a Member of the House of Keys (Parliament). We wish Adrian well in his new job.*

## TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES UNFOLD IN SCOTS INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

Further signs of the tensions and opportunities facing the national movement in Scotland continue to emerge following the radical realignment of pro independence forces flowing from the last Scottish Parliament elections. This saw a loss of seats for the SNP but gains for the pro independence Greens and Scottish Socialists.

Now former SNP MSP Lloyd Quinan has quit the party, joined the SSP and sharply criticised the direction of the main pro independence party. Quinan was a left wing member of the SNP Scots Parliament group in the 1999/2003 intake and supported Alex Neil's challenge to John Swinney in the leadership election which followed Alex Salmond's resignation. In an interview with the SSP's weekly Scottish Socialist Voice he is sharply critical of the SNP's perceived move to a more 'business friendly' agenda which has been less kindly described by some as "New SNP." The SNP he says, feel

that they need to be "electable at all costs" and are courting the business world, says Quinan "It is misguided. The business community is a transnational community; it doesn't care about Scottish sovereignty." The proposed Independence Convention is he says, a positive development which could "if instituted now, with absolute commitment from the parties' involved" be "one of the most dynamic forces in the 2007 elections." The Scots Parliament elections in 2007 coincide with the 300th anniversary of the Parliamentary Union with England and as such will be give an extra edge to those who want to break that union.

What the Quinan resignation and criticism brings into sharp focus is the growing plurality of the National movement in Scotland and the complex issues this raises.

It is also forcing the non SNP independence supporters to give serious thought to making their demand a reality.

And as Lloyd Quinan makes clear in his interview the movement away from big states to local democracy is taking place across Europe. In Italy the Communist Refondazione have taken a much more relaxed view of nationalism in Sardinia than in the past while in Spain the Green Left accept the current state structure does not meet the national aspiration of the nations such as the Basques, within its frontiers. Quinan is a long term supporter of Basque independence and reaches the conclusion that there is growing common interest between movement for national and social liberation across Europe.

"Nationalism is revolutionary, internationalist idea" he says calling for co-operation across Europe for nationalist movements on same journey as us, seeking the restoration of sovereignty."

**Ken Ferguson**

## International Branch Internet Site

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

e-mail International Branch Secretary  
[mlockerby@enterprise.net](mailto:mlockerby@enterprise.net)

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## American Branch Internet Site

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

# 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 Eillis whose regular column Annon is Anail has been a feature of the paper for over ten years.

**APPEAL:** The bookshop has been given notice to leave the premises again by Camden Council. Please write to local MP, Frank Dobson and Camden Council urging them not to close the Bookshop. Any financial support would be welcome.



## Independent Scots read the 'Scots Independent'

### Contact

51 Cowane Street  
Stirling FK8 1JW  
Alba/Scotland

### Telephone

Stirling 01786 473523

### Website

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

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E-mail General Secretary:  
[b.moffatt@advsys.co.im](mailto:b.moffatt@advsys.co.im)

E-mail Assistant G.S.  
[mkermode@mcb.net](mailto:mkermode@mcb.net)

## Membership and Subscriptions

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).

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

**ALBA.** Iain Ramsay, 22 Denholme Gardens, Greenock, PA16 6RF, Scotland

**BREIZH** Jakez Derouet, 10 Verouri-Nevez, 29700 Plovelh (Plomelin), Breizh/Brittany.

**CYMRU** Robat ap Tomos, 11 Heol Gordon, Y Rhath, Caerdydd, CF2 3AJ.

**ÉIRE** Pádraigín Mylevreeshey 33 Ceide na Grianóige, Rath Cuil, Co. Átha Cliath.

**KERNOW** Sue Bowen, Venten Lynnow, Trevalgar, Bos Castle, TL35 0RG.

**MANNIN** Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel. Tel: UK (0) 1624 843869.

**ENGLAND BRANCH** Florence Kenna, 72 Compton Street, London, EC1V 0BN.

**USA** Margaret Sexton, c/o P.O. Box 20153, Dag Hammarshjold Postal Centre, New York, NY 10017.

**INTERNATIONAL BRANCH** Mark Lockerby, 12 Magherdonnag, Pony Fields, Port Erin, IM9 6BY, Isle of Man.

**GENERAL SECRETARY & P.R.O.**  
Bernard Moffatt, 11 Cleiy Rhennee, Kirk Michael, Mannin.  
Tel - UK (0) 1624 877918

**EDITOR** Ms P. Bridson, 33 Ceide na Grianóige, Rath Cuil, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.  
E-mail: [patriciabridson@eircom.net](mailto:patriciabridson@eircom.net)

Articles for *Carn* should be sent on disk preferably in Microsoft Word or e-mailed to the Editor

Material for the next issue of *Carn* should reach the Editor no later than 1st May 2004. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Celtic League.

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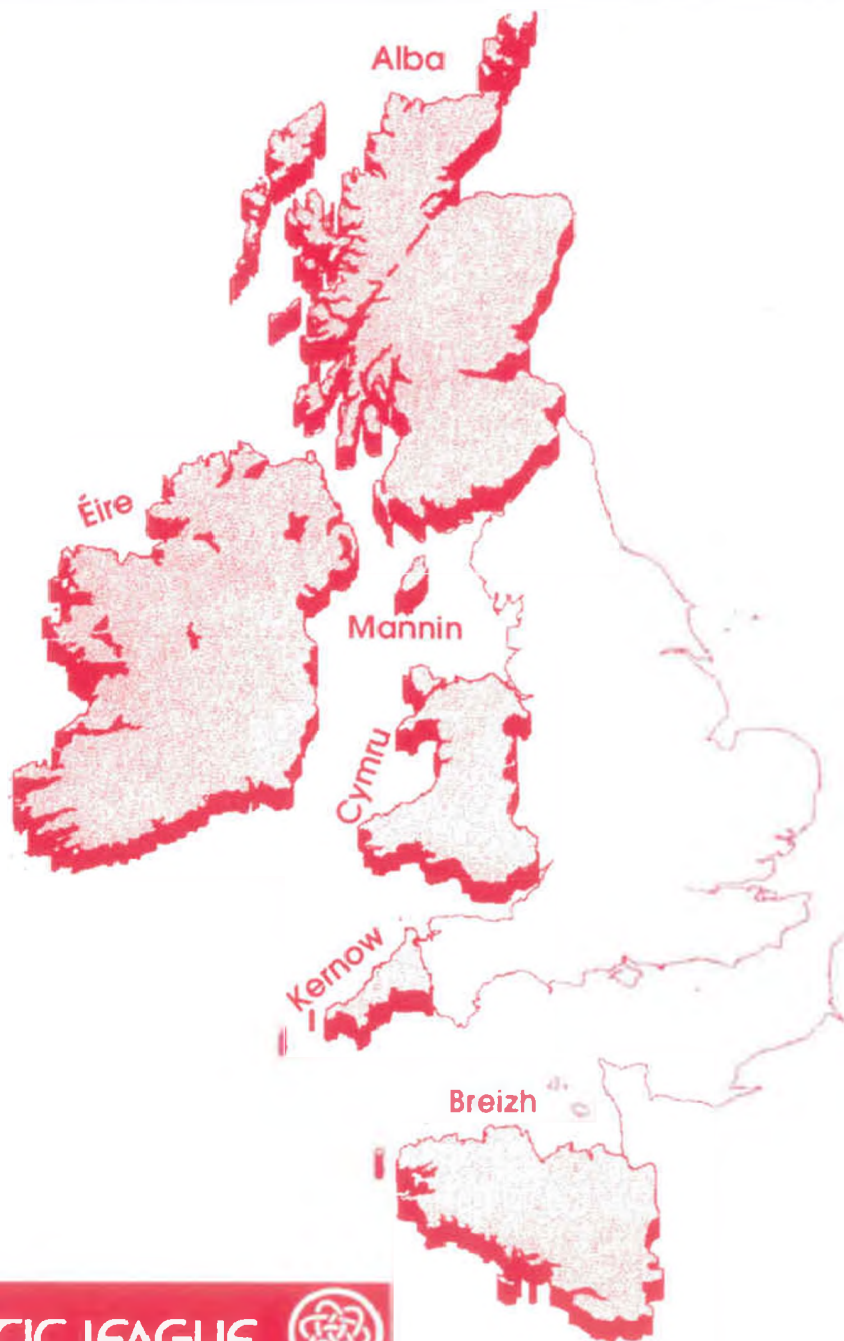
# COMANN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 126

Summer 2004

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- BBC TV Blunders in Scotland !
- Bile na Gàidhlig
- Breton Prisoners Sentenced
- Republican revival in Wales
- No Justice for Gaelscoileanna
- Cornwall - Free the Spirit
- Identity Card Opposed in Mann
- Celtic Music and Culture in South America

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CELTIC LEAGUE



## Bile Na Gàidhlig

Seo dà rioghachd san Aonadh Eòrpa, can, A' Phortagail is A' phòlainn.

Dé chànan a aig a h-uile fear- no bean-teagaisg agus le sin aig a h-uile mac màthair, sa chiad dhùthaich Portagaileis agus sa Phòlainn, Pòleis.

"Gu nàdurach," theireadh gac'h duine sam bith.

Mata, bhiodh e nàdurach gu leoir nan robh teagasg is cluich t.ire na Gàidhlig ri fhaotainn air son gach pàisde eadar dà is cóig bliadhnan a dh'aois sna croileagan agus teagasg troimh na Gàidhlig sna sgoiltean feadh Alba an deidh sin!

San sgoil bhiodh an leanabh ag ionnsachadh cànanan eile mar eisimpleir, Beurla no Fraingeis no Gearmailteis no eile ach trolmh na Gàidhlig.

Bha cruinnachadh eadar Peadair Peacock, Ministear air son na Gàidhlig, agus mu fhichead neach à buidhnan mar Chlì, Comhairle nam Sgoiltean Araich, Sabhal Mór Ostaig, Comann nam Pàrant, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Colaiste Caisteal Laòdhas agus ùghdarrasan ionadail ... agus an co-dhùnadh aca? ... Dòchasach no Constructive ... dìreach Dòchasach.

Bitheadh Bile na Gàidhlig seo air fhoillseachadh ré na làithean saora an samhraidh seo agus an deidh sin, bitheadh e air beulaibh na Pàrlamaid Albannach agus bitheadh e na Achd an ath shamhradh 2005.

Ach chan eil a h-uile duine cho dòchasach mu Bhile na Gàidhlig. Tha an dà ùghdarras ionadail, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar agus Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd le chèile, gu h-aona-ghuthach dhen bheachd nach eil na tha a' dol fada gu leòr airson cuideachadh leis a' Gàidhlig a shabhaladh à leabaidh bàis. Ach, chan eil an aon ùghdarras an deidh dubh-chàn fhaighinn an aghaidh air an Achd.

Chuir Breatainn ('s e sin ri ràdh, Sasainn agus na coloinidhean aice) a h-ainm ri Clàr na Charter na Roinn Eorpa air son Mion-chànanan agus Cànanan Roinneil, ceithir bliadhnan sa chaid. Tha an t-ùghdarras, Eòrpach seo mi-thoilichte leis nach deach adhartas gu leòr a dhèanamh air seanal ùr Gàidhlig digitaach a chruthachadh agus leis nach eil foghlam troimh mheadhan na Gàidhlig cho bitheanta 's a bu chòir dha a bhith.

Tha am ball-pàrlamaid Brian MacUilleim ari dòchas a' chuis a thogail ann an Taigh nan Cumantan ann an Lunnain agus ag ràdh gu bheil e air a bhith mothachail mu cho beag 's a thatar a' deanamh.

Ach, air an làimh eile, chunnaic sinn sanas

car dòchasach anns an "Stornoway Gazette" dhen 6mh Céitean 2004, ma bhios neach fileanta sa Gàidhlig le ceum no degree agus àrd ire sa Bheurla agus iosal matamataic; tha cùrsa fad 36 seachdainean a dh'uidheamaicheas an neach seo airson beatha mar neach-teagasg troimh mheadhan na Gàidhlig an compàirteachas eadar Institiùd Mìle Bliadhna na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean agus Oilthigh Shrath Chluaidh. Air fiosrachadh cuir fòn gu 0845-272-3600 no [www.uhi.ac.uk/pgde](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/pgde)

Mur ail Parlamaid na h-Alba a' toirt Achd Ghàidhlig amach a tha a' tairgse teagasg troimh na Gàidhlig do gach leanabh air feadh Alba uila gu Ièir, feumaidh sinn dèanamh spairn gus am bitheadh Achd a' tairgse teagasg mar sin. Nach d' thuir Jack MacConnell aig . am Mòd Nàiseanta ann an Obainn am bliadhna gun robh a' Ghàidhlig cudnromach dha'n dùthaich air fad!

*Mu dheireadh thall, seo agaibh dàn a rinn Gil Leasbuig MacMhuirich.*

### 1. Cho blasda ri pòg mo leannain

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Cno blasda ri bias na meala

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Cho cùbhraidh ri fàileadh a ròis

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

### 2. Nì sinn gàirdeachas ga leughadh Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Na faclan aice mar bheadradh mo thasgaidh

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl

Rinn iad dearmad oirre naoi linntean

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Bhon d' thàinig Mairead nam Mallachd

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl

### 3. Ach tha an seòl-mara air tilleadh A thaobh ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Mar traoghadh mall na mara

Ceannsaichidh ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

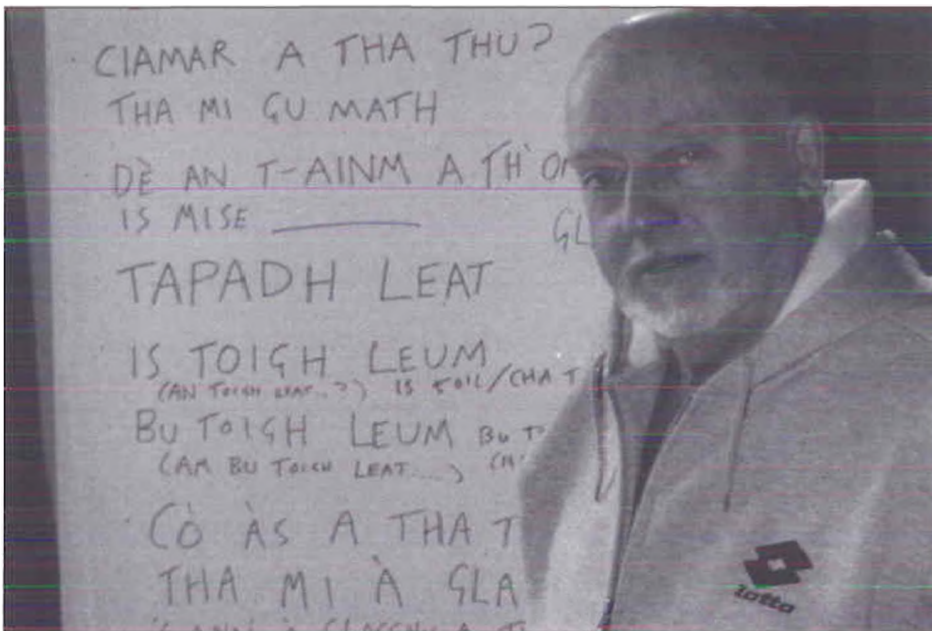
Bitheadh i an àite na Beurla fhathast

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl!

### Précis

*Here we have a discussion on whether the forthcoming Gàidhlig Bill is as some say, constructive, or not going far enough to meet today's needs to make the right for having children taught through the language. Hodder and Stoughton has added a Dictionary to companion their Teach Yourself Gàidhlig. It covers almost all vocabulary required. Malcolm McLennan's could supply phonetics.*

*Gil Leasbuig MacMhuirich (Gil Leasbuig Lachlainn 'Ileasbuig)*



*Pictured above is Iain Ramsay, CL Alba Branch Secretary, at the Colaiste naGael gathering in Powfoot Golf Club in Dumfriesshire. The occasion involving forty Irish and Gàidhlig speakers included classes, scenic tours, talks and workshops on the similarities between the two languages.*

## Busy Time for Alba Branch

The Celtic League in Scotland has had a busy time lately, being represented at quite a few commemorations and events which are a thorn in the flesh to the Brito /Anglo establishment.

On the 11th April at Cumbuslang, they attended the commemoration to that brave stand made in Dublin, the Easter Rising. Other events commemorating the Glen Coe massacre, the Declaration of Scottish Independence (6th April, 1320 at Arbroath Abbey) were also attended, and next year speakers from the Celtic League will be represented there.

Equally important was our invitation to attend and be represented at a conference held in Paisley University. This was under the heading 'What does EU enlargement really mean for Scotland?' Speakers from the respective countries spoke of the ties between them and Scotland and all were sure Scotland would benefit. The Celtic League representative pointed out to the new members, i.e. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Slovakia, that had they not, first got their independence, they would not have qualified for membership. And Scotland with a far higher population than most of them will still not be at the top table, only Ireland out of all the Celtic nations qualifies for full membership. Why? - Because she was a free and independent state. Only a country that has its flag flying outside the EU parliament has a proper say inside that parliament.

Estonia with a population of 1.4 million will have 6 MEPs whilst Scotland with 5 million only qualifies for 5 MEPs. Even smaller Malta with 0.4 million will have 6 MEPs, why because she is independent, only getting rid of corrupt British rule in the 60s. Scotland must, as the figures prove, get rid of the stigma of England's strangle hold, by obtaining independence, then and only then can she sit at the top tables of the world, i.e. the United Nations and in Brussels.

Alba branch representatives went on to attend Colaiste na nGael, a Gaelic College gathering, near the Scottish border town of Annan in May, from which we hope to report back to Carn readers in the next issue.

Iain Ramsay.

## BBC TV Blunders!

The Scottish Branch of the Celtic League made strong protest to the BBC following a statement by a top police officer erroneously stated the flag of ETA, the Basque separatist movement, was being flown at an old firm football match.

The League pointed out that the flag was in fact the national flag of the Basque people and was flown outside the devolved Basque Parliament building every day. It was not the flag of any organisation, legal or otherwise. The station revealed later that it had received a number of protests concerning the matter and during the programme on the following night it admitted that there had been a mistake.

Seamus Philbin of the League made the protest to the BBC and the Branch Secretary followed it up with press releases which were fruitful in that not only was a reaction obtained, but the press asked for more information regarding the Celtic League in the future.

Every little helps! Don't let the Brits off the hook, they make boos like this everyday and only if it is pointed out will they be more cautious.

The English propaganda system is one of the worlds finest, but it can only be successful if you let it!

Iain Ramsay

## NUCLEAR PLANT NO-FLY INCIDENT COVER-UP

There has been another near-miss incident involving a large military aircraft breaching a no-fly zone around a nuclear plant.

It was confirmed in early May that an RAF Hercules C130 transport plane breached the no-fly zone around the Chapelcross nuclear power station in Dumfries and Galloway on December 19, 2003.

The MoD is conducting an investigation but there is no explanation as to why the incident has been covered up for over four months.

The Celtic League have repeatedly called for more stringent application of low flying and exclusion prohibitions around such plants and in 2000, following an incident near the Tomess Plant in Scotland, we called for an extension of the no-fly zone to 10 miles. The MoD response, after some prevarication during which other incidents occurred, was to extend the exclusion zone from 1 to 2 nautical miles (2.3 miles).

This latest incident reinforces the view of the Celtic League and others that current safety margins are not adequate. What will it take to make the MoD act more decisively - a disaster?

Bernard Moffatt

## 1916 Rising Commemorated in Scotland

On Easter Sunday a large crowd of Glasgow Irish, including representatives of the GAA, Gaelic League, Comhaltas Ceoltoir Éireann and a Republican colour party, assembled at Pearse Park GAA ground, for the annual 1916 commemoration ceremony organised by the Francis Hughes Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin, Glasgow.

The ceremony was chaired by Stephen Coyle who called on John Kelly to read the Proclamation. Joe McAleer then read the Republican Roll of Honour for Scotland. This was followed by Siobhán Kelly who laid a wreath at the Pearse monument on behalf of the Cumann. Pádraig Mac Giolla Uidhir then read the poem *The Rebel* by Patrick Pearse. Pat McAleer gave a spirited reading of the Leadership Statement.

The chairperson called for a minute's silence in memory of Ireland's patriot dead. Seán Feeney of the Gaelic League then recited a decade of the Rosary. The main speaker was Seán McGoldrick from County Sligo, who gave the oration on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin. In the course of his address, Seán reminded the gathering that next year will mark the centenary of the founding of Sinn Féin and although our central objectives have not yet been attained, Republicans have the resilience and strength to push on until victory.

'All across Ireland this afternoon, as well as here and in England and the US, Republicans are assembling with a common purpose behind the Tricolour at graves and monuments and hearing the 1916 Proclamation being read again,' he said. 'Most of the individual commemorations may be small respectable events in themselves but the combined effect of them is impressive. While we are in a minority there are more of us than we think. We are part of a national and international movement for freedom and liberation which has existed for centuries and which never gives up.'

The chairperson gave a warm welcome to representatives of the Scottish branch of the Celtic League, the SNP and the Scottish Republican Socialist Movement that were in attendance. Speaking on behalf of the SRSM, Gerry MacGregor gave a rousing speech in solidarity with the Irish Republican Movement. The ceremony was then brought to a close with the singing of Amhran na bhFiann.

Stephen Coyle, Organiser.

# Breizh

## An iwerzhoneg en deskadurezh

Ganet eo ar gevredigezh Comhar na Muinteoiri Gaeilge e 1964. Skoazellet hag arc'hantet eo gant Bord na Gaeilge abaoe 1978 hag ivez gant Ministrerezh an Deskadurezh. Abaoe 1978 ar gevredigezh Gaelscoileanna he deus roet lañs d'un tregontad Skol Gentañ Derez. Bugale a vez degaset enne tamm pe damm ingal gant 260 diwallerezh savet gant tud a-volontez vat. Skoazellet eo an holl frammadurioù-se gant Bord na Gaeilge abaoe 1978. Int-i o deus ur mell pouez war al lobby-ioù hag ar c'humuniezhioù lec'hel e-keñver an emzalc'h yezhel.

E 1995 eo bet savet ar stadegoù diwezhañ A-bouez eo ar sifroù, drezo e c'heller keñveriañ stad an traoù etre ar skolioù holliwerc'honeg dre ar soubidigezh, da lavarout eo an A.I.S. (All Irish Schools) hag ar skolioù all.

Keleñn an Iwerzhoneg e Skolioù ar C'hentañ Derez	Niver ar skolioù	Niver ar c' h lasoù	Niver ar skolidi
a) gant an holl klasoù kaset nemet dre an iwerzhoneg			
◆ er gouezelegvaoù	113	370..	8.621
◆ lec'hioù all	95	586	15.956
b) gant un nebeud klasoù holliwerc'honek	3		
◆ niver hollek ar c'hlasoù		21	562
c) gant u nan pe un nebeud klasoù e-lec'h ma vez keleñnet un danvez dre an iwerzhoneg d' an nebeutañ	1.049..	5.690	153.161
d) gant an iwerzhoneg keleñnet nemet evel danvez	1.941	10.626	287.558
<b>HOLLAD</b>	<b>3.201</b>	<b>17.293.</b>	<b>465.854</b>

Steuñviñ deskadurezh an iwerzhoneg a zo roll ar Stad. Hiziv an deiz n'eo ket muioc'h raket an iwerzhoneg eget ar saozneg pe ar matematikoù! Kinniget eo an iwerzhoneg evel danvez da zarn brasañ ar vugale er skolioù-stad.

Skolioù stummadur ar gefennerien a lak an holl skolaerien da vezañ barrek da gelenn iwerzhoneg. Koulskoude d'ar c'houlz-mañ e vezer kentoc'h techet da c'hoari gant an divec'hiadurioù ha peurgetket en danvezioù teknikel.

## An iwerzhoneg hag ar relijion

Eus tu ar c'hounid (hag a-bell) eo an Iliz Katolik-haRoman er 26 kontelezh ha n'he deus ket Hi ur politikerezh yezhel ofisiel. Evit gwir e vez anvet beleien iwerzhoneger er gouezelegvaoù. Dibab ar yezh a vez graet gant ar familhoù hag an dud o-unan evit lidañ ar badeziantoù, an euredoù, pe an obidoù. Dre ma vez desket er skol lidañ ar sakramantoù en iwerzhoneg d'ar vugale e vez o kreskiñ niver al lidoù er yezh-mañ. Dindan gwarez 'Glor na nGael', ur rann eus ar gevredigezh 'Cumann na Sagart', e vez broudet ar veleien d'ober gant an iwerzhoneg kement er Su hag en Norzh. Un emzalc'h war vat o deus ar skolioù prevez katolik e-keñver yezh vroadel gentañ ar vro.

Ret eo anzav memestra ez eus ivez un toulladig bihan a bastored protestant barrek d'ober lidoù en iwerzhoneg diouzh ar goulenn ha zoken e-touez ar re-se un nebeudig anezho er 6 kontelezh.

Gi Keltik

## Précis:

Part 3 - This article continues to appraise the booklet 'Irish - Facing the Future' which deals with the history and present day position of the Irish Language (see Carn 124 and 125).

## DILENNADEGOÙ KUZUL-RANNVRO

Dilaouenn e oa e Breizh evel e lec'h all, ul lodenn vras eus an dud gant politikerezh gouarnamant Jean Pierre Raffarin a-raok dilennadegoù rannvroel miz meurzh 2004. An dilennadegoù kentañ abaoe re 2002 e oa. Sur a-walc'h eo bet kreñvoc'h c'hoazh ar c'hoant mont a-enep ar gouarnamant zo bremañ dre ma oa aet kalz a dud da votiñ evit Jacques Chirac pa oa deuet a-benn Jean Marie Le Pen da vont en eil tro. Marteze dilennadegoù Spagn penn-kentañ miz Meurzh goude gwalldaolioù Madrid o deus ivez gallet lakaat an dud da soñjal en-dro en divizoù n'o deus ket plijet dezho. N'eus forzh penaos, liammet start eo evel-just disoc'hoù ar votadegoù e Breizh ouzh ar votadegoù e peurrest Bro-C'hall ! Ur c'hoant enebañ d'ar gouarnamant ouzhpennet d'al lezennoù nevez evit frammañ an dilennadegoù rannvro o deus krignet kalz galloudoù ar gostezenn zo e penn ar Stad hiziv.



Tennet eus ar pennad skrivet gant Milio Latimier e Bremañ N°270/ Courtesy Bremañ.

Ranket en deus Josselin de Rohan (kostezenn delhoù) lezel renerezh Kuzul-rannvro da Jean-Yves an Drian (kostezenn gleiz) rag d'an 21 aviz Meurzh, 58.8% eus ar mouezhioù zo aet gant listenn Jean-Yves an Drian (PS) ha 41.2% zo aet gant listenn Josselin de Rohan (UMP-UDF). Met laouenoc'h c'hoazh e oa tud al listenn Ar Re C'hlas hag an Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh o deus dastumet 9.7% eus ar mouezhioù. Ar Re C'hlas-UDB o deus unanet o mouezhioù da listennad Jean-Yves an Drian en eil tro.

War-dro 25 sez a yafe gant an UMP-UDF, pa vefe gounezet 58 sez gant ar gostezenn gleiz, en zouez 3 evit tud eus an UDB.

Evel ma skrivas Milio Latimier en e bennad mat-tre embannet e Bremañ Niv. 270 « evit ul lodenn vras eus ar re a labour pemdez war ar yezh hag ar sevenadur e Breizh, n'eo ket bet ur c'holl bras ne yafe ket Josselin de

Dilennadegoù continued on page 5



# New Breton Publisher

Born in Brittany, **Yoran Embanner (Yoran Editions)** has specialised in producing bilingual mini-dictionaries or 'Liliput dictionaries', humouristically translated into Breton as '**Liligast**'.

These pocket dictionaries (480 pages) contain about 4,000 words with phonetic translations for each word. They only measure 4.7 x 6.5 cm (1.7 x 2.4 inches), and retail at €6.

Of course, the publisher began with the Breton/French version in June 2002. Following its success, three other dictionaries were published in 2003: Breton/English, Breton/German, and Corsican/French.

The main aim of the editor is to defend all minority languages, and also to show how these languages have adapted to modern life so that everything can be said in Breton or in Catalan etc. Five new mini-dictionaries will be published in June 2004: Breton/Dutch, Breton/Italian, Breton/Spanish, Alsatian/French, and Savoyard/French. The intention is to put a minority language with a larger spoken language. A Cornish/English dictionary, prepared by Dr Ken George, will be published in spring 2005, along with: Alsatian/German, Corsican/Italian, Occitan/french, Occitan/Italian, and Rumantsch/French.

Contacts have been established with **Cli Na Gaidheil Ura** in Inverness. The chairman Peadar Morgan is very interested in a Gaelic/English mini-dictionary but, unfortunately, for the time being, he hasn't found an author. In fact finding authors is a major difficulty for **Yoran Embanner**.

Contacts have also been made in Ireland... wait and see. In Wales, **Y Lolfa** printed a Welsh learner's dictionary competing with the '**Liligast**' one. Well, good luck to Yoran Embanner in all its future projects.

**Contact: Yoran Embanner SARL, 71 Hent Mespiolet, 29170 FOUENANT, Brittany via France.**

**Phone/Fax: 00 33 / 298 56 10 11. Mobile: 00 33 / 661 23 47 88**

## Dilennadegoù continued

*Rohan da brezidant ar C'huzul-rannvro adarre. Dre chañs en deus Jean-Yves Cozan stourmet da zifenn teuliadoù ar brezhoneg ha sevenadur Breizh a-hed ar 6 vloaz tremenet ».*

Evit gwir, ne vank ket ar skouerioù evit diskouez e oa Josselin de Rohan meur a wech pell diouzh ar stourm evit ar yezh, dre skouer war dachenn ar skolioù **Diwan**, an embann brezhonek, ar c'helenn divyezhek, an englev sinet gant gouarnamant Kembre lec'h ma vanke ar skouerenn e brezhoneg...

Un darvoud istorel eo disoc'h an dilennadegoù-se evit meur a dra. Ar wech kentañ eo evit ar C'huzul-rannvro bezañ renet gant tud eus ar gostezenn gleiz. abaoe ma'z eo bet krouet ar C'huzulioù-rannvro e 1986. Met ar pezh zo a-bouez evit an holl re kizidik da yezh ha sevenadur Breizh, eo gwelet dilennidi eus an UDB o vont da guzulierien-rannvro. Tud all tomm ouzh ar brezhoneg a gaver e touez ar guzulierien-rannvro ivez. Spi zo da gaout e raint kinnigoù talvoudus evit buhez ha dazont ar yezh er mizioù da zont.

## Summary:

*In Brittany, as elsewhere in France, people were dissatisfied with the government of Jean Pierre Raffarin. They proved it during the French regional elections, the first elections since 2002 which saw the victory of Jacques Chirac. The electors have perhaps been influenced by the Spanish elections. The Socialist Jean-Yves Le Drian won the regional elections in Brittany. In the second turn the Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh (UDB), the autonomist party for Brittany and the Greens gave their votes to the Socialists led by Jean-Yves Le Drian. These are historical results. For the first time since its creation in 1986 Brittany will be governed by the Left and there will be 3 members of the UDB in the Regional Council and other councillors among the Socialists and the Greens are also known for their attachment to the Breton language and culture. There is hope that they will make good and constructive propositions for the future of the language.*

José CALVETE

## Regional Elections: The 'Duke' is gone!

This spring saw the left in Brittany make the most significant gains in local elections since World War II. It was brought about by a 'dream' alliance of the Greens and the nationalist UDB (Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh) in the elections for the Council of Brittany.

There are economic problems in the French state at present. France is struggling to comply with the Maastricht treaty constraints (3% deficit/GNP). There was unrest this year in the civil service sector and among the farmers, these demonstrations giving a special significance to these mid-term elections.

The French government of Jean-Pierre Raffarin aimed to introduce a degree of devolution, but the President of the French parliament, Jean-Louis Debré, a Gaullist friend of Jacques Chirac, is opposed to even the tiniest move towards devolution.

The Parti Socialiste (PS) focused their campaign against the "Chirac-Raffarin" team, with J. Chirac and his best political friend Al. Juppe facing accusations of alleged corruption. In Brittany this socialist strategy was very effective. The leader of the right wing in this election in Brittany was the jacobin Gaullist 'Duke' Josselin de Rohan - anti-devolution, anti-Europe, against the European Charter for Lesser Used Languages. De Rohan was largely responsible for the deprivation of money

from the Diwan schools. He was seen as spending most of his time in Paris while his main opponent, J-Y. LeDrian from An Oriant, venue of the InterCeltic Festival, was able to project a more Breton image (yellow sailing coat etc.).

The success of J-Y. LeDrian in this election was helped by his background in the Christian JOC, whence the CFDT, a Christian trade union strong in the farming industry, gave him support. Moreover, he is a leader of Jacques Delors's "club de l'Europe". LeDrian was also active in oil spill campaigns like that of the Erika in 1999 on the south Breton coast. And it was because of Breton water pollution issues (oil, nitrates, rubbish) that the Greens formed an alliance with the UDB. Together they polled 10% of the vote and gained a share of the power. It is the first time that there has been UDB representation in the Council of Brittany. Christian Guyonvarc'h of the UDB becomes Vice-president, in charge of European and international affairs. By virtue of a new electoral law, the UDB has two elected women - Mona Bras (Gwengamp) and Naig Ar Gars (Kemper-Pluguen).

We wish success to the Breton left in the creation of a new Breton economic and social model.

Gi Keltiek

# FIRST MINISTER OF WALES VISITS BRITTANY

Rhodri Morgan AC, Prime Minister of Cymru, came to Breizh at the beginning of this year where he was welcomed by Ao. Jo'sselin de Rohan, the then President of Breizh. An agreement was signed in order to develop formal relations between Breizh and Cymru. Rhodri Morgan said that there are no two other regions in Europe with so many reasons to work together. Breizh and Cymru share elements of common history and common modern day problems too, so it's obvious that they should prepare for the future together. The agreement covers nine areas such as business; tourism, and agriculture. This year there will be Welsh representation at the international Agricultural Show in Roazhon. There will also be cultural programmes, in order to help both languages, and it was agreed that MPs from both sides would meet once a year.

This agreement is written in Welsh, English, and French!!! "It's not in the Breton language because French law does not allow it", said President de Rohan...



*From left to right, Rhodri Morgan, Josselin de Rohan (President of the Conseil Régional de Bretagne at the time) Lena Louarn, President of Ofis ar Brezhoneg (Welcoming Rhodri Morgan to Breizh in Welsh).*

Rhodri Morgan visited a few symbolic places like a farm, the parliament of Breizh and Ofis ar Brezhoneg (the bureau for developing Breton) whose President, Lena Louarn, welcomed him

in Cymraeg and told him about the situation of the Breton language today.

Gi Keltik (courtesy Bremañ)

## Douarnenez Film Festival

The 27th Douarnenez Film Festival will take place from the 17th to the 24th of August. It will be dedicated to the Belgians. Not to Belgium, but to the Belgians!

It has been decided to show in the same place and at the same time films in Flemish and in French, which is not usual in Belgium. On the both sides of the linguistic border, which the Belgians themselves often make fun, there are a lot of treasures to discover. There are also many qualities which may be pleasant to us: satire, a surrealist point of view, freelance accents, but also a very deep social commitment, a way to film the other which may be particularly touching.

That may be seen in the titles of the films: *Misère au Borinage* ("Misery in the Borinage") by Henri Storck and Joris Ivens, *Klinkaert and Déjà s'envole la fleur maigre* ("Already is flowing away the thin flower") by Paul Meyer, *Les Amis du plaisir* ("The Friends of pleasure") by Luc de Heusch, *L'Homme au crâne rasé* ("The Man with the shaven head") by André Delvaux, a great national filmmaker if there is one, *Daens* by Stijn Coninx, *Toto le héros* ("Toto the hero") by Jaco Van Dormael, *La Raison du plus fort*

("The reason of the strongest") by Patric Jean, *Taxandria* or *Harpya* by Raoul Servais. Other names will also appear like those of Chantal Akerman, Boris Lehman, and the Dardenne brothers, and also those of young talented men of cartoon film workshops like *Camera enfants admis* ("Camera children admitted") or of companies like *Wallonie Images Production* ("Wallonia Pictures Production") in Liège, *Fugitive Cinéma* of Robbe de Hert in Antwerp, or the CBA in Brussels.

There will not be enough film showings to do justice to the whole of Belgian creativity, so there are also proposed literary meetings with the writer Jef Geeraerts, the Flemish review *Septentrion* (North), with alternative comics in French, exhibitions with the surrealist André Stas and associates, a passionately Belgian bookshop, wild concerts, debates, and palavers about the moods of this little funny country about which we like nothing more than its indefatigable humour!

There will also other sections. There will be one dedicated to new Breton films, in competition or not, one to the unknown treasures of the Breton-library and one

to films the directors of which are promoted by the Festival. There will a section about Chechnia with Russian films and documentary films about the Chechen people, their culture, their fight, their hopes. In another one, called the Big Tribe, there will be an opportunity to see recent films of other minorities invited to Douarnenez in the past. And there will also be screenings and workshops for children about cartoon films.

Yves Jardin

### Ar Bed Keltiek

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Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. Ar Roue Galon, 29000 Kemper).

When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

# BRETON PRISONERS SENTENCED

Eleven Bretons were brought before the "anti - terrorist High Court in Paris in March charged with being members of the Breton Republican Army and of participating in an attack causing the death of a young woman in a Mac Donald's Restaurant. In fact the inquiry never determined who the author of this attack was - the only attack with a victim attributed to the ARB. The trial was very political and newspapers and TV portrayed them as authors or accomplices in this death.

Verdicts were less severe than the 11 to 18 years sought by the prosecution. Their sentences however ranged from 3 years to 11 years in prison.

Four were acquitted, although they had been imprisoned during the inquiry:

Jérôme BOUTHIER (2 years 6 months of detention), Paskal SCATTOLIN (6 months), Solenn GEORGEAULT (2 months), Yann-Hervé SOLON (1 month). Unfortunately the Parquet Général referred charges against Gaël Roblin, Paskal Laizé and Kristian Georgeault. They will be judged again in Paris.

The State still considers them to be accomplices in the Mac Donald's attack, although no evidence has yet been found as to who planned it. During the inquiry the motive used to keep Gaël ROBLIN in detention was that he was the spokesperson of a Breton liberation party EMGANN. This movement is legal putting up candidates for election. Gaël ROBLIN was in fact a candidate in an election during his imprisonment. The political character of the

trial was therefore evident, the accused were seen as terrorists and not as political prisoners.

Two of the prisoners were sick and had always difficulties to obtain good medical care in detention. Gaël ROBLIN was taken by policemen to the funeral of his father several months ago, but he was not able to meet his family nor was he allowed to attend his father's burial in the cemetery. During their incarceration since 1999, there were many manifestations of support for the defendants in Brittany. Just prior to the trial a huge demonstration took place in Nantes in support of the prisoners demanding the same

human rights as those recognized in other European regions.

The defence in justice of all these persons has been expensive. An association SKOAZELL VREIZH has collected the money to finance the defence of nine defendants who asked the association to assist. By themselves Bretons and their families would not have been able to afford the expense of this trial: Four of them had been in held in detention for nearly four years before coming to trial.

Loik Chapel

*See also the Celtica section in this issue.*



*Gaël ROBLIN, taken by policemen to the funeral of his father several months ago.*



## 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. Thei method contributes to the survival of the Breton languag, of course, but it also helps children to value cultural diversity and to develop their open-mindedness.*

*The state rejection prents 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!*

**IHEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET, SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRETAGNE**

### THERE'S NO BITTANY 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/>

## A new ship for Inter Celtic crossings!

With its first voyage on the 2nd of April, the Pont-Aven, the new ship of the Breton company Brittany Ferries, reduces considerably the travel time between Rosko in Brittany and Cork in Ireland, for the benefit of Breton lovers of the Emerald Isle and fans of inter Celtic crossings.

The Pont-Aven is the finest, newest, and most spacious of the *eight* ships of the Brittany Ferries fleet of which Bro-Leon can be proud; as the flagship of the Breton ship-owners it ranks amongst the most modern of passenger ships, along with others constructed at the shipyards of Sant-Nazer. It is 185m long and can take 2400 passengers. With a cruising speed of 27 knots, the Pont-Aven can complete the Rosko-Cork voyage in only 10h 30m.

The first voyage from Breizh to Éire on April 2nd with 1500 passengers was accompanied by inter Celtic ceremonies in both Rosko and Cork, while the onboard live entertainment included the group Cap Caval performing music of Alan Stivell.

Thierry JIGOUREL



# Cymru



## End of Welsh commentary

The Welsh Football Association have signed a contract with Sky TV that gives Sky exclusive rights to the live televising of Wales's international soccer matches. Only recorded highlights will be available on S4C and BBC. As well as depriving those who do not pay the extra to receive Sky's satellite service of the right to watch Wales play live, this means an end to live commentary in Welsh which up to now has been available on S4C. It will be a return to the old pre-S4C days when we used to watch games on a television with the sound turned down and a radio providing the Welsh commentary from Radio Cymru!

Robot ap Tomos

## Gyl Ffilmiau Douarnenez

Cynhelir 27fed Gyl Ffilmiau Douarnenez o'r 17eg i'r 24ain Awst. Bydd yn canolbwyntio ar Wledydd Belg. Nid Gwlad Belg, ond Gwledydd Belg!

Penderfynwyd dangos yn yr un lle ac ar yr un pryd ffilmiau yn Iseldireg/Fflemeg ac yn Ffrangeg, sydd ddim yn arfer yng Ngwlad Belg. Mae trysorau i'w darganfod ar y ddwy ochr i'r ffin ieithyddol, sydd yn rhoi syniad o agweddau diddorol y Belgiaid - y ddychan, ond hefyd y gydwbybod gymdeithasol ddofn.

Gellir gweld hyn yn nheitlau'r ffilmiau: *Misère au Borinage* ("Galar yn y Borinage") gan Henri Storek ac Joris Ivens, *Klinkaert a Déjà s'envole la fleur maigre* ("Yn barod mae'r blodeuyn tila yn ehedeg i ffwrdd") gan Paul Meyer, *Les Amis du plaisir* ("Cyfeillion Pleser") gan Luc de Heusch, *L'Homme au crâne rasé* ("Dyn y pen wedi'i eillio") gan André Delvaux, gwneuthurwr ffilmiau mawr cenedlaethol os oes un, *Daens* gan Stijn Coninx, *Toto le héros* ("Toto yr arwr") gan Jaco Van Dormael, *La Raison du plus fort* ("Cyfiawnhad y Cryfaf") gan Patric Jean, *Taxandria* neu *Harpya* gan Raoul Servais. Gwelir enwau eraill fel Chantal Akerman, Boris Lehman, a'r brodyr Dardenne, a hefyd enwau dynion ifainc talentog o weithdai ffilmiau cartn *Camera*

*enfants admis* ("Mynediad i blant camera") neu gwmnïau fel *Wallonie Images Production* o Liège, *Fugitive Cinéma* Robbe de Hert o Antwerpen, neu'r *CBA* ym Mrwsel.

Ni fydd cyfle ddangos digon o ffilmiau i wneud cyfiawnder â phob agwedd o greadigrwydd Gwlad Belg, felly mae cyfarfodydd llenyddol ar y gweill gyda'r awdur Jef Geeraerts, pobl y cylchgrawn Fflemeg *Septentrion*, arddangosfa o waith y darluniwr André Stas, siop lyfrau 'Belgaidd' dros ben, cyngherddau gwylt, a thrafodaethau am y wlad fach ddigrif hon gyda'i hiwmor diflino.

Bydd adrannau eraill i'r yl hefyd - un am ffilmiau Llydewig newydd, un am lyfrgell ffilmiau Llydaw, ac un am wlad Chechnya gyda ffilmiau Rwsieg am bobl Chechnya, eu diwylliant, eu brwydr, a'u gobethion. Mewn adran arall bydd cyfle i weld ffilmiau diweddar lleiafrifoedd eraill a wahoddyd i Douarnenez yn y gorffennol. A bydd dangos ffilmiau a gweithdai i blant am ffilmiau cartn.

### Précis:

*The Douarnenez Film Festival, to be held on the 17th-24th August, will this year be dedicated to the Flemish and French cultures of Belgium.*

## Plaid MP Tops 'Hardest Working' League

Adam Price, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, has for the second successive Parliamentary year topped the league of hardest working local MPs. During the course of the year he asked 181 parliamentary questions, participated in 21 debates and had a voting record of 73%. He significantly outperformed Labour MPs based in South West Wales e.g. Denzil Davies (Llanelli) asked a mere 15 Questions, and participated in 13 debates. Constituency party chairman Cllr Tyssul Evans said "As a constituency party we are delighted with the hard work of our MP and AC. Only last month Rhodri Glyn Thomas AC (Plaid Assembly member for same constituency) was officially recognised as the hardest working constituency based AC. We have always fought this seat on the basis of working hard for the interests of the constituency in London, rather than working for the interests of London in the constituency. The electors of Carmarthen East & Dinefwr will have a clear choice at next year's General election - a vote for a devoted and hard working constituency focused Plaid Cymru MP or a poodle for London New Labour."

## CYMRU in Brief

### English signs in Cardiff

Cymdeithas yr Iaith in Cardiff have taken action against the continuing presence of road signs and other public signs in English only, some of which are new signs erected by Cardiff Council in contravention of the council's language plan. Special new stickers were produced and these are being stuck onto offending signs and notices in the capital.



'Cell Caerdydd at work'

# REPORT RECOMMENDS MORE POWERS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A report commissioned by the London government to examine the future of the devolution settlement in Wales has recommended significantly greater powers to be devolved from the London parliament to the National Assembly in Cardiff. The Richard report was published in April after two years' work. Chaired by the Labour peer Lord Ivor Richard of Ammanford, it includes calls for the Assembly to be given lawmaking powers in devolved areas such as health and education by 2011. It also recommends increasing the number of ACs from 60 to 80 because of the extra responsibilities which would come with additional powers. The report has gone much further than political observers had expected, recommending that a process of change should begin without delay. But there is no guarantee that all or some of the report's recommendations will be implemented, and the process could take several years.

The report hints that tax-raising powers may be desirable, without endorsing them. It also calls for the Assembly to use its current powers fully and more effectively, and says ministers should continue to devolve powers from Westminster. The report says giving the Assembly more powers would not necessarily demand a referendum but that the final decision on such a matter should be left to the English Parliament. The report sets out a timetable for changes, beginning next year with a new draft Government of Wales Bill, immediately after the Westminster general election. The bill would be introduced to parliament in 2007, the same year as the next Assembly elections, and be activated in 2008, triggering constituency reviews by the Boundary Commission.

The report also recommends a change in the voting system for the Assembly, from the current first-past-the-post (40 seats) with closed regional top-up lists (for the other 20). The present system has attracted opposition from the Labour party because it deprives them of the majority of seats they would gain under a Westminster-style first-past-the-post system (one member per constituency, electors have only one vote), and from others who see closed top-up lists of the second vote (electors vote for a list of candidates whose sequence has been decided by the parties) allowing the parties rather than the electors to decide who will be ACs. The report recommends that elections would be carried out by the single transferable vote (STV) system of proportional representation with multi-member constituencies, as operates in Ireland, with between four and six ACs per constituency. That suggests anything between 13 and 20

constituencies for the Assembly, as opposed to the 40 which elect MPs to Westminster and presently elect two thirds of the ACs to Cardiff Bay. The STV system would probably give fairer proportional representation to the parties than at present. It was predictably condemned by Labour.

Responding to the report for Plaid Cymru in a joint statement, party president Dafydd Iwan, Assembly leader Ieuan Wyn Jones AC, and parliamentary leader Elfyn Llwyd MP welcomed the move towards primary law making powers, but said the report had "missed an opportunity to be even more radical in its approach." Plaid had called for reform of the Barnett formula - which decides how much money Wales gets from Westminster - and tax-varying powers. "Without these fundamental and necessary reforms, Wales will still have second class powers and will not be able to move forward with confidence," the Plaid leader said. "We cannot move forward on improving our public services or our economic performance without the tools to do the job. We must go beyond Richard if we are to release the full potential of our nation - that's why we are demanding Richard Plus - in other words a proper Parliament - only the best will do for Wales."

Among the most hostile responses to the report was that from Welsh Labour Westminster MPs who fear that an increase in the powers of the Assembly will strengthen the case for a reduction in their numbers. The MPs for Ogwr, Wrecsam, and Blaenau Gwent called for another devolution referendum on the proposed changes with Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, saying that the referendum should include a second question giving voters the option of scrapping the assembly. Secretary of State for Wales Peter Hain was little better, warning that the report would have to win the backing of both Westminster and Cardiff Bay before its recommendations went any further, and that a referendum would be required on a Scottish-style body. The idea of using a referendum on these changes as an opportunity to abolish the Assembly via a second question was endorsed by English Tory MP spokesmen on Wales (there are no Tory MPs in Wales) such as former Shadow Welsh Secretary Nigel Evans.

Indeed, the report caused the re-emergence of the no-compromise unionist face of the Tories, with their leader in Wales, Nick Bourne AC, repeating their opposition to the granting of lawmaking and tax-raising powers and Shadow Welsh Secretary Bill Wiggin, an English MP, saying: "If the outcome of a referendum were positive and included an



*Dafydd Iwan*

increase in the number of ACs, we believe a reduction in the number of Welsh MPs would be essential." (In whose interests?)

Responses to the report from organisations other than unionist parties were generally favourable. Farmers' Union of Wales president Gareth Vaughan said the report "reflects many of the views expressed by the FUW. I'm particularly pleased that the commission is recommending lawmaking functions which would bring the powers of the National Assembly closer in line with those already enjoyed by Scotland and Northern Ireland." A group of Welsh peers united to welcome the ideas, and said they needed "a swift and positive response". The peers, including former Welsh Lib Dem. leader Alex Carlile, said "Richard's searching analysis can make Welsh devolution a reality. It can match the progress of Scotland and turn Wales into a vibrant democracy. At present, we have only a flawed and feeble version of the old Victorian tag - 'For Wales, see England.' Wales deserves better, and Richard now provides the opportunity for action." Cymdeithas yr Iaith chairman Huw Lewis said "Who would seriously suggest that Westminster knew better than the elected representatives of Wales how our own national language should be developed? The next obvious step is that we should legislate in Wales for the future of our education system - which is different from the system in the other countries of Britain, and requires democratic control."

It is of concern that some members of the general public asked about the proposals expressed opposition to an extension of the Assembly's proposals on the basis of Labour's uninspired money-wasting performance in Cardiff Bay up to now. Labour has been very successful in persuading many people to attribute Labour's (intentional?) misrule in Cardiff Bay to the principle of devolution. With their support from London and their control of the media they are able to keep people from supporting more devolution and the main opposition party, Plaid Cymru, who are most identified with it, by blaming their own misdeeds on their opponents.

Robot ap Tomos

## **"If it's good for them, why is it wrong for us"**

In a speech given at the Spring Conference, the Leader of Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales, Davydd Iwan, reiterated his party's commitment to Welsh independence.

Iwan stated that it was time for Wales to build a "new relationship" with England, arguing that "When Wales, Scotland and England become politically independent our relationship will continue to be based on interdependence and cooperation, but the relationship will be based on equality. Equal nations working together." "What we are saying, loud and clear, is that it was time we entered into a new relationship with England and the other countries of Britain.

"England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and indeed the Isle of Mann and Cornwall if they so wish, we are all national partners in a

collection of islands which have a long and glorious, sometimes turbulent, sometimes inglorious history; it is time for us to redefine the way our partnership works. "Size is of no consequence; if we are serious about the nationality of Wales, now is the time to turn our words into reality".

In direct comparison with the ascension states, Iwan stated that it was "unimaginative" to argue that other nations in Europe like Malta, Estonia and Lithuania could become full members of the EU on 1st May, but Wales could not. "If independence is the key to freedom in Slovenia, if independence is the key to prosperity in Ireland and if independence is the key to new prospects for Latvia, then independence is the right goal for Wales too"

## ***Welsh election observers harassed in Turkey***

The treatment given to Welsh election observers in Turkey in March is further evidence of the unsuitability of this repressive state for European Union membership, in addition to its location mainly in Asia. A delegation had travelled to Turkey to monitor local elections on the 28th March. The observers included Plaid Cymru member of the European Parliament Eurig Wyn, and European election candidate Eilian Williams from Ynys Môn. Before leaving, Eurig Wyn had said "The future of the Kurds living in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria is crucial to any meaningful peace process in the Middle East as well as to Turkish aspirations to join the EU. Our role will be to ensure the elections are free and fair."

However, the observers, representing political groups and trade unions, were forbidden from entering polling stations in east Turkey during the elections, amidst accusations of abusive behaviour by police. It emerged later that there had been allegations that up to one hundred people, who had been seeking to vote, may have been detained by the authorities. These allegations are being reviewed by the Human Rights Association.

Speaking from Diyarbakir, a large town in the heart of Turkish Kurdistan, Mr Wyn said that he would be writing immediately to Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament, with a full dossier setting out all the facts of the incident. He stated "I shall be calling on the European Parliament to condemn the Turkish government - who are applicants for membership of the European Union - for this violation of the democratic process."

The Turkish government have given some support to the Blair-Bush neo-conservative axis, and consequently New Labour is leading supporters of the Turkish bid for EU membership.

## **Take pressure off first-time buyers, says Plaid**

Plaid Cymru MPs tabled amendments to the Chancellor's budget in March calling on the Government to abolish stamp duty for all first-time buyers, making it easier for them to step on to the property ladder. This followed a report from Bradford & Bingley building society which shows that first-time buyers are getting older and more likely to ask friends and family for financial help. The report shows that one quarter of first-time buyers take between four and six years to buy their first home. It is estimated that the average first-time buyer pays over £1,000 in stamp duty alone and Wales's first-time buyers are the oldest in the state with an average age of 36. Adam Price MP, Plaid Cymru's parliamentary spokesperson on the economy, said "More than three quarters of towns in Britain are now unaffordable for first-time buyers. This is a drastic situation which needs immediate attention. The Chancellor's proposals in his budget

last week will only serve to drive up the price of houses. Plaid Cymru believe that exempting first-time buyers from having to pay stamp duty will help to take the pressure off those finding it difficult to buy their first home."

Plaid parliamentary leader Eiflyn Llwyd MP had earlier, on addressing the Welsh Grand Committee, appealed for Welsh MPs to put aside party politics and to come together to address the issue of the lack of affordable housing in Wales.

The Plaid Cymru MPs together with their colleagues in the SNP also tabled an amendment calling on the Government to hold investigations into lowering the rate of corporation tax in Wales and Scotland. These proposals were included in Plaid Cymru's alternative budget 2004.

Robot ap Tomos

## **Cymru Annibynnol – A Brief History of the recent Republican revival in Wales**

Cymru Annibynnol (Independent Wales) was launched in 2000 as a protest against census 2001 lack of Welsh tick box. It gained significant publicity and momentum in a relatively short period of time.

The party's structure was unprepared to accommodate the rapid growth in membership and it was restructured in autumn 2002. A new constitution was launched and the party regrouped for the 2003 National Assembly elections.

Despite being totally ignored (other than occasionally ridiculed) by the British state media apparatus, the party picked up 6,466 votes throughout Wales on the regional lists – proving that the Welsh nation is not totally brainwashed into servitude. Despite relentless conditioning by Anglo-british propaganda through TV, newspapers, radio, etc., a substantial number of people are still prepared to support the creation of a Welsh Free State.

It also showed that thousands of people around Wales were prepared to support a Welsh Republican alternative without being allowed to know anything about it or its policies. That's conviction that no other party can boast of.

The election also revealed that active support for Welsh Republicanism is evenly spread throughout the nation, north, south, east and west – not isolated in so-called 'Welsh-speaking heartlands' as the Anglo-british media would have us believe.

Mind you, the 38% voter turnout in the National Assembly elections was an all time low. Labour now rules our National Assembly with a majority legitimised by only around 15% of the eligible vote. The UK version of 'democracy', along with political parties in general, has fallen into disrepute. As the saying goes...

"Where there is no democracy freedom will perish. Where there is sham democracy freedom will perish even faster."

Cymru Annibynnol is currently going through internal consultation arising from the realisation that the system we call 'democracy' must undergo radical change if it is to regain public credibility. Early responses indicate that greater grassroots action and a 'power back to the people' on all tiers of governance is what is needed. Look forward to a summer re-launch of the party possibly at the Eisteddfod in Newport this year.

***Welsh Republicans are on the road to local empowerment and national freedom. There is no turning back this time.***

**Simon Gruffydd Foster**

# British Free Trade: Wales gives, England takes – for free!

Water is life and by natural right belongs to the country it falls on. But not in Wales. In 1989 Welsh water was 'privatised' – which means that people (usually men) possessing fancy pieces paper with numbers and text, backed by Bankers, English Law, the Police (and if need be, the British Army), have become the 'owners' of our water resources.

Predictably, things have gone downhill since then. Our most essential and valuable resource became the plaything of transnational corporate power games. The Welsh nation bowed to its new usurper paying tribute in the form of sky-high water bills.

Ten years on, Welsh water's 'owner' Hyder was facing bankruptcy. That's about all we were told as a hasty rescue package was put together. But the facts tell a different story.

Hyder, means 'confidence' in Welsh - the name being little short of a confidence trick. Hyder was not a Welsh company at all. Not even remotely. It was a trading name for an arm of Western Power Distribution, an American-controlled conglomerate who had picked up our water resources as part of its public utilities portfolio.

To add injury to insult, Hyder's Welsh water business was always profitable. It was Western Power Distribution's bad investments in other business ventures that drove it into bankruptcy. The verdict was clear: Privatisation of essential resources like water is not simply bad, it's a nightmare. Not that the British media would ever report this glaring fact.

To prop up the privatisation agenda, the successor to the spectacular flop called Hyder was billed as a "not-for-profit Welsh solution" calling itself Glas Cymru, literally translated as 'Blue Wales'. But Glas Cymru's Welsh credentials is at best window-dressing. With regards to its 'not-for-profit' spin, the reality is that just about everybody involved Welsh water makes a decent profit – except the Welsh.

Glas Cymru's not-for-profit status is little short deceitful spin. Basically, all it meant is that the money to bail out Hyder's bad debts was borrowed rather financed through selling shares. This deal results in £85 million (or £67 of each and every water bill) in interest payments. In other words, this 'Welsh solution' to managing our water is now resulting in an £85 million a year transfer from Wales to the banking sector whose only contribution has been to type in a few numbers into electronic accounts. It also means that a good proportion of our money that goes to water bills is actually paying of bad debts left by an American company. It's a scam of mega proportions. Unfortunately, under English Law, it's legal.

The 'Welsh' dimension to Glas Cymru is in the selection its 'members'. It's headed by Lord Burns, a favourite of the Thatcher era (former Treasury Permanent Secretary) who as the non-executive chairman, earns £140,000 a year for a position of little if any responsibility and free from liability. Nice job if you can get it. Ditto for other Welsh members, all selected from the Welsh or British upper crust, many of whom are directly connected to the banking sector. A 'Welsh' solution.

Predictably, 'Welsh' Labour was pleased. "I particularly welcome the prospect of Welsh Water being owned once again by a company based, managed and controlled from Wales, based on a principle originated in Wales," said Prif Weinidog Rhodri Morgan.

Although Glas Cymru claims to own and control Welsh water resources, it doesn't actually run the industry. The real work is contracted out to 'very-much-for-profit' companies. Although they still use the 'Dwr Cymru Welsh Water' tag, the fact is that the companies squeezing a profit out of us for supplying us with our own water are not Welsh at all. The business of maintaining the water supply network is contracted out to United Utilities, a profit-making English company. Customer service functions are contracted out to profit-making Thames Water, an English subsidiary of a German-owned conglomerate RWE. Other companies, such as Wessex Water, also take a slice of the pie. Unravel the 'Welsh not-for-profit' spin and we discover exactly the opposite.

So where is our national party Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales in this picture? Should they not be screaming from the rooftops and demanding change to this farce called privatisation? Yes, they should – but no, they are not. Incredibly, Plaid's policy on Water was written by a member of Glas Cymru (who also doubles as a Plaid member). Accordingly it states, without any qualification or backing evidence,

"We need to recognise that re-nationalisation [of the water industry] is neither feasible or necessarily in the interest of Wales and its various stakeholders."

What it neglects to point out is that Welsh water resources have never been nationalised in the genuine sense – owned by Wales for the Welsh. 'Nationalisation' has always meant controlled by the British State thoroughly dominated by English interests. The policy also fails to explain who the 'various stakeholders' are but we can assume they are all the bodies, including members of Glas Cymru, who are pocketing tidy sums of money from their involvement.

With regards to the prospect of Welsh

companies managing their own water resources, the paper takes a familiar ploy in talking us down and virtually dismissing Wales' ability to undertake such operations. "The obstacle", it states, "will be in developing a management, technical and systems infrastructure comparable with those developed by incumbent operators."

No, us Welshies could never manage our own resources as good as the English and Germans do it for us!

The policy paper is warmly endorsed by Arweinydd y blaidd Ieuan Wyn Jones who writes in the Forward that the paper is, "a significant event in the evolution of party policy." Significant indeed. Who is left to champion natural justice for Wales if not the so-called 'Party of Wales'?

The only saving grace in the policy paper is a meek suggestion that perhaps we should be seeking some return for the water transported to England. Approximately half of all Welsh water supplies is exported to England for the grand sum of £0. They get our water; we don't even get a thank you in return. It's the British version of free trade. Wales gives, England takes - for free.

Not only that, average domestic water bills in England are substantially lower than in Wales. The average Welsh bill is £278 while the English counterpart is around £228 – a £50 difference. The official excuse for this discrepancy is that it is cheaper to transport Welsh water to England for English consumption than to keep it in Wales for Welsh consumers. Figure that one out.

If Wales began to charge a fair price for its exported water resources, well over £100 million (or around £100 off our domestic water bills) in extra revenue could be generated. If our National Assembly had any vision, common sense, and grit, it would do just that.

They call it free market rationalisation. We should call it what it is - state sanctioned theft on a grand scale.

A nationalised Welsh Water Industry, publicly financed, contracted to Welsh operators, and demanding fair recompense for our water exports, could ensure our water bills could be reduced by some 60% as well as ensuring vibrant, and secure economic opportunities for our rural communities. For the sake of our children if nothing else, it's time we started demanding just that.

© Simon Gruffydd Foster

Simon Gruffydd is Arweinydd (leader) of Cymru Annibynnol, the only political party in Wales espousing republican values and calling for parity with the Republic of Ireland.

# Éire

## Ó dea-intinn go sárchleachtas

### Reachtáocht teanga in Éirinn agus san Fhionlainn

Tá dhá theanga náisiúnta san Fhionlainn, de réir bunreacht. an Fhionlainnis agus an tSualainnis. Is cainteoirí Sualainnise iad 5.8% den daonra de chúig mhíliúin. Faoi mar a tharla reachtáidh achtanna teanga in Éirinn agus san Fhionlainn araon le bliain anuas agus shocraigh cagraíocht Sualainnise, an Kulturfonden i gcomhar le coiste na hÉireann den Bhiúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana (EBLUL) comhthionscnamh a sheoladh le staidéar a dhéanamh ar an gcleachtas ab fhearr sa dá thír maidir le feidhmiú na reachtáidh. Reachtáidh seiminear mar chuid den tionscnamh seo faoin teideal "Ó hAcht go Gníomh" i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, ar 14 Bealtaine. Bhí sílua maith ionadaithe i láthair ó ranna rialtais, comhlachtaí reachtúla agus eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais.



Seán Ó Cuirreáin

An Coimisinéir Teanga nuacheaptha, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, a thug an phríomhoráid. Bhéimigh sé stádas agus neamhspleáchas a oifige mar chomhlacht dhlíthiúil. Cheana féin bhí sé tar éis dul i gcomhairle leis an Ombudsman agus leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga i gCeanada agus bhí dlúthchaidreamh bunaithe aige leosan. Bhí sé i mbun scríobh chuig 650 eagraíochtaí poiblí ag cur in iúl dóibh céard iad na dualgais a bhí faoi agus na cumhachtaí a bhí aige. Cé go mbeadh sé ag plé sa chéad áit le gearáin ó dhaoine aonair maidir le heaspa seirbhíse trí Ghaeilge bheadh sé i gceist aige tabhairt faoi fhadhbanna ar bhonn ginearálta le teacht ar réiteach a chinntíodh nach n-éireadh an fhadhb chéanna arís. Bhí sé i gceist aige, de réir a chéile, cóid sárchleachtas a chur le chéile tar éis dul i gcomhairle le comhlachtaí stáit.

Rinne Pauliina Tallroth, Comhairleoir Rialtais Speisialta san Aireacht Cheartais, Heilsinci, cur

sios ar an gcúlra a bhain leis an acht teanga san Fhionlainn, acht a tháinig i bhfeidhm ar Lá Caille 2004. Mhínigh sí nár pléadh le Sualainnis sa reachtáidh ar nós theanga mhionlaigh ach mar urlabhra náisiúnta de chuid na Fionlainne. Tháinig cearta teanga na saoránach chun beatha sa dlí i bhfoirm dualgais a bhí leagtha ar chomhlachtaí poiblí. De réir an Acht Teanga tá sé éigeantach go mbeadh an dá theanga feiceálach. Baineann téarmaí an achta leis na meáin uile, an t-idiríon san áireamh. Agus daoine ag dul i dteagmháil le hoifigí stáit pléitear leo ina rogha teanga. Is é an cleachtas caighdeánach an cheist a chur, "An mian leat Fhionlainnis nó Sualainnis a labhairt?"

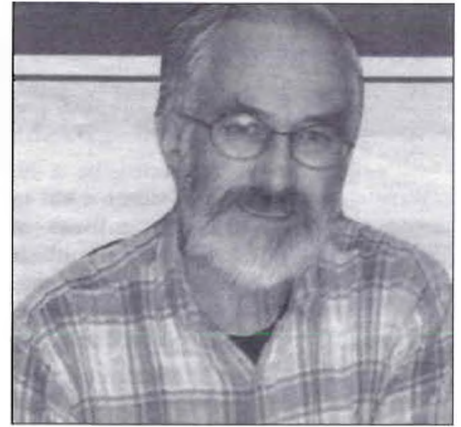
Dúirt Rúnai Ginearálta na Roinne Gnóthai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Gerry Kearney, gur gné bhunúsach é san Acht Teanga in Éirinn go mbeadh ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cuntas a thabhairt ar chomhlíonadh a ndualgas. Mheabhraigh sé dá lucht éisteachta nach ndearnadh scéal mór den chostas breise a bhain leis an Acht um Shaoráil Eolais agus nach raibh aon chúis go ndéanfaí amhlaidh maidir leis an Acht Teanga.

Thug Donncha Ó hÉallaithe, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe/Mhaigh Eo, go géar faoi dhúnadh Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann, bulle mór a chuir sírian le taighde maidir le cúrsaí teanga in Éirinn. Luaigh sé, mar shampla, an chaoi ina raibh sé dodhéanta teacht ar líon fireannach na gcainteoirí Gaeilge in Éirinn. Bhí meastacháin ann idir 1,700,000 agus 30,000 de réir foinsi éagsúla. Chreid sé gur luigh an thír idir 5% agus 10% den daonra. (De réir Dhaonáireamh 2001 dúirt 41.9% den phobal go raibh cumas labhartha na Gaeilge acu, 9.1% gur labhair siad an teanga go laethúil, 4.1% go seachtainiúil agus 13.2% "go rialta.")

Ag tagairt dó do léarscáil oifigiúil na Gaeltachta nocht sé an tuairim nach raibh an Ghaeilge ina gnáthurlabhra pobail ach sa cheathrú cuid den limistéar sin. Dúirt sé go raibh an ceathrú cuid eile ann ina raibh an teanga chun tosaigh go mór i gcúrsaí oideachais agus in imeachtaí cultúir agus poiblí ach, dar leis, ní raibh de leibhéal úsáide ag an teanga sa leath eile den Ghaeltacht oifigiúil ach an leibhéal céanna a bhí aici ar fud na tíre.

Mar sin féin, dúirt Mac Uí Éallaithe go raibh dhá chúis dóchais aige, an chaoi inar éirigh chomh hiontach sin le TG4 agus an seans go bhfásadh cultúr na n-óg sa Ghaeilge.

Dúirt an tOllamh Kristen Stahlberg, Stiúrthóir an Kulturfonden, go raibh an dea-intinn in Éirinn ar aon dul leis an dea-intinn san Fhionlainn. Bhí bearna sa dá thír idir geallúintí foirmiúla agus an cur i bhfeidhm. Thug sé faoi deara an cur chuige ar dhul fhorás pobail in Éirinn agus an chaoi a raibh lucht gnó tugtha isteach i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Bhí sé socraithe san Fhionlainn gan coimisinéir teanga a cheapadh ach díriodh ansin ar réitithe institiúdacha comhtháite.



Donncha Ó hÉallaithe

Chas an toiscaireacht Fhionlannach leis an Aire Gnóthai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív, ag fáiltiú i dTeach an Phróbhaist, Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath agus thug siad cuairt ar eagraíochtaí i mBaile Átha Cliath, Gaillimh agus Gaeltacht Chonamara. Bhí siad i láthair freisin ag Fáiltiú an Oireachtas i gCluain Dolcáin. Coiste na hÉireann d'EBLUL (a bhfuil an Conradh Ceilteachmar bhaill eagnaíocht leis) a d'eagraigh an turas.

Mícheál Mac Aonghusa

### Summary

A joint seminar, 'From Act to Action', was held in May in Dublin by the Irish Member State Committee of EBLUL and Kulturfonden (Swedish language body) on the implementation of the Language acts. The new Irish Language Commissioner, Seán Ó Cuirreáin spoke on contacts established with his counterpart in Canada. He has written to the 650 public bodies in Ireland, outlining their responsibilities and his powers. He intends not only to deal with individual complaints but also to ensure that the root cause of these is removed.

Pauliina Tallroth spoke on 'Finland's Language Acts – Policy Priorities and Lessons Learned'. Their Act covers all media including the Internet. In initial contact with public bodies the attitude is the best practice of. 'Do you wish to speak Swedish or Flemish?' Donncha Ó hÉallaithe's (language activist from Conamara) talk was entitled 'What can we hope for?' He attacked the closure of Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Éireann as a severe blow to research on linguistic matters in Ireland. He instanced the difficulty in determining the real number of fluent speakers in Ireland. He thought the real figure was about 5 – 10% of the population. On the question of the Gaeltacht he stated that Irish was the everyday language in only a quarter of the area indicated within official Gaeltacht boundaries. In another quarter the language was to the fore in education and community and cultural matters, but in the other half the position was no different to the rest of the country. Nevertheless there were signs of hope with the success of TG4 and the chance that a youth culture would develop in Irish.

Prof. Kristen Stahlberg, Director of Kulturfonden, said that while there was good will evident in both countries there were gaps between official promises and practical implementation

# Bertie Ahern's Modest (Motorway) Proposal

The government of Bertie Ahern – and indeed the Taoiseach himself – have, of late, been the subject of considerable criticism (if not unreserved scorn and ridicule!) for the proposed new motorway expansion into the immediate vicinity of one of Ireland's most venerated historical, archaeological, and spiritual sites, that of Tara Hill. Although Mr. Ahern is not the architect of this proposal (the actual Minister responsible being the irrepressible Martin Cullen, the Minister of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government), it is Mr. Ahern who, as Taoiseach, must accept responsibility for all decisions, regardless of the Ministry, his government makes.

While there can be no disputing Tara's significant historic importance (really, how many nations can boast of a specifically acknowledged example of such antiquity, dating from millennia before Christ!), Mr. Ahern and Mr. Cullen are to commended, rather than vilified, for their collective foresight and courageous championing of the proposed motorway's intrusion into the very heart of this, one of Ireland's most sanctified sites, despite the onslaught of negative reaction from – seemingly! – all quarters.

But who are these naysayers so aggressively bombarding the government with protestation and political intrigue? A brief examination of the arguments advanced by opponents of the Motorway – and there have been many! – reveal a common, tragic flaw in their ability to either discern or appreciate the real direction of Ireland's future.

Those opposed to the motorway – whose ranks at times appear to span the entire political and social spectrum – decry the project for a number of apparently valid reasons: academics (archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians, to name but a few) protest the potential loss of access to the inestimable wealth of socio-historic artefacts buried therein, arguing that the construction of a motorway will result in the destruction of irreplaceable objects and data. Perhaps these individuals have been so long in the classroom they don't realize that the construction crews will actually be doing a lot of the work for the archaeologists, as any motorway construction will necessitate some excavation beforehand!

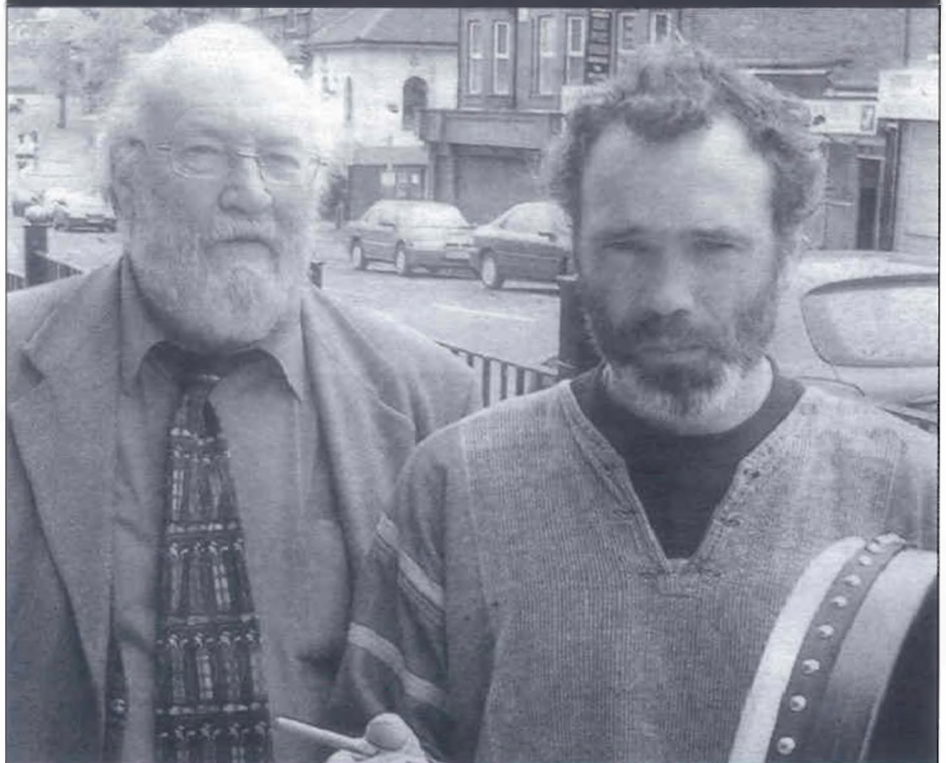
Allied with the academics in their diatribe are those individuals who are to be found in the scholastic sub-stratum of various historical societies, Gaelic-heritage Associations, etc. along with the usual number of the 'Irish-Abroad', most usually from North America (and everyone knows these people are only Irish by origin, and hardly qualify as 'Irish' when compared to a

recently arrived, tax-contributing citizen from the Balkans or Brussels!) who, in their inimitable fashion, are rallying to 'the cause', lobbying the beleaguered Mr. Ahern to abandon his government's grand vision – not to mention his principles and commitments – in deference to the deleterious impact a motorway will have on the aesthetic enjoyment and appreciation of the site by the tens of thousands of tourists who regularly journey to view the location of ancient druidic lore and the coronation-place of kings.

Of course, these disparate elements – along with a significant percentage of the general population – are all suffering from a shared affliction which has plagued the Irish people since time immemorial: our obsession with our past! Academia and their supporters – whose public keening has been duly noted by both domestic and foreign press – are sadly out of touch with the realities of the new millennium, and of Ireland as a proud partner in a greater – European! – Constituency. Examining the arguments of those opposed to the motorway (ie: progress), one cannot help but note that the essence of their dissent is hopelessly rooted in some sort of

philosophical/historical bog. Not unlike those continually beseeching the government for tax-payer's money to support Irish-language programmes and the protection of the Gaeltacht (another dying cause! Do these people not realize that the language of the International Community, the lingua franca of the future is English, not Irish! Do we truly wish to be associated with a language our grandparents spoke?! Do we really need to learn some difficult and perplexing tongue in usage for thousands of years, or would we not prefer a language of considerably more recent development, the language of such internationally recognized and acclaimed figures as Shakespeare and Churchill?!). Quite frankly, the opponents of the motorway – poor souls! – are hopelessly obsessed with yesterday, rather than with the 'Ireland of Tomorrow – Today' One can harp on about the glory of our Gaelic heritage, recounting the same tired tales over and over again to a new generation, but ignoring the obvious value of a state-of-the-art transportation extension which will greatly facilitate inter-county commerce for at least a decade or two would be highly irresponsible of the government, and an abrogation of Mr. Ahern's esteemed sense – not only of himself, but of the Republic of Ireland (which, as we all know, came into existence as a result of no fewer than seven votes! a rather remarkable instance of consensus by Irish standards!) and, more

## POETS ALIKE



*Tradition runs strong in the Ó Snodaigh family. In early May Pádraig Ó Snodaigh and son Rónán both read their poetry in Cultúriann McAdam – Ó Fiaich. Rónán's poems are on a CD, *Tonnta Ró*, while his father's new poetry book, *Cronú*, was launched at the event.*

(Continued from page 13)

importantly, our rightful place amongst the other nations of the European Community. As for the assertion that the construction and subsequent establishment of the motorway will negatively impact the tourism industry, well nothing could be further from the truth! Rather than detracting from the appreciation of Tara, the government's meticulous analysis of recent trends in the sometimes whimsical world of tourism reveal that the new motorway will in fact facilitate the transport of many thousands more to the ancient site – just imagine how many bus-loads of Yanks could be ferried to and fro each and every hour! And, as they won't be permitted to disembark anywhere near the site (for safety precautions, not that they'd want to anyway, with traffic roaring by a mere 50 meters away!), Mr. Ahern's government is actually protecting the very heritage critics are accusing him of destroying!

Besides, the Irish Tourism Board has assured the government that Tara has been preserved for all time – in photographs! - (available – for a price of course – from local Tourism-Ireland Offices). Rather than wasting their time and energies in discordant dialogue, those who have subscribed to the cabal of misinformation regarding the proposed motorway should instead be embracing Mr. Cullen and Mr. Ahern's visionary agenda for a 'new' Ireland; based on the sound principles of foreign ownership and 'e-commerce' (does not Erin itself begin with an 'e'?). To wit, I offer here a couple of my own, humble suggestions for Mr. Ahern's consideration: why not begin development of an up-scale, trendy series of condominiums directly upon the ruins of Cashel? (well, they are ruins!); or how about continuing on with the motorway theme by constructing a six-lane highway which will

herd tourists (crops of cash-cows) around the Ring of Kerry in record time, thereby increasing the economic boon for the Irish economy? Doubtless, there will be some elements in the rebellious South who will argue even this, but such dissent could quickly be remedied by a program of relocation (i.e.: transportation) of the oppositionists to an area north and west of the Shannon – say Connaught!

Clearly, Ireland finally has a Minister of the Environment and a Taoiseach who have the courage to ignore Ireland's Gaelic heritage, who realize that no site, regardless of its antiquity, is truly 'sacred', and who are prepared to gently guide the people of Ireland away from their illustrious past, away from the confines of the Gaelic-speaking world, and bravely into the 21st. century (when, presumably everyone will speak, read, and think in English) and when progress – in the form of a motorway – will not suffer for the concerns of a people foolishly obsessed with the last vestiges of their cultural identity (which obviously has no place in this country's future!).

Critics of Mr. Ahern should realize that he is not some despotic 'Hollywood' director bent on imposing his own particular vision upon an unwilling audience, but in fact is himself little more than a humble guide in the 'theatre of government', patiently ushering late-comers to their seats before the curtain rises on the spectacle of the grand, new, 'Cosmopolitan Ireland', an Ireland unfettered by sentimental attachments to its past, an Ireland so modern and homogenous it will be virtually indistinguishable from any of Great Britain's other, former colonies. God save the Motorway!

**Tadhg Caoimhin O'Caoimh**

## INJUSTICE TOWARDS GAELSCOILEANNA

### Refusal for new Gaelscoileanna.

Parents of planned new Gaelscoileanna in two areas were shocked to be told near the end of the current school year that the opening of their schools for the 2004/05 school year had not been approved by the Dept. of Education. This, despite the fact that all criteria had been met. In the case of the planned Gaelscoil an tSáirséalaigh in Lucan, one of the fastest growing areas on the outskirts of Dublin, 48 children are registered to start this September and another 110 were on the rolls for the next four years. The existing Gaelscoil in the area had to refuse 70 children. In what can only be termed bureaucracy gone mad the Dept. demanded that the children be accommodated in prefabs on the site of the existing Gaelscoil when the area available is too small for growth and of course no provision whatsoever has been made for this. Options are being examined to fight these cases including legal ones.

It can only be said that in the context of the application of the new more stringent rules for Gaelscoileanna in recent years, which has reduced the numbers opening from 5 or 6 some years ago down to 2, the attempt to shut down seven Gaelscoileanna on flimsy pretexts (which was resisted successfully) last year and now these late refusals that the Dept of Education is determined to emasculate the Gaelscoileanna. This must be resisted.

### Eight Years Waiting

The parents and children of Gaelscoil Cholm Cille in Santry organised a protest in late May at the long delays in providing a proper school. The school was founded in 1996 and since then has existed in a local GAA club in crowded conditions without proper facilities. Parents are very pleased with the way the school is run however and there is a big demand locally for places (90 applied this year) which cannot be satisfied. They were promised a new school in 1998 and eight years later are still waiting. They held their protest on the site available and built a cardboard school to make their point. The parents intend to continue with their efforts. Another example of how the Dept of Education values Irish medium education!

**Left:**

*Pupils, parents and friends of Gaelscoil Cholm Cille in Santry at the protest.*



# Major Demonstration in Support of EU Working Language Status for Irish

Over 5,000 supporters took to the streets of Dublin on 24th April calling on the Government to seek official working status for Irish in the European Union without further delay. The streets were filled with colourful banners, music and lively chants as Gaeilge from the Garden of Remembrance passing the GPO and onto Dáil Éireann. Panu Petteri Høglund, the author of the on line petition flew from Finland to present up to 80,000 signatures to Sean Ó Neachtain MEP who was there on behalf of an Taoiseach.

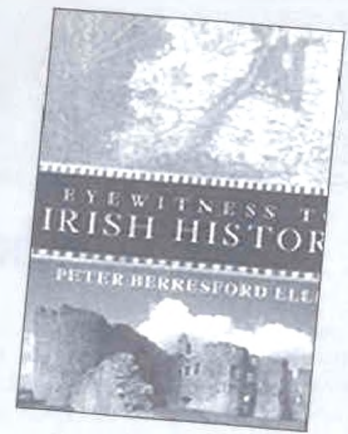
Also, at the march spokespersons from all the political parties present (Fianna Fáil, Labour, Progressive Democrats, Sinn Féin, Green Party, Socialist Party, expressed their full support for official working status for the Irish language in the EU. Bus loads arrived from Galway, Derry, Letterkenny, Waterford, Limerick, Clare, Dundalk, Kerry, Cork, Belfast, including the Gweedore marching band and the Wexford Pikers.

Dr Pdraig Ó Laighin spokesperson for Stádas said 'this is not an unachievable

dream, or our beyond reach, it is simply the will of the people and all we asking is fair play for a national language and Ireland's 1st official language.

A spokesperson for Stádas said that the confirmation received recently by the Dept of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs from the European Commission supports the case made by Stádas that there is no legal basis to a 'middle way' - that is an improved treaty status (which we already have) but not having official working status for the Irish language in the European Union. Therefore the government needs only to request official working status for the Irish language in the EU.

In the run up to the local and European elections Stádas have called on voters to ask candidates are they and their parties in favour of working language status for Irish and are they prepared through their party to ensure that the Government confirms its intention to seek this status before the date of the election.



## Eyewitness to Irish History

The latest book by Peter Beresford Ellis, "*Eyewitness to Irish History*" (ISBN: 0471266337) has been described as providing a "unique documentary history of Irish civilization, from ancient times to the present"

This collection of historical documents depicts Irish history as a saga of national resistance against British colonialism. Beresford Ellis has collected an abundance of material from letters, diaries, poems, nationalist speeches, medieval chronicles, Irish Republican proclamations and contemporary journalistic accounts.

Subjects covered include the original 12th-century Anglo-Norman intervention; Cromwell's conquest that killed or exiled half the population; the 18th-century Penal Laws that made Irish Catholics the virtual slaves of English colonists; the Potato Famine, in which millions starved while English landlords exported food; and the 20th-century depredations of British paramilitary forces. It's a horrific and often very moving account Irish history.

In the latter part of the book Beresford Ellis turns his attention the *Troubles* in the North of Ireland, where he continues with the theme of the anti-colonialist struggle. The prolific use and reference to primary sources can only strengthen his interpretation of this period and the conclusions he draws.

Peter Beresford Ellis, who is a former Convenor of the Celtic League, is described by the Times Education Supplement as the "pre-eminent Celtic scholar now writing".

As well as being a prolific writer of fictional works (See Celtic News No 1367 Fictional Medieval Detective Unlikely Heroine of Women in Celtic Life) he is the author of many notable historical reference books on Celtic History, including "Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society and Literature", "Hell or Connaught: The Cromwellian Colonization of Ireland, 1652-1660" and of course the definitive history of the Pan Celtic movement "The Celtic Dawn".

Editor



# Kernow



## A Vue Kembra Gesys Yn Mes?

Na vedha tyller vyth rag Kembra anserhak y'n EU warlergh Romano Prodi, Lewyth an Comysyon Europek, del vue menegys dre wask bryntya kenedhlek Kembra war an 16 Ebrél.

Eluned Morgan esel a seneth EU rag Party Noweth Lafur o deryvys gans Prodi a vedha res dhe Gembra ombrofa rag eseledh anoweth mar teffa ha dendyl hy anserhogneth. Avel gorthyb Dafydd Iwan, humbrynkyas Plaid Cymru - Party Kembra - a leveys fatel yw "feth an cas a teffa ha bos Kembra hag Alban anserhak, hanvos an Wlascor Unys avel corf political a vensa hedhy. Pow Saws, Alban. Wordhen North ha Kembra a vya y'n keth scath." Ef a notyas bos "Cuntelles Vienna a 1978 ow rewlya an mayn may whrella dredha ambosow, synys dre gorvow political ues passys, cafus effeth war statys sewyas."

Mr Iwan a besyas ha campolla bos "res dhyn ny sensy y'gan brys dhe'n nessa costen rag Kembra yn le a gafus dybynasow abstract ow tuchya laha kesgwlassek, ha hen

yw restry seneth gwyr gans luen nerth rethians ha tollek may halla dylla gallus luen rag agan pow ny."

Wosa an deryvas orth cuntelles waynten an party Mr Iwan a gowsas adro dhe'n mater arta der resna, na dalvya dhe dhen vyth "sconya Kembra dhoworth hy thyller teyth y'n norvys", ha fatel "yw anserhogneth an fordh ynna."

### Précis

*Romano Prodi, European Commission President was reported as saying that should Wales gain its independence, it would automatically be out of the EU. Davyth Iwan, Party Leader of Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales responded by saying that an independent Wales would be in the same boat as England and Scotland. In addition, he commented that rather than discuss abstract constitutional matters, he would rather concentrate on securing a Parliament for Wales.*

Translator: Daniel Ryan-Prohaska

## Tresor Byan Kembra

Orth an gunelles waynten yn mys Ebrél humbrynkyas Plaid Cymru - Party Kembra - Davydd Iwan a dhowysas arethya y'n Sawsnek ow leverel na vyes gwres moy a Gembro bo Kembres dre wodhvos cowwel Kembrek ages godhvos Sawsnek yn unsel. Bytegens, Mr Iwans a leveys yth yw an tavas Kembrek tresor ma na halla bos gesys dhe verwel yn kerdh. Ef a besyas. "pan eson ny ow scodhya agan yeth ny, yth eson ny ow scodhya pub tawasow oll," ha kynth eson ny sevel orth usya an yeth avel pel droys political. an duryans anedhy hy yw "tra political".

### Précis

*In a speech given at their Spring Conference, the Leader of Plaid Cymru stated that the Welsh language was a little treasure that belonged to everyone.*

Translator: Daniel Ryan-Prohaska

## ISKESSEDHEK KERNOW AN BUROW EUROPEK RAG YETHOW NEBES KEWSYS

An Burow Europek rag Yethow Nebes Kewsys yw mayn an Kesunyans Europek a'n jeves Kessedhek yn pub stat esel a syns war y dorn Iskessedhek yn pub rannvro-yeth. Yma Iskessedhek dhe Gernow a-dhia 1995. Negys an Iskessedhek yw kyns oll yn kever avonsyans an yeth a-ji dhe'n Rywvaneth Unys hag Europa. An Iskessedhek a omguntell diwweyth pub blydhen, yn mis Hwevrer hag yn mis Gwynngala ha syns pub diw vlydhen rag dewis soedhogyon hag erell. Nyns eus votya, puptra yw erviris dre gessenyans. Gelwys yw kowethasow radyo ha pellwolok dhe dhos ha bos eseli, dell yw gwrys yn Alban, awos bos devar dhe'n media yn-dann an Chartour Europek rag Yethow Rannirel ha da via igeri hynsyow daromres ynter movyans an yeth ha'n media.

### Summary:

*Cornwall has had its own sub-committee on the Bureau for Lesser Used Languages since 1995. The main goal of the sub-committee is to promote the Cornish language. It has now called the medias to become members in order to open new ways to promote and broadcast the knowledge of the Cornish language. Such a request has been made in Scotland by the Scottish Bureau.*

José CALVETE.

Dhiworth «Nowodhow Kernow»

([www.geocities.com/cornishnews](http://www.geocities.com/cornishnews)) hag An Gannas.

## KERNOW ARTA!



'Keltion Vyw' yn Kernow. Chris Humphries, Anne Kennedy Truscott, Ray Delf, Alan Pengelly, Jojo Davey, Cas Davey.

Gwaynys veu arta an kesstrif PanKeltiek gans Kernow arta. Syns y veu an kesstrif yn Traighlí yn Iwerdhon dhe'n 15ves a vis Ebryl. Warlyna gwaynys veu an kesstrif ma ynwedh gans Kernow gans kan dhiworth bagas «Treys Noeth». Yma an piwas PanKeltiek hevlyna gans an bagas «Keltion Vyw» a-barth Kernow. Eseli an bagas «Keltion Vyw» yw Ray Delf, Anne Kennedy Truscott, Cas & Jojo Davey, Alan Pengelly, Chris Humphries ha Jen Dyer. Aga han «Treusporhys» veu skrifys gans Ray Delf ha treyls gans Pol Hodge. An bagas a gesstrivas erbynn Alban, Kembra hag Iwerdhon.

### Summary:

*Cornwall won again the PanCeltic competition held in Traighlí (Tralee) Eire, represented by the group «Keltion Vyw» (Alive Celts) with their song «Treusporhys» (Transported) written by Ray Delf and translated by Pol Hodge. Cornwall had already won the same contest last year represented by the group «Treys Noeth» (Naked Feet).*

José CALVETE

# FREE THE SPIRIT, BREAK OUR CHAINS

At the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century when the Church in Cornwall was already nearly 700 years old, it was not under the control of either the Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury or the Pope in Rome, yet it was in communion with both. This Cornish Church was part of the original Celtic Church established in these isles centuries before the first missionaries arrived from Rome to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons in 597AD.

The Celtic Church was renowned for its holiness, tolerance and lack of the legalistic and destructive authoritarianism often seen in the Anglo-Saxon church. There is no record of the Celtic Church ever persecuting or oppressing anyone. It had a strong sense of the presence of God in the world and a deep respect for his creation. Women had equal status virtually with men and often held positions of authority over them. Church leaders were elected - power, status and influence depending on personal holiness, not on the grounds of gender or political sycophancy.

This golden age of the Celtic Saints in Cornwall ended when the Church in Canterbury assumed control over the Cornish Church in the wake of the Anglo-Saxon military assaults on Cornwall in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. Religion from now on was to be used as a means by which to politically control Cornwall, with bishops being appointed by the Monarch. But far, far worse was to come.

In 1549, soon after Henry VIII seized control of the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury of the newly created Church of England, Thomas Cranmer, sought to impose an English-language prayer book on Cornwall and to end traditional religious practices. The people of Cornwall rose in defence of their language and civil liberty to worship as they wished. Cranmer egged the king's forces on who defeated Cornwall's, slaughtered all 900 of their prisoners and then proceeded to massacre at least 10% of Cornwall, patriotic Cornish clergy being executed and replaced by English ones.

Archbishop Cranmer never showed a twinge of remorse, gloated when the uprising's leaders were hung, drawn and quartered and made the chaplain to the king's victorious forces Bishop of Exeter as a reward for his services and so he could exert control over the Cornish Church. Cranmer has since been greatly honoured by the Church of England by being granted

his own annual saint's day, having a theological college named after him and by being nominated "Man of the Millennium" by his successor, the last Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey.

Today, in such ways, the Church of England in Cornwall continues to follow its traditional, historic political purpose of undermining Cornish national identity and freedom; it flies the English flag from our churches, not our own; there has been only one Cornish-born Bishop of Cornwall in 1000 years; our current bishop refers to Cornwall as a "county of England" in the House of Lords and on his website: lip service is paid to the reintroduction of Cornish in worship and the Church ignores the current fight to secure recognition of Cornish ethnicity; plans are now well advanced to enable the Diocese of Cornwall to be merged with that of Devon with the focus of control being centred in Exeter. In exasperation, some Cornish Christians have come together to defend Cornwall's territorial integrity and to ask the Church of England to stop trying to anglicise Cornwall.

Fry an Spyrys (free the spirit in kernewek) is our campaign to cut the Church-State link by disestablishing the Church of England in Cornwall. The Church of England in Ireland was disestablished in 1869 and that in Wales in 1920, both on the grounds of fairness to other religious denominations and to reconnect the church with the Celtic people it served. Today there is a Church of Wales and a Church of Ireland. A Church of Cornwall must surely be next.

We will be seeking the Celtic League's help in the months ahead in putting pressure on the Church of England to change its ways and make amends for all it has done and still does to undermine Cornwall's national identity, dignity and freedom. Help us free our Church after a thousand year of bondage.

*Fry an Spyrys, ha tor agan chaynys!*

Find out more about FaS and the 1549 Rising at [www.freethespirit.org.uk](http://www.freethespirit.org.uk)

FaS would be delighted if Cam readers wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Hon. Rowan Williams BA MA DPhil DD, about this issue. His address is: Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU. He is addressed as "Your Grace."

R. Tal-e-bot

## NOWODHOW KERNOW

([www.geocities.com/cornishnews](http://www.geocities.com/cornishnews))

This web site is designed to give the latest news for Cornwall in the Cornish language. The information is pulled from a wide range of sources, including newspapers, television and radio.

It is written by Matthew Clarke who can be contacted by email: [pennlorwydh@hotmail.com](mailto:pennlorwydh@hotmail.com)

## CENSUS 2001

Many will remember the campaign before the 2001 Census demanding a Welsh tick box. The ONS (Office for National Statistics) is in the process of drawing up the plans for 2011 and it would be a disaster if we left it to the last minute again to assert our identity.

Progress has been made of course. The ONS published guidelines in January 2004 for the collection of Ethnic Data where an additional question on National Identity is suggested allowing Welsh, Scottish, Irish and English people to identify themselves. While I have yet to see any evidence that this question is being asked (the Dfes for example has no plans to offer the question), it is a small step forward. Certainly it hasn't matched the fanfare of publicity in January accompanying the announcement when it was claimed that the Tick Box Fight Was Won (BBC 11.1.04)

The ONS will begin consulting on the actual questions they will ask in the 2011 Census toward the end of this year. They have already received unsolicited submissions on a Welsh Tick box for Wales (why not Kernow and England as well?), and a language question for each. It's important that we monitor this process and make every effort to campaign for these questions when the consultation process starts. Representations from Welsh organisations in England and further a field would show the strength of feeling and avoid the claims made last time that there was no demand for this information. The new Tick box fight should be starting now not in 2010.

To keep abreast of developments it's worth looking at the ONS website [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk) and type in 2011 Census in the search box or contact them for their free magazine Horizons at FREEPOST National Statistics (1).

Huw Jackson

*Ysgrifennydd, Plaid Cymru Llundain*

# Mannin

## Mraane Celtiagh ayns Shennaghys Impirolee yn Eash Noa

Hie yn Cohaglym Celtiagh Eddyraashoonagh er cummal mleeaney ayns Purt Chiarn ayns Mannin. She 'Mraane Celtiagh ayns shennaghys' va ard-chooish ny leaghtyn va currit son gagh cheer. She Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhairt loayr son Nalbin va'n ynrican dooinney ass ny shey leaghteyrn. Va'n chooid smoo jeh'n leaght echey mychione y staydys jeh mraane (berchagh as boght) ayns Nalbin Ghaelagh roish my daink y Baarle as Sostnaghys stiagh. Ec y traa v'ayn, she seihll feniaghtagh va ny deiney geeearree - daanys ayns caggey as jannoo hoggys mychione troshid. Chamnah mraane as deiney va jannoo obbyr chorpagh chreoi, agh va ny mraane jannoo yn obbyr thieoil neesht - myr v'eh as (t'eh) feiy ny cruinneey. Agh ny yei shen as ooilley, s'cosoylagh dy row stayd ny mraane Gaelagh beggan ny share na stayd ny mraane elley ayns Nalbin. Myr sampleyr, ayns y Ghaeltagh va ny smoo seyrnsys ec ny mraane bentyn rish poosey. Va poosey son graih ny smoo cadjin. As cha row ny mraane Gaelagh gyn pooar. V'ad soilshaghey ny barelyn oc mychione cooishyn politickagh nyn glein. Ayns Nalbin Ghoaldagh, shimmeey 'buitch' voght va currit gy baase er agh agglagh, agh s'goan va'n lheid ayns Nalbin (ny Mannin). As va Nalbin Ghoaldagh gra 'barbaragh' rish Nalbin Ghaelagh! Myr shione dooin, haink cragh as glenney kyn-neeagh er Nalbin Ghaelagh lurg 1745.

Loayr Ann Matthews (Nerin) mychione mraane sy ghleashaght phobblaghtagh eddyr 1850 as 1930. Sy nuyoo cheead jeig, shimmeey peiagh smooinee dy jinnagh ashoonaghys cur lesh cormid - cormid eddyr mraane as deiney, as cormid eddyr sleih oosle as ny h-obbreeyn. Hug ny Fenee aggle vooar er ny Sostnee, as mysh 1850, va deiney ayns y ghleashaght goit as currit ayns pryssoon. Agh haink ny mraane oc as mraane elley ry cheilley dy ghol er lesh y chaggey.

Tra ren y reilys gaghtey noi'n Chommeys Thallooin (Land League), ren ny mraane y red cheddin. Agh hug Parnell, fer-toshee yn Chommeys, ghleashaght ny mraane fo chosh. As va'n skeeal shoh cadjin ayns ny leaghtyn elley ec Purt Chiarn: deiney ayns ghleashaght pholiticagh currit ayns pryssoon (ny marrooit), mraane goaill nyn ynyyd, as eisht deiney sy ghleashaght hene cur ny mraane fo chosh. (Mennick dy liooar, t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel y caggey eddyr mraane

as deiney ny smoo gear na caggaghyn elley.) Ayns 1893, va Conradh na Gaeilge (y Commeys Yernish) currit er bun. Sy toshiaght, she sheshaght chultooroil v'ayn dy hauail y chengey as cur ee er y toshiaght. Agh haink y Commeys dy ve ny ghleashaght pholiticagh niartal ren leeideil gys yn Irree Magh ayns 1916. V'eh jeeaghyn dy row yn Commeys cooilleeney ashlish y chormid. Haink mraane as deiney dy ve nyn olteynyn jeean gyn boirey erbee, haink sleih boght as sleih berchagh stiagh. Tra va Sinn Fein currit er bun ayns 1916, haghyr y red cheddin. Va ny ghleashaghtyn shoh sy lhing jeianagh: cha row ad noi mraane. As ayns ny laghtyn shen, ben aeg 'chooyrtoil' nagh row poost, begin jee goll mygeayrt marish ben-arrey. Agh, atreih, lurg daue v'er chur Steat Seyr Nerin er bun, cha row ashlish y chormid cooilleenit.

She Ann Trevenen Jenkin loayr son y Chorn ec y Cohaglym Celtiagh mleeaney. Ta Ann er nobbraghey son y Chorn as y cultoor Cornagh rish ny shlee na lieh-cheead blein. V'ee nane jeusyn hug Mebyon Kernow er hun. She spotch v'ayn ec y traa shen, heill sleih dy liooar, agh ta reddyn ny share nish er aghtyn ennagh.

Loayr Ann Jenkin mychione mraane Cornagh ayns shennaghys ren caggey noi tranlaase as genney argid. Goll rish ny leaghteyryn elley, hoilshree ee yn doilleid jeh geddyn stoo son lheid y leaght. Bunnys car y traa, va (as ta) bea ny mraane coontit dy ve myr ayn-coonee jeh bea ny deiney oc. Kyndagh rish shen, cha nod oo feddyn magh monney mychione ny mraane, son y chooid smoo.

Ta Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan y ven-toshee jeh Unnid ny Laue-screenyn ayns Lioarlann Ashoonagh Vretyn. She ish loayr son Bretyn. T'ee er chur magh ram stoo screet mychione shennaghys as cultoor vraane Bretynagh. Cha nel Ceridwen shenn, agh cha nod mraane aegey t'ayn nish credjal dy row ee troggit ayns seihll raad v'eh noi'n leigh my va mraane ennagh geddyn y fail cheddin as deiney va jannoo yn obbyr cheddin. Va geayrtyns noi'n leigh as v'eh doillee dy gheddyn noi-yiennaghtaneyn. Un vlein as feed er dy henney va doilleid ec Ceridwen as ish prowal dy eeassaghey argid dy chion-naghey thie - va shen red va deiney jannoo. Yeeagh Ceridwen erash ayns shennaghys as loayr ee mychione ny shennvoiraghyn eck as

yn agh haink meanvrastyl rish ayns Bretyn. Goll erash ny sodjey, hoilshree ny shenn leighyn Bretynagh (Cyfraith Hywel) dy row ny smoo cairyn ec ny mraane Bretynagh na v'ec ny mraane Sostnagh. Erskyn ooilley, va cair scarrey-poosce ec ny mraane Bretynagh. Dy jarroo, dod ben Vretynagh 'geddyn rey' rish e dooinney my v'eh ny annoonagh ny strinnoogh. Ghow ny Sostnee ymyd jeh lheid y leigh Bretynagh shen dy ghra dy row ny Bretnee scammyltagh as maarderagh - cha dod ny barbaree shoh reill ad hene, dy jarroo.

Loayr Breesha Maddrell son Mannin, mychione kiare mraane Manninagh t'er nyannoo obbyr vooar son cultoor Vannin - Sophia Morrison (1859-1917), ren breacaghey Mona Douglas. As ren Mona breeaghey Annie Kissack as Clare Kilgallon sy lhing aynyn. Va Sophia mie-ynsit as ren ee troailt ayns cheeraghyn dy liooar. Va enney mie eck er Celtiee niartal elley. Ren ee grein-naghey Goodwin dy chur magh 'First Lessons in Manx' as hug ee magh lioaryn screet eck hene. Erskyn ooilley, hoig ee dy vel gagh red croghey er paitchyn as sleih aegey. Phrow ee dy chur Gaalg stiagh ayns scoillyn Vannin - she red scammyltagh t'ayn dy ren shen goaill bunnys keead blein. Greinnit liorish Sophia, ren Mona Douglas obbyr yindyssagh son Mannin. Haggil ee beaal-arrish as arraneyn, screet ee lioaryn as draneyn, as hug ee yn ghleashaght Aeglagh Vannin er bun. Va Annie Kissack as Clare Kilgallon ayns Aeglagh Vannin. Ta Annie gobbraghey son Mooijer Veggey, y ghleashaght ro-scoill Ghaelgagh, as hug ee Caarjyn Cooidjagh, y cheshaght-arraney-deryn, er bun. Hug Clare sheshaght-arraney-deryn elley, Cliaagaree Twoaie, er bun. Myr shen, chroo Sophia sorch dy reeraghtys.

Loayr Rozenn Milin son y Vritaan. Ta Rozenn aeg, agh hannah, t'ee er ve ny ben-aait, er nobbraghey ayns radio as chellveeish, as er ve ny stiureyder jeh colught-chellveeish. Dooyrt ish dy row kuse dy von-deishyn ec ny mraane Britaanagh cosoylit rish ny mraane Frangagh, agh ren ny mraane Britaanagh surranse dy mooar kyndagh rish y chenn stereoplait v'ec ny Frangee - ny Britaanee 'almoragh' as 'bolvaneagh'. As loayr Rozenn mychione y doilleid jeh cleayney e moir dy loayrt Britaanish ree.

### Précis

*At the 2004 International Celtic Congress held at Port Erin, the lecture theme was 'Celtic women in history'. Some of the lecturers highlighted the difficulty of addressing such a theme because of the historic (and continuing) marginalisation of women.*

*Brian Stowell*

## Campaign for Greater Recognition of Manx Gaelic

Member of Tynwald and former Manx language development officer Phil Gawne MHK is working to ensure greater recognition is given to the importance of Manx Gaelic. Following a series of questions on the legal status of the language to the Attorney General in the March Tynwald sitting Mr Gawne has been working to persuade the Manx Government to ratify to part III the provisions of the European Treaty for Regional or Minority Languages in respect of Manx Gaelic.

The Attorney General gave a fairly positive answer to Mr Gawne's question on the validity of legal documents drawn up within the Isle of Man when drafted in Manx Gaelic. Since then he has discussed with the Attorney General the possibility of him agreeing to advise the Manx Government that in his view the Isle of Man could sign up to relevant judicial sections of the European Treaty. While no agreement has been reached so far Mr Gawne is hopeful that a positive move will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Manx Government agreed to have the minority

language treaty ratified to part II in January 2003 but Manx language groups were disappointed that Government failed to ratify to part III. Part II gives a fairly limited degree of protection to the language whereas part III gives much greater security.

It appears that the Manx Government was concerned that it would not be able to comply with the provisions of just two articles of the treaty - the article relating to the judicial system and one relating to public administration. In a letter to Mr Gawne the Chief Minister has already indicated that there are sections of the article on public administration that his Government could sign up to so the judicial section is now the only remaining obstacle.

Mr Gawne has confirmed to CARN that he will continue to press the Manx Government on this matter which he believes would both enhance international perceptions of the Isle of Man as well as provide long term security to existing Manx language provision.

## Manx Nationalists oppose Identity Cards

The recent AGM of Mec Vannin roundly rejected the notion of compulsory identity cards in the Isle of Man, with the following Resolution:

8. *This AGM utterly rejects the notion of a compulsory national identity card.*

Despite the brief nature of the Resolution, the issue was debated at several stages and represents a final form of a "softer" draft proposal.

The meeting concluded that there were no grounds for such compulsory identity primarily due to the fact that the "pro" lobby had singularly failed to demonstrate the value of such measures.

There was also the question of cross-citizenship inequality. With the very large number of itinerants in the Island who would be subject to other jurisdictions' criteria, effectively, the only people who would be subject to compulsory identification in addition to a huge range of existing incidental identification methods (passports, credit cards, driving licences etc) would be the people who had every right to be here in the first place. The whole thing becomes self defeating.

The Party has conveyed these views to the Island's Department of Home Affairs.

**Mark Kermode**  
Chairman, Mec Vannin

## Mannin Designated 'Grey' Area for Money Laundering

Mec Vannin has written to the Isle of Man's Treasury Department indicating the party's desire to take part in a proposed review of company law in the Island.

The proposed review is in response to a recent decline in company formation in the Island and it is clear that this review is intended to encourage more company formation and the consultation exercise is aimed primarily at those involved in company formation. As such, there is a real likelihood that, unchallenged, the exercise could leave the door open for even more abuse of the tax-haven status of the Island for money laundering and other unsavoury activities.

The Isle of Man is currently listed as a "grey" area for money laundering along with

the likes of Monaco. The United States' FBI identifies the Isle of Man as a "primary" for money laundering, though the self reporting framework has prevented it from being put on the FBI's blacklist for money-laundering jurisdictions.

Several recent inquiries and trials into corruption in the Republic of Ireland (notably the Flood Tribunal) have invariably involved the Isle of Man as a repository for undeclared / fraudulent / criminal proceeds. Despite claims of high regulation, the party will be submitting evidence (including names) that the Island is, as things stand, acting as a ready vehicle for individuals and bodies with known connections to money laundering on behalf of organised crime.

**Mark Kermode**

# PEEL CITY GUARDIAN

## PUBLICATION RESUMES

April 2004 saw a restart to publishing of the newspaper 'The Peel City Guardian'. Established in 1882, the Guardian closed down in 2001. Now Peel Heritage Trust, a local-government derived body, active in promoting local heritage, has been given ownership of the Guardian title and they plan to publish new editions quarterly. The Trust says that local news from Peel and the west of Mann has suffered a reduction in coverage in what they refer to as the 'Principle Island newspaper' [Isle of Man Examiner]. Incidentally, the company who own the Examiner, Isle of Man Newspapers, own all three weekly Island papers: The Examiner, The [Not] Independent and The Courier. Perhaps the Peel City Guardian will provide local coverage where IOM Examiner has failed.



Page three of the latest edition Peel City Guardian carries a story about the gift of a valuable medal to the Leece Museum in Peel. With reference to the torpedoing and sinking of the British ship the 'Lusitania' by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland near Kinsale on the seventh of May 1915. As the Guardian article informs us, the Peel fishing boat PL11 'Wanderer' was the first on the scene and performed a brave rescue. Taking on board 160 survivors and also towing two lifeboats which contained a further seventy people. The Wanderer was perilously overloaded. Meeting another vessel, the British Admiralty tug 'Flying Fish' all the rescued people were transferred off Wanderer and taken to the nearest port, Queenstown (Cobh). In recognition of their heroism, the crewmen of the Wanderer were each presented with a commemorative medal produced in 1915 by the Manchester Manx Society.

**M. Lockerby**

# Celtica

## Celtic Music and Culture in South America

I have been giving regular news and information about Celtic activities in South America, especially in Argentina and Uruguay these two last years. Once again I am happy to give you more news about my friends and their tireless activity spreading Celticism in South America. This time I will tell you of four important events.

### Uruguay:

The first event took place in **Jacksonville**, near **Montevideo**, **Uruguay**. The group called "**Música en El Templo**" which organized the **First Interceltic Festival in Montevideo** last year has now arranged a concert of Irish music in Uruguay. The group is led by **Daniel José Stewart** a young Uruguayan of Scottish descent who is also a member of the "**Southern Cross Pipe Band**" of Montevideo.

They have invited a Uruguayan quintet formed in 1999 called "**Grianán**" that plays Irish music. They also play traditional music from other Celtic countries such as Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Mann and Galicia.

Since their beginning, this group has performed in numerous events organized by the Scottish and Irish communities of Uruguay. They are at present preparing their first CD. The "**Grianán**" are: **Conrad O'Neill** (Guitar, vocals), **Leandro Bonilla** (Uilleann Pipes, tin whistle), **Laura Lindner** (Fiddle), **Raúl Canedo** (Low D whistle, tin whistle), **Fabián Romero** (Bodhrán), **Mariana Padrón** (Vocals) and **Karen Higgs** (Vocals).

They also perform regularly in a Pub called "**The Shannon**" in Montevideo. More information about the group at : [www.geocities.com/grianan\\_1999](http://www.geocities.com/grianan_1999)  
More information about events organized by "**Música en El Templo**" at: [s2art@movinet.com.uy](mailto:s2art@movinet.com.uy)



### Argentina:

Another important musical event is taking place in **Buenos Aires**, **Argentina**. The **Movimiento Celta Argentina** have organized a free concert of Celtic music on May the 5th called "**Concierto de Música Celta por la Paz**", inspired by the awful bombings which took place in **Madrid** in March. The idea was inspired by the Celtic ideal of peace and unity intrinsic to Celtic music. The event takes place in the famous "**Salon Dorado**" of the **Casa de la Cultura de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires**. **Abrego**, **Achaiva da Ponte**, **Avalon**, **Bran**, **Coro Ceolraidh**, **Fardaxu**, **Fingals** and **Os Druidas**, are the groups performing, all leading groups of the Asturian, Galician, Irish and Scottish communities in Buenos Aires. The event has received support from other cultural groups such as *Ballet Celtic Argentina*, *Sete Netos*, *Kells*, *O'Connor Band*, *Celtic Underground*, etc.. and is mainly supported by : Programa de Colectividades de la Jefatura de Gabinete de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Parlamento Internacional por la Paz y la Seguridad, Radio CADENA SOL - FM 89.5 MHZ. ([www.fm895.com.ar](http://www.fm895.com.ar)) and the Radio Programme "**PLUM PUDDING**" with the participation of the *Irish and Spanish Embassies*, the *British Council*, *EU -Education de Irlanda*, *Cámara de Comercio e Industria Argentino Irlandesa*, *Federación de Sociedades Argentino-Irlandesas*, *Instituto de Cultura Gallega*.

*Centro Galicia Buenos Aires* and *Centro Asturiano*. For further information please contact : Susana Shanahan at [movceltar-gentina@ciudad.com.ar](mailto:movceltar-gentina@ciudad.com.ar)

### Colombia:

Awen ([www.awencelta.net](http://www.awencelta.net)) a Celtic music group from Colombia will also join the event called "**Concierto de Música Celta por la Paz**" inspired by the awful bombings which took place in **Madrid** in March organizing a concert in **Casa del Valle del Cauca** in **Bogota**, **Colombia** on May the 8th while they will celebrate a Beltaine feast. For further information please contact: **Javier Pinzón Franco** at [montsalvad@hotmail.com](mailto:montsalvad@hotmail.com)

### Argentina:

**Susana Shanahan**, again, is also organizing a Celtic event on May the 16th in the "**Club del Vino**" in **Buenos Aires** making one of her dreams come true. The show called "**Sonido Celta**" (Celtic Sound) is a "magical look at the roots of Celtic music and speech" as she aptly describes it. Her friend **Eliseo Mauas Pinto** with his Celtic harp and his group **Bran** plays the music while **Oscar Orquera** reads ancient Celtic stories. **Eliseo Mauas Pinto** is the only Celtic Harp player in South America. He has even been recognised by **Alan Stivell**...

**José CALVETE.**

## NEW LANGUAGE ACT PROTEST IN BANGOR

Cymdeithas yr Iaith held the latest in the series of protests for a new Welsh language Act in Bangor on March 13th. Similar protests have been held in Cardiff, Aberystwyth, and Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen. The aim of these protests is to draw attention to the weakness of the 1993 language act and show the need for a new act. Spokesman Rhys Llwyd said "The 1993 act was one for the public sector, but since then almost every service that touches the lives of Welsh people has been privatised, and there have been significant developments in information technology. The 1993 act does not touch these fields." Cymdeithas held a meeting with the new Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Quango in April to present the evidence for the need for a New Language Act.

**R. ap Tomas**

# Breton POW trial: Verdict

At the beginning of April the verdict was passed on the Breton POWs (Prisoners of War) whose trials had been taking place throughout March 2004. In total 11 Bretons stood trial, 6 of whom were already in detention and the others were awaiting trial. Those on trial were accused of being involved in 17 bomb attacks, including the attack at McDonald's at Quévert, in which an employee died. Below is the verdict on the 6 Breton POW's who were being detained:

**Kristian Georgeault:** 11 years jail, minimum mandatory sentence. The prosecutor had demanded 18 years, with a minimum of 10 years. Kristian admitted being involved in several bomb attacks, but not that of Quévert. Kristian has already served nearly four years.

**Gaël Roblin:** 3 years of jail. The prosecutor had demanded 15 years, with a 10 year minimum sentence. Gaël already served nearly four years and was released.

**Paskal Laizé:** 8 years of jail, with no minimum. The prosecutor had demanded 12 years. Paskal has already served nearly four years.

**Stéphane Philippe:** 6 years of jail, no minimum sentence. The prosecutor had demanded 10 years, with 6 years minimum. Stéphane has already served nearly four and a half years.



*Kristian Georgeault:*

**Alain Solé:** 6 years, as demanded by the prosecutor. He has already served nearly four years, and could be released before the 6 years.

**Jérôme Bouthier:** acquitted and released, as required by the prosecutor.

**All prisoners were cleared of involvement in the Quévert bombing.**

In response to the trials Bernard Moffatt, General Secretary of the League, stated that: "The League share the concerns of some in Brittany who believe the case against these men may have, to a certain extent, been contrived for political ends by the French government. The trial may be over but questions still remain."

In response An Scoren Kernewek wrote to the French Embassy in London and the Ministry of Justice in Paris asking for answers as to why:

- ◆ the provisional detention of the prisoners lasted so long (in some cases for over four years)
- ◆ a special court of assize was set up to try the prisoners
- ◆ the sleep of some of the prisoner's (e.g. Alain Solé and Gaël Roblin) was deliberately disturbed during the night of Tuesday 2nd /Wednesday 3rd March, at this important time during their trial
- ◆ the presiding Judges at the trial were concerned with who, among the 11 defendants, participated in the March for Breton Freedom (an unrelated event)
- ◆ the trial continued despite the prejudicial nature of the French press, which insinuated during the trial, that the defendants were members/supporters of the ARB (Breton Republican Army) before the verdicts had been passed

The Celtic League has been campaigning for the release or trial of the Breton POWs since 2001. We will continue to write letters of support to those who are still detained and would like to thank all those who done the same.

E Bost:  
[celticleagueukernowbranch@hotmail.com](mailto:celticleagueukernowbranch@hotmail.com)

**R. Tal-e-bot**

## Amnesty for Ill Prisoners?

In February 2004 the Court of Cassation confirmed the suspension of a 10-year prison term being served by Maurice Papon, a former high-ranking government official and Paris police chief, in view of his age and state of health. Maurice Papon was released from prison in September 2002 under the provisions of a law of March 2002 on the rights of ill people. Under the law, prisoners' sentences can be suspended if they are critically ill or suffering from a chronic condition incompatible with their detention.

In March last Amnesty International retransmitted its request to the Minister of Justice, made in December 2003, for information about the number of people who had been released under the law and its concern about the current circumstances of a number of individual detainees and prisoners suffering from serious and chronic medical conditions. To date Amnesty International has received no reply from the government.

## FRENCH FEAR LANGUAGE FREEDOM

The move by the Spanish government to seek recognition at EU level of the official languages in Spain other than Spanish, i.e. Basque, Catalan and Galician, is to be welcomed. Not only does it signal the new government's determination and commitment to language pluralism but also it sends a clear signal to the Basque people about respect for their culture which has the

**Alain Solé** was arrested in 1999 in connection with alleged illegal activities by Emgann, the Breton nationalist group. He spent nearly five years in provisional detention and was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment in April last. In June 2003 he underwent a triple bypass operation at a Paris hospital. He has reportedly become insulin-dependent in prison. Several applications for provisional release have been rejected by the Paris Appeal Court.

potential to open the door to a peaceful settlement of that intractable problem.

The move has been welcomed by many in Europe including the European Parliamentary leader, Pat Cox.

However, a less positive but entirely predictable response has come from the government of France. Its Foreign Minister, Michel Barnier, has cautioned against the move warning against what he described as "the reopening of difficult issues".

The French attitude speaks volumes about the monolingual arrogance of that State. Not content with repression of those national languages within its own boundaries (such as Breton) it now seeks to dissuade neighbouring governments from pursuing more liberal policies.

What is clear from the intervention of Michel Barnier is that France fears linguistic self-determination for those National minorities within its borders. France is a State 'swimming against the tide' in Europe where linguistic self-determination is no longer an aspiration but a right.

**Bernard Moffatt**

# CALL FOR RETURN OF STOLEN O'KEEFE CHALICE TO IRELAND

In Ireland, prior to the destruction of Gaelic society, it was not uncommon for the various Clans to commission the creation of ecclesiastical accoutrements for local clergy usage. Of these, chalices – which would be used to celebrate mass – were among the most common, as evidenced by the examples which remain today, either in museums or private collections. The Clan O'Keefe (O' Caoimh) for example, has at least two such chalices, one dating from 1735, while the other, created in 1590 is one of the oldest Irish ecclesiastical chalices known. Commissioned by the branch of the O'Keefe's whose ancestral lands were in the area of what is today called 'Newmarket', (in Irish 'Kilmacroghan') County Cork, this chalice – now known as the 'Mount Keefe Chalice' was dedicated and presented to the clergy of the area and was used for church services up until the time of the Penal Laws (1695 – 1829), when the practice of the Catholic religion was made a crime according to English Law.

It was during this dark period, when Catholics were forced to observe mass in hidden locations in the hedges, hills, and woods, that a gathering assembled for mass were surprised by a troop of redcoats (i.e.: the English army) who, as was all too common in this epoch, murdered two priests (a Father Gallivan and a priest from Kerry whose name has been lost with the passage of time), then proceeded to loot the nearby O'Keefe household, taking the chalice with them. While these facts were – given the references and accounts documented by both the O'Keefe's and others – public knowledge, not surprisingly there was no legal recourse, for it was the 'law of the land' at the time which was actually responsible for the crimes.

For many years nothing was known regarding the whereabouts of the chalice, but in 1915, upon the death of Mr. Robert Day, an amateur historian and avid antiquarian, the 'Mount Keefe' chalice – along with a number of other ecclesiastical chalices – was listed as being amongst his possessions to be disposed of by sale. This in itself is more than a little strange, for Mr. Day had previously been President of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society and had written extensively regarding the numerous other chalices in his possession, yet never wrote or otherwise mentioned the 'Mount Keefe' chalice, although it was without question the oldest – and by all accounts the most beautiful – in his collection. Given Mr. Day's considerable

The sextfoil base rises from a horizontal die-struck foot ring. Two faces of the base are engraved with pairs of cross-hatched leaf sprays, each enclosing a shamrock; the third is engraved with the Crucifixion, surmounted by a shamrock-like device with rays and flanked by the emblems of Christ's Passion. Within the foot are six vertical strips added during repairs. The hexagonal shaft terminates in hexagonal punched wires; the knob is Melon-shaped and chased with segments, three of which are engraved with flower heads. The base of the bowl is clasped by a shaped calyx, with alternate petals cross-hatched.

A contemporary inscription under the foot-ring reads 'COK \* ME \* FIERI \* FECIT \* ANNO \* DOMINI \* 1590. There is also a later inscription 'The Mount Keefe Chalice – reconsecrated Burton Park AD 1916.

This chalice was made by an Irish goldsmith for mass use according to the Roman Catholic rite. In common with most contemporary Irish liturgical plate, it bears no goldsmiths' marks but there is a dedicatory inscription, noting that it was made to the order of COK, probably a member of the O'Keefe family, in 1590.

knowledge of the history of the region it would appear reasonable to deduce that Mr. Day was well aware of the 'Mount Keefe' chalice's patrimony, and thus reluctant to publicize his possession of what he knew to be 'stolen goods'. The chalice was quickly purchased by the Purcell family of Burton Park (who were friends of Mr. Day) reconsecrated (?) and given a new inscription on the bottom to mark their ownership. The Purcell's retained possession of it until 1929, when Mrs. Purcell sold the chalice to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V & A) in London, where it remains to this day. Learning of the chalice and its bizarre history I first approached a number of members of the Clan O'Keefe around the world (Australia, the U.S., Canada, and of course Ireland) and sought their counsel. The overwhelming majority of those I spoke to share my belief that, as the chalice had been illegally taken from us, it would behove the V & A to return our property. It was, however, agreed that the most sensible option would be to have the chalice returned to a suitable museum in the Republic of Ireland, where it could be seen and appreciated as a symbol of our ancestors' struggles and a link to our collective Gaelic heritage. Thus, in the fall of 2003, I wrote to the V & A, explaining the circumstances of the chalice's theft and, while in no manner blaming the V & A for their acquisition of the chalice (in fact I expressly thanked them for their stewardship in caring for it!), informed them that those members of the Clan O'Keefe for whom I spoke in this matter would greatly appreciate having the chalice returned to Ireland. Several months



*The Mount Keefe Chalice, Silver-gilt, Irish, unmarked, dated 1590, H 19cm, WT 276 g.*

later, I received a letter from Dr. Teresa Murdoch, a Deputy Keeper, who informed me that the V & A had purchased the chalice 'in good faith' and that, in their opinion, now possessed 'good title' to it. Being familiar with the policies and attitudes of British museums (who tend to be rather zealously protective of their 'swag'), I cannot confess to any great surprise with their response; what *did* surprise and even *shock* me, however, was that the V & A were already in possession of an O'Keefe 'family history' booklet documenting both the murders and the subsequent theft of the chalice!

Now, given the substantial and acrimonious history of English rule in Ireland – not to mention their comportment in their numerous other colonies and their well-publicized reluctance to return any of the numerous cultural treasures accumulated during their colonial Heyday – perhaps I was guilty of a degree of naiveté in assuming that, once they had learned of the *criminal* aspects of the chalice's theft from the O'Keefe's, the V & A would welcome the opportunity to exercise some semblance of moral/ethical responsibility and immediately seek a resolution which would be agreeable to all parties (for example, a 'long-term' or 'permanent' loan as I suggested to them in my letter). Such concepts were, however, quite obviously outside the realm of consideration for the V & A, leaving me little recourse but to seek an informed legal opinion. I shall discuss this and other aspects of the claim in a future article!

**Tadhg Caoimhin O' Caoimh/Timothy  
Kevin O'Keefe**

# 3RD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

This will take place on the island of Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, from the 23rd to the 25th October. Irish speakers have long worked in Guernsey. During the Festival you will find out what happened to them when the Island was invaded in 1940. Irish speakers now work in banking, medicine and education in Guernsey and it is they who invited the Festival to the island. It is being organised by the island branch of Coláiste na nGael.

Rooms have been block booked in an hotel in the historic heart of St. Peter Port but places there are limited. Those travelling from England will depart from Gatwick. For full details contact Dónall Ó Ceilleachair at 0044 (0) 2083485016 or Cathal at 0044 (0) 450412.



*Dónall Ó Ceilleachair and other Irish speakers queue to sign the petition demanding EU working language status for Irish. The petition was handed to Bertie Ahern, Irish Taoiseach, when he visited Manchester in March.*

## WEB FREEDOM CURTAILED – WAS THERE SOMETHING TO HIDE?

There have been suggestions that freedom of speech in one of western Europe's oldest democracies has been compromised following what some see as a politically inspired closure of an Internet chat forum.

The Isle of Man government boasts it has the oldest parliament in the world and yet it seems some have difficulty coming to terms with some of the new technology which today's world has produced.

When the Internet first developed more general usage about ten years ago, globally, it was seen as a mechanism to challenge conventional communications media which is sometimes through either commercial pressure or political patronage compromised.

On the Isle of Man a similar pattern has emerged in recent years with web-sites and internet forums projecting a more cutting message than that afforded by the mainstream.

The Island has limited established media outlets. There is no TV station (the Island is afforded small coverage as part of the Border TV commercial area while BBC-TV coverage is non-existent). The Radio Station is funded via a mix of commercial and public subvention (the

latter, some believe, conditions its coverage) and there is a single newspaper group (part of a UK conglomerate).

The take-up for the 'independent' internet forums was very limited. However, it is a measure of the irritation they seem to have engendered that action as draconian as a 'switch-off' has occurred.

Some who accessed the newsgroups were sceptical of the veracity of some of the claims made on them about politicians and commercial undertakings active in the Island. Paradoxically, now many may believe that those criticised did have something to hide after all!

Bernard Moffatt

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## International Branch Internet Site

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

Email: International Branch Secretary  
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## American Branch Internet Site

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



## Independent Scots read the 'Scots Independent'

### Contact

51 Cowane Street,  
Stirling FK8 1JW  
Alba/Scotland

### Telephone

Stirling 01786 473523

### Website

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

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### E-mail General Secretary:

[b.moffatt@iom.com](mailto:b.moffatt@iom.com)

### E-mail Assistant G.S.

[mkermode@mcb.net](mailto:mkermode@mcb.net)

## Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution  
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For information about the Celtic  
League contact secretaries:

**ALBA.** Iain Ramsay, 22 Denholme  
Gardens, Greenock, PA16 6RF,  
Scotland

**BREIZH** Jakez Derouet, 10 Verouri-  
Nevez, 29700 Ploveilh (Plomelin),  
Breizh/Brittany.

**CYMRU** Robat ap Tomos, 11 Heol  
Gordon, Y Rhath, Caerdydd, CF2 3AJ.

**ÉIRE** Pádraigín Mylevreeshey 33 Céide  
na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha  
Cliath.

**KERNOW** Sue Bowen, Venten Lynnow,  
Trevalgar, Bos Castle, TL35 ORG.

**MANNIN** Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road,  
Peel. Tel: UK (0) 1624 843869.

**ENGLAND BRANCH** Florence Kenna,  
72 Compton Street, London, EC1V  
0BN.

**USA** Margaret Sexton, c/o P.O. Box  
20153, Dag Hammarshjold Postal  
Centre, New York, NY 10017.

**INTERNATIONAL BRANCH** Mark  
Lockerby, 12 Magherdonnag, Pony  
Fields, Port Erin, IM9 6BY, Isle of Man.

### GENERAL SECRETARY & P.R.O.

Bernard Moffatt, 11 Cleiy Rhennee,  
Kirk Michael, Mannin.  
Tel - UK (0) 1624 877918

**EDITOR** Ms P. Bridson, 33 Céide na  
Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath,  
Eire.

E-mail: [patriciabridson@eircom.net](mailto:patriciabridson@eircom.net)

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# IRISH DEMOCRAT

For news, analysis, reviews, features, and an independent voice

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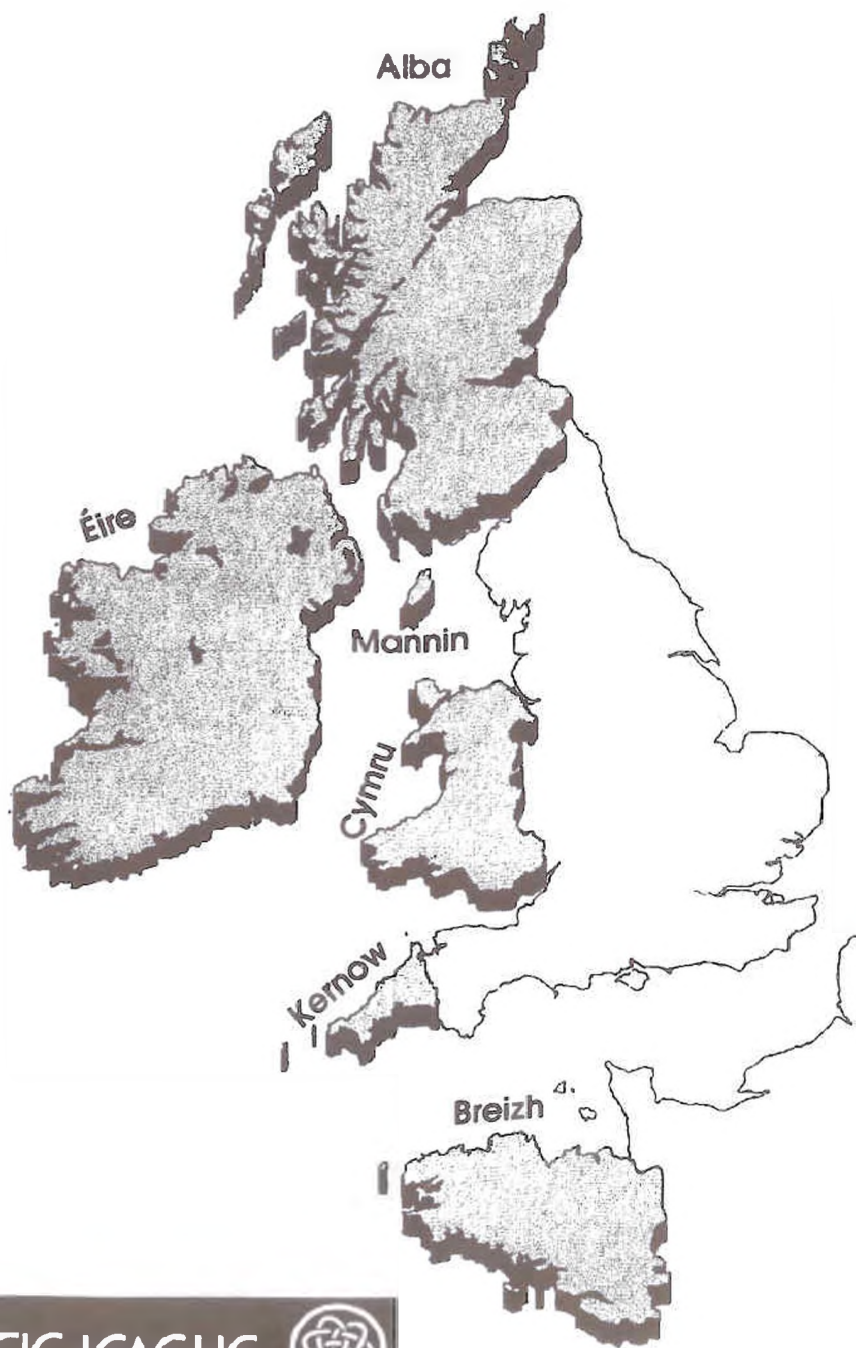
# COMANN

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No. 127

Autumn 2004

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- A New Cymuned Strategy
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CELTIC LEAGUE



## Dé do bharail?

Mar a theireadh na bodaich, "Theid barail an duine ghlic faisg don fhìrinn." Air an aobhar sin chì sinn na tha trìùr Gàidheil ainmeil ag ràdh Coinneach MacGuairne os cionn a' BhBC ann an Alba. Cairistiona Primrose-née NicLeòid, nighean Norrie a' Laochainn ann an Carlabhagh. Eilean Leòdhais a tha a-nis ann an Sabhal Mór Ostaig; agus Brian Wilson BP sa Phàrlamaid Lunnainn.

Dh'fhàs Cairistiona Primrose suas ann an coimhearsnachd far an cluinnte pàilteas de dh'òrain, tha i a' seinn hho's cuimhne leatha. Lean sin i chun an latha an diugh, far a bheil i ag obair sa Colaiste Ghàidhlig ann an Sleite, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach.

"Tha an obair agam an seo air atharrachadh gu mór on a tha mi a nis a' faighinn cothrom a dhol a-steach ann an rannsachadh amhrain 's a' cruthachadh stòr-dàta de dh'amhrain." arsa ise.

"Ged a tha làraich-lìn no website ann far am faigh daoine na h-amhrain, gu ruige seo chan eil doigh aca air èisteachd riutha. Tha e cudromach gun urrainn dha na h-oileanaich èisteachd ris an amhran air fad, gu h-àraid mas e seo a' chiad èisteachd a tha aca e, oir tha gach rann ag atharrachadh a réir na briathran. Tha sea mar ghoireas ùr a' toirt cuideachadh dha na h-oileanaich na h-amhrain ionnsachadh."

"Nach e ealadhan a tha ann an seinn? An gabh i ionnsachadh mur eil i annad bho thùs?"

Mar a fhuair mise a-mach saoilidh mi gu feum i a bhith annad gu ìre bho thùs ach cuideachd tha e a' réir dè am brosnachadh a gheibh duine. Chan eil sin ri ràdh gu bheil an tuisge sin ann fìus'ged a bhios Gàidhlig aca. Se rud uabhasach pearsanta a tha ann an seinn. Bu chòir dha aobhar fhéin a bhith aig a h-uile duine, agus aig deireadh an latha tha e an urra ris gach neach dé man a tha iad ail" son iad fhéin a ghiulain.

"Teicneòlas ùr a-rithist is dòcha?"

Ma tha na goireasan ùra sin gu bhith 'nan cuideachadh the mise air an son. Rud sam bith a chuidicheas an dualchas a chumail beò fallain, feumar faìle a chur air.

Chuireadh Coinneach MacGuairne os cionn a' BhBC ann an Alba aig àm a bha cugallach dha'n bhuidhinn a bha troime-chéile as dèidh ùpraid Hutton. Choimhid an luchd-obrach air MacGuairne mar neach a bha min-eòlach air gnòthaichean a' BhBC agus e air a bhith ag obair innte fad a bheatha. Cha robhas a' sùileachadh crathaidhean móra.

A bharrachd air an sin, chan eil e son a dhol an lùib nan ceistean móra, connspòideach a th'air a bhith ag aobhrachadh buairidh anns a' BhBC fhéin agus leis an riaghaltas.

Tha e nas dèonaiche deasbòd a thòiseachadh mu dheidhinn na a dhith air craoladh Gàidhlig agus na cuspairean ris an theum Seirbhis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig dèiligeadh.

Ceithear bliadhna bho sguir na naidheachdan làitheil air Telefios, tha MacGuairne de'n bheachd gu bheil uireasbhaidh ann air sgàth is nach eil naidheachdan Gàidhlig làitheil air an telebhisean an diugh.

Thuit e: "Tha e follaiseach dhomhsa is do neach sam bith, mar nach eil naidheachdan làitheil air an telebhisean 'se call glé mhór a tha sin. Dhomhsa, 'se me bheachd pearsanta a th'ann, 'se beàrn a tha sin."

"Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gun fheum an SMG, fu feum iadsan, agus mi fhìn nam bhall de'n bhuidheann sin mar aon ghuth air, gun fheum iad mar bhuidheann poileasaidh a chruthachadh. Lean MacGuairne



**Ken McQuarrie, Controller, BBC Scotland**

"Dh'fheumadh sinn a dhol gu luchd-coimhid is luchd-amhairc. Tha sinn uile daonan ag ràdh gu bheil fios againn dè tha daoine ag iarraidh fhaicinn."

Tha ceannaid ùr, a' BhBC ann an Alba cuideachd a' cur a thairc ris an iomart airson sianail air leth a bhith ann an Gàidhlig. Beagan mhiosan air ais, fhuair Breatain a chàineadh bho Comhairle na Roinn-Eòrpa son cho beag adhartas is a rinn iad a' thaobh sianail dha'n chànan a stéidheachadh.

Thuit e: "Tha an luchd-amhairc s an luchd-aisdeachd a' nochadh gum bu mhath leo sianail agus tha am BBC gu mór airson luchd-aisdeachd is, luchd-amhairc a

shàsachadh, an dà chuid leinn fhìn neo ann an comh-pàirt le buidheannan eile."

Tha e a' cumail a-mach gum bu chòir àite cudthromach a bhith aig a' BhBC anns, an sianail ùr, ag ràdh: "Mar nach eil prìomh-phàirt aig a' BhBC ann an sianal Gàidhlig: chan eil mi a' fhaicinn gun oibich e cho math is a dh'fhaodadh e."

Anns a' Chuimridh, far a bheil sianail air leth air a bhith ann bho chiann 20 bliadhna, tha am BBC a' deanamh naidheachdan is mu thrìan de phrògraman S4C.

Agus cò tha ann an treas Caraid na Gàidhlig againn ach Brian Wilson no MacUilleam BP a bha sa chiad dol a-mach an aghaidh sgaolaidh-cumhachd no féin-riaghlaidh abair fhéin e!

Ma bhiodh Taigh na Pàrlamaid Alba ann an DunEideann sa chiad dol a-mach, bha e ag ràdh, b'fheàrr leis e a bhith air Cnoc Call Itainn.

Ach, bhon a bha a' chosgais £430 millean, s'fheàrr leinn gairdeachas ro mhór a dhéanamh airson an Taigh-Pàrlamaid a-mhàin bhon a tha na buill na Pàrlamaid an seo an diugh agus air falbh a-màireach, gabhall àite don fheadhainn eile agus diochuimhnicht ann an ùine ghorid.

Deanamaid gairdeachas cho mòr agus bìthidh rioghachdan chein a' tuigsinn gu bheil an togalach a tha againn cho iongantach a bha againn is docha gu ceud bliadhna. Tha Taigh na Pàrlamaid seo aig a h-uile neach air feadh na h-Albainn.

Thog Miralles Taigh Pàrlamaid againn a tha iongnadh an t-saoghail cho cudromach ri Guggenheim ann am baile Bilbao no Sydney Opera House. "Air an aobhar sin," arsa Brian còir, deanaidh gairdeachas ro mhór.

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich, Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig**

### Summary

*This article outlines the views of three outstanding Friends of Gàidhlig:*

*Christina Primrose who teaches in the Gàidhlig College in Skye. She is all in favour of every modern aid like the website etc. which will aid our song and cultural heritage.*

*Ken MacQuarrie, the new Controller of BBC Scotland wants to see the restoration of daily TV news bulletins in Gàidhlig and for the BBC to have an important say in the forthcoming Channel in Gàidhlig. Wales has had one for 20 years, known as S4C.*

*Brian Wilson, MP who once was opposed to devolution and, were we to get a Parliament that it should be on Calton Hill, Edinburgh, is so entranced with our new Parliament building that he tells us to rejoice since it is a world-class building on a par with the Guggenheim in Bilbao or Sydney Opera House!*

*Anyone seeking advice on how to master Gàidhlig would be advised to write: Cli, North Tower, The Castle, Inverness IV2 3EE, Scotland or email: cli@cli.org.uk or website: www.cli.org.uk or telephone: +44(0)1463 226710.*

# GAELIC NEWS

## Language Bill

The Scottish Executive launched their much anticipated draft Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill at the National Mòd in Oban in October 2003. The bill has three main parts. Firstly, it establishes the recently formed Gaelic language board Bòrd na Gàidhlig as a statutory body. Secondly, it places a duty upon the Bòrd to establish a national Gaelic Language Plan. Finally, the bill places a duty upon public bodies to consider "whether it is to appropriate" to provide a Gaelic language plan.

While welcoming the Executive's decision to legislate for the language, the draft bill itself has been extensively criticised by the Gaelic community. The main criticism of the bill has been that it is too weak both symbolically and practically.

The bill neither states that the language is official nor national. Instead, the ambiguous phrase "securing the status of the Gaelic language as one of the languages of Scotland" is used.

In practical terms, the main criticism has been that the bill makes no mention whatsoever of Gaelic education. The

approach to language plans has also been criticised with activists arguing that all public bodies should have to draw up Gaelic plans rather than simply having to consider whether or not they wish to do so as the bill states at present.

Such has been the strength of feeling in the Gaelic community that around 3,500 responses were received in the consultation process on the bill.

Following the consideration of the consultation responses, the bill is to be introduced into the Scottish Parliament in autumn 2004.

## New Names for Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Two new members have been appointed to Bòrd na Gàidhlig - sociolinguist and language planning expert Professor Ken MacKinnon and Rob Dunbar, lecturer in law and expert in minority and minority language rights. Both new members are fluent learners. Rob Dunbar hailing from Canada and Ken MacKinnon from London. The appointments have been widely welcomed by language activists as the absence of adult learners and language planning experts amongst existing members of the board had attracted controversy.

## Gaelic Secondary School for Glasgow

The Minister for Education, Peter Peacock has given the go ahead to Scotland's first ever dedicated Gaelic medium secondary school. The Minister told Bòrd na Gàidhlig's national conference in Nairn in May 2004 that the Scottish Executive would meet the bulk of the building costs (£2.75 million) for the school with Glasgow City Council footing the rest of the bill. Glasgow Gaelic Primary School - *Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu*, Scotland's first and only stand-alone Gaelic medium primary and its nursery will also be housed within the Gaelic Secondary School complex.

Currently, 34 secondary schools offer Gaelic language classes for fluent speakers. Fifteen also teach other subjects in Gaelic but provision varies greatly throughout Scotland - some schools offer various subjects in Gaelic while, in other areas, pupils progressing from Gaelic medium primaries only receive Gaelic language. The number of pupils (nursery, primary and secondary) in Gaelic medium education has risen from 2,661 in 2002-03 to 2,879 in 2003-04.

Uilleam MacCaluim

## American Branch Publishes 25th Celtic Calendar

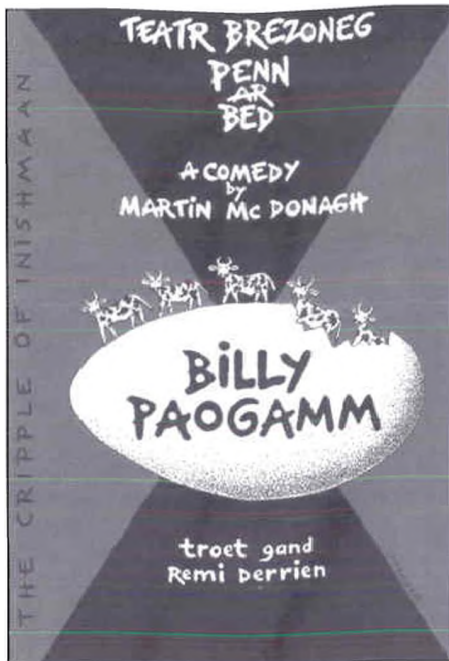
The American Branch has brought out the 2005 Celtic Calendar, the 25th consecutive annual edition of a project that began modestly in 1980. The Celtic Calendar features twelve panels of original black-and-white artwork by Laurie Fraser Manifold depicting scenes from Celtic mythology and folklore. Each month is named in one of the Celtic languages, along with a traditional proverb in the language of choice. The Calendar notes over 1000 anniversaries of notable Celtic people and historic events, with at least one, and usually several, for every day of the year. An extra feature added this year lists some of the notable Celts who are not otherwise listed in the Calendar due to the lack of a specific date ascribed to them. In addition there are pages devoted to listing numbers, the names of the months and days of the week in all the Celtic languages, as well as information about the four quarterly feasts of the Celts.

Over the years the Celtic Calendar has been one of the most successful projects of the American Branch, spreading awareness of the Celtic languages, culture, and



history to purchasers throughout the USA and Canada. Purchasers in the Celtic nations can obtain the 2005 Celtic Calendar for \$13 (US) post paid per copy by money order or cheque drawn on a US bank, or for \$14 (US) elsewhere. Contact the Celtic League American Branch at Box 20153 Dag Hammarskjöld Center, New York, NY 10017 USA, or check out the American Branch's website [www.CelticLeague.org](http://www.CelticLeague.org)

# Breizh



**TEATR PENN AR BED** a ginnig e pezh c'hoari diweza Billy Paogamm, bet skrivet gant Martin McDonagh ha lakaet e brezoneg gant Remi Derrien.

Eur pezh c'hoari didruez ha farsus eo war eur dro, skrivet e 1996 gant eun Iwerzonad yaouank, Martin McDonagh. War eun enezenn emañ e 1934, Billy, eur paotr kamm ha mahagnet a dremen ar pezh brasa euz e amzer da jom da zelled euz ar zaout ha da lenn leoriou. Pa zegouez Robert o Flaherty deus an Amerik da zewel e film: "Man of Aran", heman a lak en e zonzj kuitaad Inishmaan da vond d'ober senima da Hollywood.

Denet eo da veza anavezet Martin Mac Donagh en eun neubeud bloaveziou abaoe : "The beauty Queen of Leenane (1996)" bet c'hoariet er "Royal National theater" e Londrez a neus roet lans dehan da vad. War ar memez tro e skriv: "A skull in Connemara" ha "The lonesome West" (bet c'hoariet e Kemper ar bloaz tremenet). An doare neus da skriva a zo tost tre deuz hini J.M. Synge pe hini Sean O'Casey: saozneg war ar mêz eo a vez implijet gantan, hini an inizi.

Laket eo bet war al leurenn **Gand Lionel Jafrez** (Les Filles de la Pluie) Renet eo ar gomedianed gant **Jean-Yves Gourvez** (Théâtre de l'Instant) Savet eo bet ar zonerezh gant **Jérôme Kerihuel**

## An den:

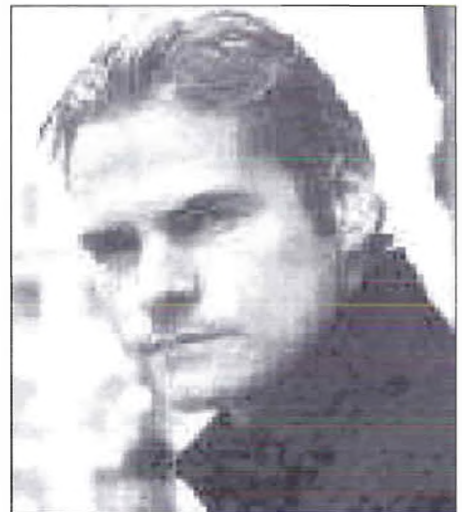
Evitan da vaha brudet mad dija eo Martin McDonagh eur skrivagner yaouank awalc'h peogwir eo bet ganet e 1971. Lakaet vez da iwerzonad ha koulskoude e bet o chom hepred-Doue e kreisteiz Londrez. E dud an hini eo a oa ginnidig euz Galway hag e vezent kustum distrei d'o bro evid ar vakansou hag evel-just Martin hag e vreur a yee 'samblez gante. Eno eo en eus klevt ha desket langaj ar vro, da lared eo saozneg mod ar vro, evel ma noa graet J.M. Synge en e amzer.

Ne blijte ket dehan kalz ar skol. Tehi a reas kuit d'an oad da 16 vloaz: ne oa ket e vid gouzanv beha barnet gant e gelennerien rag skriva a ree dija d'ar poent se. Deuet eo d'an teatr dre forz selled ouz ar filmou tele. Levezonet eo bet hervezan, gant Orson Welles, Martin Scorsese, Terence Malich ha David Lynch. Ansao a ra pas kaoud eur bern deskadurezh diwar bouez peziou-c'hoari klasel, na deuz bro Zaos na deuz bro Iwerzon. Menegi a ra koulskoude Harold Pinter, ha pa houlenner digantan ar pezh a zonzj diwar benn ar pezh a vez leurennet e Londrez e vez herr ha splann ar respont: "Duli" da lared eo "Torr-reor"

Goude beha bet kuitaet ar skol en em lakaas da skriva pennadou evid ar radio, diviziou peurvuia. Kroget eo bet ar blanedenn da drei war e du pa oe degemeret daou skrid gant eur radio deuz bro an Ostrali. D'an oad a 25 e skrivas e bez-c'hoari kenta "The beauty Queen of Leenane" (*Rouanez vras a Leenane*). Ne lakaas nemed cistevez da skriva anehan. *Istor daramprejou etre eur vamm hag he merc'h eo. Mag Folan, ar vamm, a vez taer-zod gant he merc'h beteg ma teu da vaha klanv he spered. Ober a ra anaouedegez he merc'h (Maureen) gant Pat Dooley hag a ra denst* "The beauty Queen". *He chans diweha eo da gaoud eur gwaz rag gwerc'hez eo c'hoaz da 40 vloaz, med he mamm a rayo he seiz gwella da zistruj ar garantez diwezad se evid ma ne viche ket losket he eunig er ger.* Leurennet eo bet ar pezh evid ar wech kentan e Dulin e 1976 hag ar bloaz war lec'h e Londrez, e lec'h neus gounezet "The Evening Standard award for most promising Playwright". A priz se a vez roet peurvuia d'eur skrivagner yaouank da rei kalon dehan da vond pelloc'h. Buan awalc'h e teu a benn da vaha: "Artist-in-residence" er "Royal Theatre" e Londrez. D'an oad a 27 vloaz, en noa Martin McDonagh 4 pezh c'hoari leurennet e Londrez. Ze ne oa ket c'hoarvezet abaoe Shakespeare. Konta a ra da biou bennag a glev e skriv gwelloc'h evid "This fucking Shakespeare" forz penaoz!

## E peziou:

Goude "The beauty queen" e skrivas "A skull in Connemara" (Eur golpenn e Connemara) eun istor iskiz diwar bouez eskern da vaha diblaseet euz eur vered ha "The lonesome West" (Ar c'hornog kollet.) bet c'hoariet e kemper. *Istor daou vreur eo, paotred yaouank-koz o chom asamblez heb beha gouest d'en em anduri. Eur beleg yaouank hag a lak ar pezh feiz a jom gantan da glask lakaad an daou vreur d'en em gleved ha mond a ra beteg en em zistruj evid klask o savetei. Er o c'reiz emañ "Girleen" eur goantenn, an hini, a ra diouer en o buhez meus aon.* "The cripple of Inishmaan" a oe skrivet nepell goude. Gand "The lieutenant of Inishmore" Martin McDonagh a ra goap deuz an deroristed eun tammig henvel deuz "The hostage" (An Ostaj) bet skrivet gant Brendan Behan ha bet c'hoariet gant "Teatr Penn ar bed" 18 vloaz 'zo bennag. (Stank awalc'h e vez c'hoariet "Al letanant" er c'houlz man, da skwer e "Teatre Nacional Catalunya" e Barcelona.



Martin McDonagh

## Ar yez:

Tammallet e vez d'ar paotr beha bet kemeret mantel eur skrivagner Iwerzonad o klask ober evel Synge, Sean o' Casey ha Samuel Beckett zoken Koulskoude dond a ra a benn euz e daol : "He uses the Irish gift of gab, of eloquence, with its exquisite tempos and rhythms." da lared eo, eo deuet a benn da danial langaj ar vro. Eur c'honter eo McDonagh "He is born a storyteller. When you feel he is getting sentimental, he hits you with a corrective shock." Eur c'honter ganet. An doare fent en eus da gonta a vez aze evid ma ne viche ket re griz ar g'fahar : "The presence of humour, woven through the play, helps to soften the sorrow." Tamallet zo bet dehan evel-just diskouez eur skeudenn rust ha kaled euz an dud war ar mez: "A brutal portrait of rural Ireland" Gwir eo eh implij geriou gros awalc'h a wechou, peadra da feuka lod integristed gatolig en Amerik. Eun ibill a chom eun ibill, hag eur reor eur reor, na pa viche hini ar person....

Continued on page 5

# NEVEZINTIOÙ BERR EUS KERNEV VEUR

## Dornskridoù Kerneveureg:

Bez'e c'heller gwelout bremañ war lec'hienn Levraoueg Vroadel Kembre daou bezh-c'hoari kerneveureg "Bywnans Meriasek" (Buhez Meriadeg) ha "Bywnans Ke" (Buhez Kae). Kinnig a ran Levraoueg Vroadel Kembre stumm scanner hag e liv. Kavout a reoc'h "Bywnans Ke" da: [www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych\\_s075.htm](http://www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych_s075.htm) ha "Bywnans Meriasek" da: [www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych\\_s074.htm](http://www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych_s074.htm)

**Précis :** *It is now possible to see the scanned versions of two Cornish manuscripts proposed by the National Library of Wales at [www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych\\_s075.htm](http://www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych_s075.htm) and [www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych\\_s074.htm](http://www.llgc.org.uk/drych/drych_s074.htm)*

## Ar Testamant nevez e Kerveveureg:

Roet lañs e vo d'ar Testamant Nevez e Brezhoneg d'ar 13 a viz Eost e iliz Sen Petrek

e Bosvenegh (Bodmin e Saozneg). Galvet e vo izili Kesva an Yeth Kenewek, d'an droourien, izili ilizoù kerneveurat ha bagad kerneveurat arall gant embanner an Testamant Nevez ivez. Gwerzhet e vo al levr da 18.99 £.

**Summary:** *The Bible in Cornish was launched in August in Bodmin and will be sold at £18.99.*

## Levr nevez:

Embannet e vo levr nevez diwar-benn oberenn keltiegour kembreat Edward Lhuyd gant rann ar pennad diwar-benn ar C'herneveureg ha muioc'h a notennoù. Dedennet-tre e vo al levr nevez-mañ evit ar c'herneveuregerien hag evit tud dedennet gant ar yezh pe o studiañ ar yezh. Displeget eo poentoù komplezhañ oberenn Lhuyd. Skrivañ a reas William F. Baxter al levr-mañ.

**Summary:** *A new book written by William F. Baxter about the work of Edward Lhuyd will*

*be published soon explaining the more complex points of Lhuyd's work. A work of interest for those involved in the Cornish language.*

## Troidigezh levr "Ar Priñs bihan" e kerneveureg:

Emañ al levr gallek "Ar Priñs bihan" skrivet gant Antoine de Saint-Exupéry o bezañ troet d'ar c'herneveureg dindan anv "An pensevik byghan". Emañ 27 pennad el levr hag troet int e kerneveureg eeun. Fellout a rafe d'an droourien kaout skoazell evit treiñ al levr a-zaore. Ma fell dit skoazellañ an droourien, kas un e-bost da [info@linguashop.com](mailto:info@linguashop.com) !

**Summary:** *The famous book Ar Priñs bihan written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is being translated into basic Cornish. If you are interested in giving help to the translators, please contact them at [info@linguashop.com](mailto:info@linguashop.com)*

*Continued from page 4*

An oll oberennou meneget aman a zo bet enbannet e ti Methuen, a-hend-all e tegasan d'ho sonj e kaver "The cripple of inishmaan" e ti Brud Nevez didan an ano : "Billy Paogamm", eur pezh fentus da lenn.

## Summary

*In 1934, the people of Irishman learn that the Hollywood director Robert O'Flaherty is coming to the neighbouring island to film his documentary Man of Aran. No one is more excited than Cripple Billy, an unloved boy whose chief occupation is gazing at cows and yearning for a girl who wants no part of him. For Billy is determined to cross the sea and audition for the Yank. And the news of the audacity ripples through his humour-starved community. The Cripple of Inishmaan becomes a merciless portrayal of a world so comically cramped and mean-spirited that hope is an affront to his order.*

## Note du metteur en scène

*"Ce "MacDonbagh ne consiste pas à présenter la réalité d'une Ile Irlandaise (Inishmaan) au début du siècle, il s'agit de créer à partir de nos représentations de l'Irlande, un univers volontairement décalé en jouant avec les conventions théâtrales et ainsi faire appel à l'imaginaire du spectateur. D'un monde réel à un monde joué, les personnages absurdes et sensibles prendront corps à travers des dialogues et des situations bourrés d'honneur et d'humanité."*

Lionel Jafrez

Teatr Penn ar Bed  
1, stread Verdun , 29200 Brest.  
[jakezandre@hotmail.com](mailto:jakezandre@hotmail.com)

## Breton National Anthem Commemoration

On the 29th of May 2004 the City of Lesneven, twinned with the city of Carmarthen made a celebration of the anniversary of Breton national Anthem " BRO GOZH VA ZADOU ".

This anthem, which was already the Welsh Anthem, had a Breton language version composed by a well-known bard Taldir. In the city of Lesneven there had been a Congress of the Union Régionaliste, at a time when the Breton language was forbidden in schools but also in the churches (at a time when very few people were able to speak French). The Welsh Anthem was taken as the Breton national Anthem during this congress in 1903.

We had explanations from Yann JESTIN, member of Breizh-Kembre (Brittany-Wales Association), and addresses from the Lord-Mayor of Carmarthen, Hervé ABALAIN (University of Brest), Rita WILLIAMS (a Welsh woman who spoke very good Breton), Rozenn MILIN, former director of the Breton TV channel TV BREIZH. One night featured a concert with Welsh and Breton artists. A commemoration plate is now in the city centre.

Kervegenn



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omit the 0 in the prefix.

# A NEW LANGUAGE POLICY FOR BREIZH

*Regional elections and the European ones have changed the political situation in Brittany as well as in France. Yann-Berr Thomin (PS-Socialist Party), who is in charge of Breton language policy in the Council of Breizh tells us, in Breton, more about the new policy of the left wing team (PS+PC+Green+UDB). A symbolic action in Wales, a challenge for Carn readers and three goals for the language.*

Rhodri Morgan, Prime Minister of Cymru, visited Breizh at the beginning of the year. At that time, he signed an agreement covering nine areas in Kembraeg (Welsh), Saozneg(English) and French. Josselin de Rohan, the former Gaullist President of Breizh, was not in favour of the use of our Breton language for official activities because the French law does not allow it. As CARN readers know the French state respects neither U.N. Human Rights nor E.U. recommendations in this field. Therefore, the new socialist President of Breizh, Jean-Yves Le Drian, will go to Cymru, in October, in order to repair this historical mistake (which helped him to beat the conservative lobby). The leaders of the Cultural Commission of the Council will visit and engage in some symbolic actions with the Welsh government on the 11th and 12th of October. The following day (13th), the agreement will be signed in Welsh, Breton, English and French.

Thinking of the main challenge Breizh has to cope with: Yann-Berr Thomin tells us that the best thing CARN readers can do for Breizh is to send letters to the French President Jacques Chirac, inviting him to sign "Karta Europa". Remember that he is officially in favour of diversity all over the world (Inuit+Monks+Swahilis...) but not for support for Breton in his own state. Today, the solution can only come from abroad.

In order to achieve the goal of 20,000 Breton students in 2010, the Council aims to develop and help actions in three fields:



*Yann-Berr Thomin (Socialist Party), who is in charge of Breton language policy in the Council of Breizh*

schools, public life and the media. Jean-Yves Le Drian, the new president, does have a real will to work in favour of our language. However the right wing considers this question as part of the state activities (Education Nationale). Therefore, the Council will adopt a pragmatic approach to the problem but considers itself as 50% of the deal. In pedagogic terms, the council is willing to link the old speakers and new ones. This challenge is quite difficult but positive in terms of creating a social link between generations.

Therefore, the Council is battling during this summer to save Diwan's schools from a

financial disaster. As the number of classes is growing fast in bilingual schools (+20), it starts to be very important to find teachers for these classes. Unfortunately, university does not provide students ready to start pedagogic studies (in the "I.U.F.M"). So, the Council is considering new professional studies for students who are willing to teach Breton in Brittany... hopefully they will succeed!!!

With regard to the Breton language in public life, Yann-Berr Thomin wants to help all villages and cities to use bilingual road signs as in his own city of Landene. Businesses are welcome to engage in this field also. Internarchè (a large supermarket chain) has already started. Other members of 'Produit en Bretagne' or 'Ya da Brezhoneg' should do better, because they use a positive image of our culture to sell different products and services all over Europe.

With regard to the mass media, the Council is ready to help France-3-TV and F81 and the French state radio to produce more Breton programs at prime time. Yann-Berr Thomin does not accept that there is not a single program in Breton from 9A.M. to 6P.M. The Council is still ready to help TV-Breizh and Co. to subtitle cartoons, movies etc. The connection between the private radio stations is something very important for the future of a regional radio, e-Breizh. The Council seems aware of the opportunities they can find in terms of jobs, within the new technologies of communication (ICT=NTIC). Internet is a new chance for this century...let's wait and see which goals the new left wing team (PS+PC+Green+UDB) who is leading the Council of Breizh, will be able to achieve within the next three years and before new elections in 2010.

**GI KELTIK.**

## Bretons stirred, but not shaken

A demonstration held in Lorient /An Orient, Brittany last Sunday attracted more than 100 people in support of the Breton prisoners still being held in detention by the French authorities. In particular, Alain Solé was singled out for particular attention by the demonstrators who has refused all medical treatment since 19th July, despite suffering from diabetes. Mr Solé's refusal to accept treatment has been motivated in part by the successful over-ruling, by the state prosecution, of a promise of an early release under the French Kouchner Law.

Mr Solé, who is now only asking to be transferred to a medical centre where he can properly treated, will hear on Thursday 5th August if the State authorities will allow him an early discharge, due to is ill health. (By the time you read this you should already know and if not, have a look on the League's news site. Let's hope). Supporter's of Mr Solé, who has diabetes and has

recently undergone major heart surgery, claim that his medical condition has been made worse as a result of receiving improper treatment while in jail.

During the demonstration the protester's shouted that the French authorities had made an exception for Maurice Papon (who was responsible for the death of Jews during WW2 and protected policemen who had killed and injured Algerians during the Algeria war and was sentenced a few years ago, but released after a short time in jail "due to his health condition"), but was not prepared to do the same for Alain Solé. Mr Solé was sentenced in March 2004 to 6 years in jail for his involvement with the Breton Revolutionary Army (ARB), an accusation he has always denied, but had served nearly four and a half years in jail without trial until this time, with a serious health condition.

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, from the Cornish

Branch of the League, made the trip across to Brittany to attend the demonstration. While there he met a Cornish woman who had, independently, been motivated to attend the demonstration to show her support for Mr Solé and the injustice he has experienced.

In addition to Alain Solé, there are still a number of Bretons in jail who were sentenced in the March 2004 trial and await release. Among the prisoner's it is hoped that Stéphane Philippe, who received a sentence of 6 years in March and had already served 4 years, will be released in September. At the demonstration, released Breton prisoner's Gaël Roblin, Arno Vannier and Jérôme Bouthier, took part (apologies to others who I didn't recognise) and it was encouraging to see that their spirits had not been broken.

**Rhisiart Tal-e-bot**

(Alain Sole was released in August - see page 22)

# The European Free Alliance (E.F.A.) becomes a European party

*Until now in the European Parliament there were political groups, like the group formed by the Greens and the Democratic Party of Peoples of Europe-European Free Alliance. From now on there will be European political parties, by application of a regulation of the European Parliament and Council of the 27th October 2003, the provisions of which came into effect from July this year.*

After the Green party was founded in last February, the 'first true European party' was created on the 26th of March 2004 in Barcelona: a new European party, the European Free Alliance which follows after the federation of parties founded in 1994, that was until then the D.P.P.E.-E.F.A.. The founding deed of this new party was signed by the representatives of 27 parties, during the public ceremony chaired by Nelly Maes, M.E.P. of the Flemish party Spirit, President of E.F.A., and in the presence of J.L. Carod-Rovira, General Secretary of Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (E.R.C. - Republican Left of Catalonia) who the day before welcomed the General Assembly of D.P.P.E.-E.F.A.

The 27 parties (among them the Breton Democratic Union [UDB] for Brittany) represent regions or peoples without State of seven countries already members of the European Union (Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom) and of two countries who became members from the 1st of May 2004 (Lithuania and Poland).

The European parties may be formed by citizens gathered in a political party or in many political parties making an alliance between themselves (what is the case of E.F.A.). To be recognized, they have to agree with the political principles on which the European Union is founded: they must have gathered at least 3% of the votes, in at least a quarter of the member states, at the time of the last European elections or they have to be represented in at least a quarter of the member states in the European Parliament, in the national or regional parliaments, or in the regional assemblies.

Actually E.F.A. is represented in six countries: Belgium, France (with the three recently elected UDB members in the Regional Council of Brittany and the two recently elected P.C.N. [Party of Corsican Nation] members in the Corsican Assembly), Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The European Union now comprises twenty five States. Consequently E.F.A. needs to be represented in seven countries to be recognized as a European party. Even if an ambiguity remains concerning the definition of regional parliaments or assemblies, E.F.A. would be able to reckon on an elected member of the party of Polish peoples of Lithuania in a regional assembly of this country and on another elected member of the Rainbow-



*Members of the European Free Alliance who were in Barcelona last March.*

Vinozito Macedonian party in Greece. In addition to this, E.F.A. came into contact with the Same peoples of Sweden, who have their own Parliament, with the Left Block in Portugal, and with the Equal Rights Party in Latvia (in fact a Russian-speaking peoples party which counts three MPs. There are also in the new member states (Czech Republic, Hungary) parties which are for the moment observer members, but which are in a position to become in the future full members of E.F.A. and to have elected representatives.

The European parties will be financed by the European Union budget and a budgetary line will be provided for this purpose. Till now the D.P.P.E.-E.F.A. was financed only by the member parties, in terms of their level of representation. The financing by the common budget will cover up to a maximum

of 75% of the budget of a European party which will have to supply the remaining 25%, essentially from the subscriptions of its members. But 85% of the E.U. share will be paid directly to the parties having MEPs, in proportion to their number; the remaining 15 % will be shared equally between the different parties officially recognized.

Therefore it was very important for E.F.A. to get a maximum of MEPs at the last European elections. But the expected results have not been realised: in the former legislature E.F.A. counted nine MEPs.; now it counts only five MEPs. (one of Plaid Cymru, two of S.N.P., one of E.R.C. and one of Latvia from minorities party For Human Rights).

**Yves Jardin,**

*[Breton Democratic Union spokesperson for International Affairs.]*



**Kampagn skoazell Diwan  
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.*

*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.*

**HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET, SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRETAGNE**

**THERE'S NO BRITTANY WITHOUT BRETON**

10,000 contributions of 50 Euro will allow 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/>

# Cymru

## Y Steddfod Seisnigaid

Yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol fwyaf Seisnigaid yn y cyfnod modern, ers cyflwyno'r rheol Gymraeg yn nechrau'r ganrif ddiwethaf. Dyna farn y rhai ohonom a fynychodd y Brifwyl yng Nghasnewydd eleni. Saesneg i'w weld ymhobman, weithiau gyda'r Gymraeg, weithiau hebdi. Cymaint o Saesneg â Chymraeg i'w chlywed ar y Maes ac yn y stondinau. Llauer o fusnesau lleol wedi cael lle ar y Maes i werthu bwyd ayb. Pobl nad oedd yn deall y gair 'tê' yn gwerthu tê a choffi ar Faes y Steddfod. Pardon? Pardon?

Fel arfer 'roedd 'na gyfran o'r stondinwyr wedi cyrraedd a chodi pabell heb 'run gair o Gymraeg i'w weld. Y 'Burleigh Academy', Dodrefn gardd 'Staffordshire', 'Miss Bojangles', (Cafwyd gwelliant ar y rhain ar ôl i ni gwyno). A llefydd bwyd a diod - yn arbennig y llefydd gwerthu diod feddwol. Ond yn waeth na'r unieithrwydd Saesneg a gafwyd ar rai stondinau - 'roedd llauer o'r rhain yn ddigon dibwys - oedd y dwyieithrwydd corfforaethol a gafwyd ar y stondinau mawr i gyd. Saesneg wrth ochr y Gymraeg ymhobman. Weithiau y Saesneg yn fwy amlwg na'r Gymraeg. Stondinau Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd. Ilu o gwangos, a'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ddwyieithog i'r manylyn lleiaf. Ac arwyddion a thafenni'r Eisteddfod ei hun hefyd. Y map mor ddwyieithog bod pethau fel 'Theatr', 'Stiwidio', 'Pabell Roc', wedi'u cyfieithu. Fel ymhobman arall yng Nghymru, mae dwyieithrwydd yn ei gwneud yn bosib anwybyddu'r Gymraeg.

Mae'r Steddfod wedi mynd yn fawr. Mae'n costio mwy. Er mwyn cael mwy o bres mae angen mwy o bobl - mwy o Saeson. Felly mae angen Seisnigo a dwyieithio yn ôl yr awdurdodau. Mae Seisnigo'r Eisteddfod yn cydweithio gyda'r Mewnlfriad i amddifadu'r Gymraeg o'r holl diriogaeth yng Nghymru lle mae'n gallu sefyll ar ei phen ei hun.

Ymysg yr holl stondinau mawr corfforaethol dwyieithog yr oedd palas dan y teitl "Byd y Gyfraith / Legal World", yn cymryd lle wyth neu ddeg o stondinau sengl. Yn llawn deunydd gan gwangos a sefydliadau cyfreithiol i gyfiawnhau eu bodolaeth. 'Doedd dim llauer o bobl yn ymweld â'r lle - pethau cyfreithiol ddim yn apelio llauer i bobl ar eu gwyliau. Pwy wyr faint a gostiai? Arian cyhoeddus oedd yn ei ariannu. Gyda'i ddwyieithrwydd 'roedd yn cyfrannu at danseilio Cymreictod yr Wyl.

Gyda'i faint 'roedd yn cyfrannu at gost yr Wyl a'r angen i ddenu mwy o bobl di-Gymraeg os am dalu'r gost. Dyna un esiampl.

Yn y gorffennol disgrifwyd Maes yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol fel prifddinas y Gymru Gymraeg. Nid eleni. Os ydym am adennill ein gwyl genedlaethol, rhaid torri'r costau, a maint yr Wyl os raid. Neu, bydd rhaid i ni feddwl am ffordd arall o gael lle i'r Gymraeg deyrnasu am wythnos.

Robot ap Tomos

### Summary:

This year's National Eisteddfod was the largest and most Anglicised in living memory. If the festival is to fulfil its original purpose, the authorities must cut down its size, instead of trying to attract more and more non-Welsh speakers to cover its swelling costs.

### 'Seremoni Toriad y Wawr'

18-21 Mehefin 2004

Juratus Owain Gwyl Penwythnos Cenedl Glynŵr

Prif Ddinas Owain IV, Machynlleth

**Y Lleoliad:** Craig Rhyddid - Craig Coroni Owain IV 1404-2004, Penrallt.

Mae'r graig yn edrych dros dref Machynlleth a thu ôl i Senedd-dy Owain Glynŵr.

Adroddwyd y gerdd isod gan Dewi Prysor tra'n croesawu toriad y wawr ar ddydd Hir-haf sef 'Dydd y Senedd' ar 21 Mehefin 2004.

### Y Penblwydd

Pryd mae dy benblwydd, fy mawnog ddi-ddarfod.

Ti sydd â'r glaw a'r haul yn dy bru?

Pan gerddodd y gwynt dros ruddiau Arianrhod

Y'm ganwyd, o'r ddrycin i'r erwau hy.

Pryd mae dy benblwydd, fy mynydd o gaerau.

Ti sy'n gadernid uwch corsydd y ffin?

Pan drodd yr eryrod yn adar gaeafau,

O bair y byd arall dychwelais i'r drin.

Pryd mae dy benblwydd, ddiodefwraig anrheithiau,

Ti sydd â'r waywffon gam yn dy gefn?

Pan wylodd fy ngwaed i Edwy dan lafnau

Y brad, o'r dyfroedd fe'm ganwyd drachefn.

Pryd mae dy benblwydd, farwres fawrgan,  
Ti roddodd Sele yng ngheubren y gau?  
Pan gododd fy llusern dros ael darogan  
Fe'm denwyd o'r gwyll i'r bore brau.

Yr wyf yn yr awel a'r rhaeadr melyn,  
Y dderwen, yr eog a'r hedydd gwyn;  
Y mae fy mhenblwydd bob eiliad o'r  
flwyddyn;  
Â phob curiad o'th galon, cofia hyn.  
Dewi Prysor

(The above poem was recited at Craig Rhyddid ('Rock of Freedom'), Machynlleth, at dawn on Midsummer's Day 2004, on the occasion of the 600th anniversary commemoration of Owain Glynŵr's parliament)

Robot Ap Tomos

## QUANGO ATTACKS ABERYSTWYTH ABOUT LANGUAGE SCHEME

The launch of the language scheme for University of Wales College at Aberystwyth was cancelled after criticism from the government's language quango, the Welsh Language Board. Rhodri Williams, chief executive of the Language Quango launched his attack before the proposed launch of the college's scheme, criticizing the college for taking nearly five years to set up the scheme.

Williams was called in to meet the university's vice-chancellor, Derec Llwyd Morgan, his successor Professor Noel Lloyd, and Elystan Morgan, the university's president, who asked him to take back comments made in a press release or there would not be a launch. He refused so the launch was cancelled. Taking a surprisingly strong line, Williams said he was concerned at the college's 'unwillingness' to accept responsibility for the language. The Welsh Language Board began its initial consultation with Aberystwyth College nearly five years ago on May 6 1999. "I am deeply troubled that this process has taken so long to implement", he said.

The university college at Aberystwyth was set up in the 19th century to provide education for Welsh people, but during the last century it was gradually taken over by the English and now functions as little more than an ordinary English university where the small Welsh-speaking minority of students is marginalized.

Robot ap Tomos

# Owain Glyndŵr 600th

## Parliament House, Dolgellau

The present building known as the 'Parliament House' situated in Dolgellau town centre has no connection with Owain Glyndŵr other than the fact that the present property was built in the 19th century on the site of an earlier medieval building where Owain Glyndŵr held a Conference on 10 May 1404. This conference was held chiefly to formulate a treaty with France eventually agreed to

in Paris on 14 July 1404. The 600th anniversary event of this most significant occasion in Welsh history was recently commemorated in Dolgellau with celebrations organised by the town council. At this event a plaque was unveiled on the present property known as the 'Parliament House' to mark the stated 600th anniversary. The reputed original building thought to have housed the parliament of 1404 was removed to Newtown in the 19th century where it exists to this day as a meeting house and the present property was built in its place as an ironmonger's store..

It is thus the site which is of particular importance in relation to Owain Glyndŵr history although, the present property is a Grade II listed building and is now up for sale and offers are sought in the region of £370,000, Embassy Glyndŵr believes that, given the above facts, it is perfectly reasonable to propose that the National Assembly of Wales buy this property on behalf of the Nation and make of it a gift to the people of Dolgellau. We feel it to be incumbent upon the Assembly to do so with regards to the fact that so far in this important 'Hanes Glyndŵr' anniversary year they have not supported or contributed to the commemorative and celebratory programme..

Embassy Glyndŵr in pursuance of its 'Tarian Glyndŵr' heritage sites defence campaign calls upon all 'Pobl Glyndŵr' at home and abroad to rise to the occasion and support our above call to the National Assembly of Wales. They may do this by writing to First Minister Rhodri Morgan, other relevant ministers, and of course the Assembly's presiding officer Mr Dafydd Ellis Thomas who is the AC for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy in which Dolgellau is located. We also request 'Pobl Glyndŵr' to write to their MEPs, MPs and ACs as well as to the National Media and whomever else they may deem as useful in possibly offering support to this call.

Further, Embassy Glyndŵr, if above call be successful, thence in furtherance of its 'Tai Glyndŵr initiative' would propose that Dolgellau Town Council, with the support of Gwynedd Council, seek funding to enable the

property to be developed as an 'Academi Treftadaeth Cymunedol' (See e.g. Antur Tai Glyndŵr paper), but that, in this particular instance, such a proposed Academi would incorporate the appropriate the additional purpose and function of recognition of its historical associations - in so much that it become a centre through which Wales shares its heritage with the world and vice versa - possibly via related educational schemes of



*Owain Glyndŵr's Coronation*

on exchange schemes with young people from other countries. We thus see this Dolgellau Academi as having a significant role in helping to found a 'Welsh International Youth Voluntary Service' that would go out into the world to enlighten on Wales and our heritage and at the same time advance international understanding and cooperation.

Surely, such an initiative and concept would win almost universal support - and not only from Wales but also from Welsh exiles who I am sure would readily financially support such a venture. All those wishing to support this call by Embassy Glyndŵr are requested to do so in great haste and to then inform Embassy Glyndŵr as to what actions they have taken and of any results as a consequence of such actions.

Yn Ffyddlon.  
Siân Ifan  
C.E.O. Juratus Oweyn

## 'Tai Glyndŵr - Antur Academiâu Treftadaeth Cymunedol - Young Glyndŵr Ambassadors for Wales Scheme'

A contribution to 'Coffâd 1404. 'Blwyddyn Goffâu Coroni Tywysog Owain IV - 2004'

Gruffydd Young, the illegitimate son of Morgan ab Iorwerth of Chirkland, for a short time along with his sons Iorwerth Fychan and Jankyn and their sons, fought for Prince Owain Glyndŵr. Gruffydd was a Dominican Oxford trained cleric, whose career prior to the start of the last Great War of Welsh Independence 1400-16-22, had already been rewarded and thus had little to complain about. However, in 1404 Gruffydd Young threw in his lot with Prince Owain and became his 'Chancellor' and Chief Ambassador.

Although Gruffydd was Arch-Deacon of Meirionnydd and, from 1407, became Bishop of Bangor, it is as Prince Owain IV's Ambassador-in-Chief that we best know Gruffydd Young. There were other Ambassadors serving Prince Owain IV's cause such as John Hanmer who, with Gruffydd Young, visited France in 1404 to negotiate the 'Cambro-Franco Alliance'. This treaty of alliance with France was formulated at the historically important 'Conference' held by Prince Owain at Dolgellau on 10 May 1404 and was agreed to by the French in Paris, on 14 July 1404. A letter exists which tells us

then that the treaty was further ratified by the Welsh at Aberystwyth in January of 1405. Gruffydd Young was also to be leading architect of the policies outlined in the 'Pennal Letter' of 1406 and, as Prince Owain IV's Ambassador-in-Chief, he once more journeyed to Paris to treat with the French on these policies.

Further Ambassadors of Prince Owain IV were Maurice Kerry and Hugh or Hywel Eddouyer who were roving Ambassadors to France, Ireland, and Scotland inclusive of the outer Isles of Scotland. Bishop Trefor of Bangor also acted as one of Prince Owain's Ambassadors and visited France twice on diplomatic missions to raise support for the Welsh cause. Trefor was to die and be buried in Paris about 1410 whilst Gruffydd Young is reported as still serving Prince Owain IV's cause after 1416 and is reported to have ended his days in exile as Bishop of Ross in Scotland at around 1418, finally dying around 1436.

G. Gruffydd

Embassy Glyndŵr Researcher

L.L.YSGENHADAETH GLYNDŴR (029 2030) 7018  
e-mail: glyndwrembassy@aol.com  
www.embassy-glyndwr.co.uk



# DENIS COSLETT

## 1939-2004

Welsh Republican, Free Wales Army Commandant. Political activist; born Carmarthen 12 September 1939; married Averil Webb (one daughter and two sons deceased); died Llanelli, Carmarthenshire 20 May 2004.

In Wales during the troubled decade of the 1960's, men and women attempted to turn the dream of freedom into reality. For the first time since the days of Owain Glyndwr, armed Welshmen stood beneath the ancient flag of their forefathers and challenged English rule.

Despite united opposition in Wales to the flooding of the Tryweryn Valley in Meirionydd in 1965, Liverpool Corporation was nevertheless able to turn it into a reservoir, with the loss of a Welsh-speaking community called Capel Celyn. If Welsh anger at the flooding had been the stone to start the threat of an avalanche of militant nationalism, then the bombing of the Clywedog Valley in response to attempts by 13 English local authorities to turn it into a reservoir acted as the boulder which sent the whole mass crashing down the mountains. All over Wales, groups of young men formed into columns of the Free Wales Army. One particular recruit who was to become a commandant was Denis Coslett.

Coslett was born in Carmarthen in 1939. Short, dark-haired, lean, and hard-bodied, he seemed the archetypal Welshman. He had considerable reserves of nervous energy and his speech, in both Welsh and English, was fluent and excitable. His reasons for joining the FWA were expressed simply: "The future of the Welsh language and nation looked bleak, and I believe that the FWA was born from a love of our language and our country." Coslett was of the opinion that an independent Wales would never be won by constitutional means alone because the only language understood by the British State was one backed up by violence. "Force is to diplomacy what bullion is to banknotes", he said, quoting John Jenkins, a sergeant in the British army who was subsequently sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for his part in carrying out explosions in the name of Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru ("Movement for the Defence of Wales").

Having been conscripted at the age of 18, Coslett did his military service as an infantryman with the Royal Welch Fusiliers and later sailed the world as a merchant seaman. Returning to Wales, he worked as a shot-firer in the small private mines that proliferated in the anthracite coalfield of west Wales after nationalisation of the industry in 1947. It was an accident underground that had cost him the sight in his left eye.

In 1966, Sinn Féin sent the Free Wales Army an invitation to attend its parade in Dublin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. In response, a contingent of 80 uniformed FWA men marched behind Coslett who carried the Red Dragon Flag.

Coslett and the Free Wales Army offered their services to the stricken villagers of Aberfan near Merthyr Tydfil where, in October 1966, a coal tip slid into the valley, killing 116 schoolchildren. The relatives of the deceased were only given financial assistance after the FWA intervened on their behalf. The gratitude of the Parents Association towards the FWA was tangibly expressed when Coslett was presented with an engraved gold watch. He considered the watch to be his most treasured possession.

The leader of the Free Wales Army was a charismatic young man named Julian Cayo Evans, a breeder of Palomino horses and an accomplished accordionist who had a flair for publicity.

The FWA's military campaign was to eventually result in the arrests of several of its members in dawn raids. They were roughly handled by the police and brought to trial at Swansea. Some of them were sentenced at the end of a 53-day trial, which culminated (too neatly to be a coincidence, some observers thought) on the very day of the investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon on 1 July 1969. Denis Coslett was among the nine men charged under the Public Order Act with a variety of offences that included membership of a paramilitary organization and the handling of firearms and explosives. One was dismissed, two were found not guilty and six sentenced to terms of imprisonment, with three sentences suspended. Commandants' Cayo Evans and Coslett were each given 15 months.

In Coslett's speech from the dock, which he delivered in Welsh before sentence was passed, he reminded the judge, Mr Justice Thompson, that he had learned violence in the British army, ending with a typical flourish: "I sought to serve Wales and now I am prepared to suffer for Wales. I am ready for your sentence. Free Wales!" The veteran nationalist Saunders Lewis, who had served in the First World War and was no pacifist, regarded the FWA as soldiers fighting for Wales and made a point of attending their trial, while many others showed sympathy for the accused men.

Having set his face against the constitutional approach of Plaid Cymru, Coslett was to remain outside mainstream politics for the rest of his days. His last years were spent in practicing the martial arts at which he was adept and writing Rebel Heart



*Denis Coslett, RIP*

(2000) and Patriots and Scoundrels (2004), in which he collected his poems and speeches and gave his own defiant account of the turbulent events in which he had played a part.

Stephen Coyle



## Cymru Rydd

On 19 June 2004 in Aberystwyth, *Cymru Rydd*, a Welsh Republican party was established. The new party incorporated the membership of Cymru Annibynnol / Independent Wales Party as well as signing on new members to the Welsh Republican cause.

Some Plaid Cymru members voiced their concern over what they see as a rival on the national political stage. Cymru Rydd's organiser, Steve Curry, clarified the situation when he said, "A growing number of patriots have become dissatisfied with Plaid Cymru's murky constitutional aims, apologetic and compromising approach, and the willingness of its elected members to swear allegiance to the Anglo-British Crown. Cymru Rydd is a natural home for those who want a genuinely democratic and self-governing Welsh Republic. What we offer is straightforward - power back to our people, the Welsh Nation."

The constitutional Aims of the party are:  
1) To democratise power in Wales; and  
2) To secure independence for Wales as a Republic.

Cymru Rydd intends to deliver the message that Wales' continued powerlessness and subsequent social and economic deprivation at the hands of the British State can be overcome when enough people demand change. It happened in the former Soviet Union. It can happen in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Simon Gruffydd Foster  
Cadeirydd, Cymru Rydd  
[www.freewales.info](http://www.freewales.info)

# CYMUNED ADOPT NEW STRATEGY



At their annual conference held in Porthmadog on the 10th July, Cymuned, the organisation formed to oppose the colonisation of the Welsh-speaking areas of Wales by non-Welsh speakers, adopted a new strategy for the year ahead, following a year in which the issue had had less public attention than in the previous two years even though the problem remains as serious as ever.

The basis of the strategy is a return to the old idea of recognition of some parts of Wales as Welsh-speaking areas known as the 'Bro Gymraeg', to be a focus for the action needed to preserve what remains of the native Welsh-speaking communities without affecting the role of Welsh in the whole of Wales - similar to the Gaeltacht in Ireland. The new strategy comprises four points:-

## 1. To establish and popularize the principle of a 'Bro Gymraeg' with its communities:

- its value in itself and its importance to the continuance of the language in Wales in general, contrasting this with the current idea of a 'bilingual Wales' with English dominant everywhere and Welsh semi-dead;

- a demarcation of its extent as a region of Wales, which will include some very Anglicised communities within it, with borders and legal status as 'a part of the traditional territory of an indigenous nation where the native language remains alive in the community but is under threat from colonisation, assimilation, and emigration';

- spreading awareness of the Bro Gymraeg's existence through 'Croeso/Welcme' signs on the borders, leaflets for visitors, perhaps a flag or visible symbol, etc.;

- emphasis that the Bro's existence is an advantage to the rest of Wales;

## 2. To establish the principle that it is immoral and colonial-racist to undermine or oppose the Bro Gymraeg, and to support and safeguard it is moral, anti-colonial, and anti-racist

- popularize the concept of indirect or colonial racism;

- form links with groups in other countries to illustrate the immorality of colonialism;

- form links with other anti-colonial and anti-racist organizations;

- draw attention to colonialists i.e. those who support colonising and are hostile to the existence of the Bro Gymraeg;

## 3. To draw up 'top-down' policies to safeguard and revitalise the Bro Gymraeg, win support for them, and put pressure on the governments (Cardiff and London) to act on them

## 4. To influence the situation directly on local and national levels ('bottom-up')

It is necessary to effect 1 and 2 in order to make progress on 3 and 4.

Where is the Bro Gymraeg? Although Welsh-speaking Wales has been severely diluted over recent decades, the percentages of speakers by community from the 2001 Census still show marked regional variation. An initial proposal puts forward an area comprising a) communities where at least 80% of the inhabitants native to Wales can speak Welsh, and at least 50% of the whole population (the "fïor-Ghaeltacht") and b) communities where at least 50% of those native to Wales and at least 33% of the whole population speak Welsh. Places in a) can definitely be called Welsh-speaking, but recent colonisation has made such areas a series of scattered clusters than a solid area. By including places in b) we have a solid area running the length of west Wales. This then is the 'Bro Gymraeg'. The figures show that the language in b) has already been seriously eroded, but generally the Welsh-speaking community in these places still exists. Further research can improve the location of the border. There may be places where the figure has fallen below 33% but natural Welsh is still alive in a sector of the community e.g. the farmers.

The idea of a 'Bro Gymraeg' was used by the Adfer movement in the '70s and '80s. The amount of condemnation of this organisation by Plaid and Cymdeithas since then has been unwarranted, but Adfer did not succeed in popularizing their campaign and caused offence by seeming to disregard the role of Welsh-speakers outside the Bro Gymraeg. It is important for Cymuned to show that recognition of a special Welsh-speaking zone is an advantage to speakers and supporters throughout Wales, in the same way as the Gaeltacht is in Ireland.

The adoption of the concept of colonial racism is a response to the misuse of the term 'racist' by the opponents of Cymuned, particularly the Labour Party, to score political points. Within the English-language

media, Labour have succeeded in gaining the moral high ground in this way, but through links with other groups and controlled use of the above term, the anti-colonial message can be put across.

Robot ap Tomos

## Boost for Plaid Cymru campaign for Welsh to be official EU language

Plaid Cymru's campaign for Welsh to become an official EU language received a boost in June with Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's declaration before the European Parliament that his government wants to see Irish achieve official EU status.

This would mean Irish becoming a working language of the European Institutions with interpretation provided so that Ministers or MEPs could use Irish in meetings. Citizens would also be able to correspond with European Institutions in Irish.

Plaid Cymru Deputy Leader Jill Evans MEP welcomed the move:

"I strongly support the position of the Irish government on this issue. It is only fair that European citizens should be able to correspond with the European institutions in their native language and that politicians should be able to hold



Jill Evans MEP

negotiations in their own languages too. "I believe that the case for Welsh to become an official EU language can only be strengthened by today's announcement. If Irish also gains official status then it is only right for Welsh to be afforded the same recognition.

"Anything less would be a major snub to Wales's standing in Europe. I look forward to the day when I will be allowed to address Parliament in Welsh and when those who choose to do so will be able to correspond with the European institutions in Welsh also."

## PLAID CYMRU LONDON CHALLENGE ROYAL MAIL TO DO BETTER!

Four years of campaigning by Plaid Cymru's London Branch for a stamp to commemorate Owain Glyndŵr's achievements reached a new stage on 16 June when about twenty people demonstrated their support outside the Royal Mail's Beauty of Wales stamp launch in London. The branch presented a giant postcard to Gareth Davies, Royal Mail Director for Wales, just before the event. On it was a challenge to the Royal Mail to produce a stamp for Glyndŵr Day in September to commemorate Owain Glyndŵr's enthronement as the Prince of Wales at the Machynlleth Parliament.

Huw Jackson, Secretary of London Branch said "This is a challenge to make amends for the false promises the Royal Mail has been guilty of over the past four years. Last October, Gareth Davies said that he was "confident that Owain Glyndŵr enthusiasts will be pleased with the scenes shown and view the stamps as a fitting commemoration of this great man." They are trying to fob us off again. There is plenty of time to produce and distribute an appropriate design. We did a design in half an hour. They can surely do better. After all, they produced a set of



*Gareth Davies accepting the Card from Isabel Monnington Taylor outside the London launch for the Beauty of Wales stamp. The card bears the branch's design for a stamp.*

stamps within weeks for the English Rugby World Cup victory".

He added, "This is not just about a stamp. It is about the status of Wales in the UK and the status of our national history in Welsh schools. One of the Royal Mail's criteria for

stamp selections reads as follows: "Explore the British way of life celebrating the diversity of cultures and interests within the UK". They have ignored Wales in the past and they have snubbed Wales again on this occasion."

## Wales Today - Cymru Fydd?

Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales, have released their economic vision for a future independent Wales. 'Wales Can Work - Small Country Success in the New Global Economy' was written by American economist Jennifer Erickson and commissioned by Jill Evans MEP of the Party.

The report contrasts Wales' economic growth with the other small nations of Europe and argues that if the Welsh economy had grown at the same rate as the UK since 1972, each person in Wales would be £1000 richer and £4000 richer if the economy had grown at the same rate as the 15 member states of pre-enlargement EU. If the Welsh economy had grown at the same rate as independent Ireland's economy however, each person in Wales would be a staggering £19000 richer.

In criticism of the findings, Labour MP Kevin Brennan, commented that unlike Wales, "Ireland" for instance, "didn't carry a huge legacy of problems arising from heavy industry, and it should not be forgotten that Ireland was independent for 60 or 70 years before its economy boomed, partly thanks to good policies and partly thanks to changes in the world economy."

Nevertheless, the report does raise some pertinent questions such as why does Wales

economic performance lag behind that of other small European nations, why is independence good for other EU nations (six of which are actually smaller than Wales) and not for Wales and why do average Welsh earnings lag £3000 behind the UK average.

Adam Price, Plaid's parliamentary economics spokesperson said that "The next stage Plaid are planning a series of road shows across Wales, in a campaign called 'Wales Tomorrow/Cymru Fydd', to promote the economic benefits of independence."

## Treachery in Ceredigion:

The referendum in May for an elected mayor for Ceredigion was lost heavily after Plaid Cymru joined the unionist parties in campaigning against the establishment of the post. This left the Cymuned activists who had called the referendum, in the hope of an elected mayor being able to overturn the council's plan to build 6500+ new houses, virtually alone. It seems that fear of the effect on their English-speaking vote of being seen to side with Cymuned was behind the treacherous change of sides by Plaid in Ceredigion. They had hoped to win control of Ceredigion council in the elections in June but fell just short, probably through having

alienated many nationalists, and the same unionist grouping remains in control. They can now continue encouraging more colonisation and strengthen their own electoral position in the process.

## Plaid lose valley councils:

In the June council elections Plaid Cymru lost control of the two councils they controlled in the south Wales valleys, Caerffili and Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Labour party had poured enormous resources into regaining these two areas in their heartland which they had lost to Plaid in 1999, and Plaid could not compete financially in spite of having run RCT council very efficiently after the previous corrupt Labour administration had run up millions of pounds of debt.

Plaid's opposition to New Labour's war in Iraq paid off with the gaining of two seats from Labour in Cardiff's largely "ethnic" district of Glanrafon, where one of Plaid's new councillors, Mohammed-Sarul Islam, is a Muslim originally from Bangladesh. Muslim Plaid Cymru councillors were also elected to Newport and Conwy councils.

Robat ap Tomos

# Éire

## An Ghaelg, Ábhar Dóchaís

Iarradh orm caint ghairid a thabhairt ar an nGaelg nó an Mhanainnis ag ócáid a d'eagraigh Craobh na hÉireann den Chomhdháil Cheilteach cúpla mí ó shin.

Tá gaol gairid ar ndóigh idir an Ghaeilge agus Gaelg Mhanann. Tuigeann lucht na Gaeilge an gaol le Gàidhlig na hAlban, ach is beag eolas atá acu ar an nGaelg. Ní chabhráíonn an córas ortagrafach atá ag na Manannaigh chun a dteanga dhúchais a scríobh leis an tuiscint. Chomh luath is a fheiceann Gaeil na hÉireann an Ghaelg scríofa síleann siad cuma aduain choimhthíoch a bheith uirthi. Is gá mar sin go gcoisfí an teanga agus í a labhairt.

Séard a rinne mé ar an ócáid seo ná liosta seanfhocal ó Mhanainn a chur le chéile agus iad a úsáid mar léiriú ar an teanga agus ar mheabhair agus intleacht na Manannach. Bíonn saibhreas smaointe agus tuiscint ar an saol agus ar bhuanna agus laigí an duine sna seanfhocail. Léiríonn siad cuid de dhearcadh an phobail áirithe sin ar an saol agus déantar é sin trí thagairtí a dhéanamh do nithe ina saol atá coitianta go leor.

Is iomaí tagairt don scadán, mar shampla, sna seanfhocail Mhanannacha. Bhí áit an-tábhachtach ag an scadán i saol na ndaoine ar an oileán san am atá caite.

*Ny veggan as ny veggan, d'ee yn kayt yn skeddan.* Bheadh deacracht ag an Éireannach ciall a bhaint as an bhfocal scríofa sin, ach ní bheadh mórán dua ag baint leis an gcaint a thuiscint. Déarfadh an tÉireannach é ar an mbealach seo: 'beagán ar bheagán, d'íth an cat an scadán'.

Is ionann *gyn skeddan gyn banish* agus: gan scadán gan bainis. Tá léiriú ansin ar thábhacht an scadáin i saol eacnamaíochta an phobail Mhanannaigh san am atá thart.

Tá a leagan féin acu ar bringing coals to Newcastle. *Cur lesh skeddan gys Purt ny h-Inshey.* Ba é, agus is é fós, *Purt ny h-Inshey (Peel)* lárionad na hÍascaireachta agus tionscal na scadán gan trácht ar *yn skeddan jtag*—an scadán dearg, an scadán leasaithe againn féin. Tá íoróin Ghaelach ag baint le rá go bhfuil duine nó gníomh *cha jeeragh as crane drommey yn skeddan*—'chomh díreach agus cnámh droma an scadáin'.

Tá críonnacht agus eagna na muintire sna seanfhocail agus is minic a chuireann siad fainic orainn mar dhaoine. Bíonn stuaim agus gaois na nglúin i bhfad siar iontu.

*Cha nee eshyn ta red beg ehey ta boght, agh eshyn ta gearree ny smoo.* 'Chan é eisean a bhfuil rud beag aige tá bocht, ach eisean tá ag iarraidh níos mó'. Abair é, le

pobal an domhain thiar sa lá atá inniu ann!

Bhí cainteoirí eile agus ceoltóirí ag an gcruinniú áirithe sin i mBaile Átha Cliath agus thug gach duine acu a léiriú féin ar chultúr Mhanann. Ullmhú a bhí ann don Chomhdháil Idirnáisiúnta a tionóladh i bPurt Ćhiarn, Manainn, faoi Cháise.

Fad agus bhí mé ansin tháinig mé ar leabhar nua-fhoilsithe a dhéanann cur síos ar chuid de na míonteargacha atá i mbaol. Is é Mark Abley údar an leabhair seo agus tá caibidil ar leith aige ar an nGaelg. "An teanga a léim as an uaigh" a ghlaonn sé uirthi, agus is soiléir óna bhfuil scríofa aige gur chaith sé tamall ar an oileán agus go ndearna sé grinnstaidéar ar staid na teanga ansin.



*Ned Maddrell, last native Manx Speaker*

Shíl daoine gur cuireadh san uaigh í leis an gcainteoir dúchais deireanach, Ned Maddrell, i 1974. Ach tá leanaí á dtógáil le Gaelg anois, tá naionraí Gaelacha ann agus bunseoil Ghaelach amháin. Tá sí á craoladh go rialta ar an raidió. Is díol mór spéise an dul chun cinn atá déanta, a bhfuochas sin do dhaoine dúthrachtacha atá ag saothrú ar son na cúise.

Tá ardmheas tuillte ag na daoine seo, dream nach raibh sásta ligean d'oidhreacht luachmhar a dtíre bás a fháil. Tá cuid acu ar shlí na fírinne anois ach d'fhág siad mórán le huacht. Tá dream díograiseach, daoine óga ina measc, ag saothrú leo i gcónaí agus tá toradh a gcuid oibre le feiceáil agus le mothú.

Admhaíonn Mark Abley go bhfuil gnóthaí móra ar bun i Manainn. Táim féin ag faire ar a bhfuil ar siúl in athbheochan na teanga ó 1990 i leith. Is geall le saotharlann teanga an

tír anois, dar liom féin.

Má éiríonn leis na Manannaigh an dul chun cinn atá déanta acu le deich mbliana anuas a choinneáil ar siúl go ceann deich mbliana eile, beidh sé go hiontach. Má éiríonn leo, má bhíonn meánseoil Ghaelach acu, mar shampla, faoin mbliain 2014 beidh scoláirí, taighdeoirí, eolaithe teanga agus teangeolaíochta ag triall ar an oileán ó cheithre hairde an domhain ag déanamh staidéir ar an éacht Manannach. Siúráilte!

Seán Ó Brádaigh

*This article is based on a talk on Manx given by the author to the Irish branch of the Celtic Congress. Using proverbs he indicates for Irish speakers (for whom Manx orthography may seem strange) how similar to Irish Manx speech sounds. He concludes by outlining the very considerable progress made by the Manx language in the last two decades.*

## NO PROGRESS IN NORTH TALKS

After a lot of media hype prior to their commencement and suggestions that this was the final chance the talks held in Leeds Castle in Kent under the auspices of the Irish and British governments in mid September failed to deliver any real progress towards restoration of the Local Assembly in the North. While Republicans it seems had guaranteed that issues relating to the IRA and decommissioning could be resolved by year end the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the leading Unionist Party since the last elections, were not prepared to accept such assurances.

More importantly they called for fundamental aspects of the Good Friday agreement to be renegotiated. They want ministerial accountability to the Assembly (the thin end of the wedge towards return to majority rule), a change in the system of electing First and Deputy First Ministers and tighter control of cross border bodies. All these demands are anathema to nationalists and republicans alike and this had been made quite clear in statements prior to the talks.

There was no direct contact between the DUP and Sinn Féin with Irish and British negotiators acting as go betweens – hardly a good model for progress. At the end of the talks Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and British Premier Blair concluded that it was up to the parties to continue consultations to see if they can agree on power sharing institutions. Further talks at Stormont the following week led to an acrimonious end with the SDLP stating there was no movement on anything of any significance and accusing the DUP of 'waiting for the British Government to try to cut them a better deal'. It seems unlikely now that any progress will occur until after the British general election next year.

# Victory for Stádas – but will EU grant recognition to Irish?

It is always good to be able to report on a significant victory for those who campaign for the cause of any Celtic language and of course for one's own language in particular. The campaign to get the Irish government to ask the EU to grant full working status to Irish has been reported on in Carn 125 and 126. A very well run campaign was organised under the umbrella group Stádas, led by Dr. Pádraig Ó Laighin, which was very actively supported by Conradh na Gaeilge. In addition to organising many successful demonstrations it effectively canvassed all political parties and achieved their support and organised an on line petition which gathered 80,000 signatures. The campaign culminated in a large (5,000 plus) national demonstration in Dublin last April at which the extent of support from all sides was evident. The response of the Government was to set up an interdepartmental body (but granting representation to Stádas) which would make a recommendation to Government.

In early July the Minister for Community and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht, Éamon Ó Cuív, announced on behalf of the Irish Government that it was starting the process of discussion with other member States and the EU commission to achieve official working language status for Irish. This would be done under EU Regulation 1/1958 which is the legal instrument dealing with the system of working languages of the EU. It was stated these discussions would be directed at practical modalities to achieve the aim.



One of the many demonstrations organised by Stádas in its campaign –  
*Bíodh Gaeilge in Teanga Oifigiúil den AE (Let Irish be an EU Working Language).*

The process is initiated by the Irish permanent representatives in Brussels who will have direct discussions with other member states on the issue and supply any additional information needed. The EU Commission will also be approached on the implications. When agreement is forthcoming from all member states a motion is prepared by the Commission for the Council of Ministers from whom final approval is required.

Pádraig Ó Laighin hailed the decision as victory for all. Achievement of EU working language status would end the discrimination

faced by Irish speakers in EU employment and it would give the Irish EU MEPs to right to use Irish in the EU parliament. EU regulations would have to be issued in Irish also which would facilitate publishing them in Irish here. Above all it would give courage to the Irish language community.

While this is indeed a great victory it is not guaranteed that agreement will be forthcoming from all EU member states particularly some such as France and Spain. The position of Irish as an official language

of the Irish State may be seen as different however some disturbing comments have come from Spain. Some Spanish commentators and politicians fear that if EU working language status is granted to Irish it would fuel demands by Catalonia and the Basque country for greater recognition of their languages within the EU. Undoubtedly such internal considerations may come into play in some countries, let us hope they do not undermine the very clear case for Irish and that EU working status will be granted.

CÓL

## 'Who Needs Irish?' Reflections on the Importance of the Irish Language in Modern Ireland



Ciarán Mac Murchaidh (Editor)

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About the Editor: Ciarán Mac Murchaidh lectures in the Roinn na Gaeilge/Department of Irish, Coláiste Phádraig/St Patrick's College, Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin City University. He was a joint editor of « Teanga, pobal agus réigiún: aistí ar chultúr na Gaeltachta inniu » (Language, Community and Region: Essays on Modern Gaeltacht Culture) (Coisceim, 2000) and is the author of « Cruinnscríobh na Gaeilge » (A grammar of Irish language for third-level students) (Cois Life, 2002).

### Book Description

« Who Needs Irish? » is an important collection of thirteen essays in English for all those interested in the Irish-language debate today. The authors debate on the position, importance, relevance and prospects of Ireland's greatest treasure. Why does the Irish language evoke such a range of feelings in people? Why does the debate come across as being so polarised? « Who Needs Irish? » tries to answer these questions and more. The question in itself will immediately divide people into two camps. Still, the question needs to be asked and we may thank the book's editor, Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, and his publisher, Veritas, that we now have a collection of essays in English which will

(Continued on page 15)

In mid September a loyalist from the Shankill, Ken Barrett, was convicted of the murder of Belfast solicitor, Pat Finucane, in 1989, and the wounding of his wife. Pat Finucane was shot in front of his family at their evening meal and Barrett had stated that the only reason he did not kill Mrs Finucane was that he thought to do so would have generated bad publicity for the UDA. A judicial enquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane has been called for by many bodies, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Amnesty International, British Irish Rights Watch, Human Rights First and Sinn Féin and the SDLP. In 2001 British Premier Blair agreed to accept the decision on a public inquiry of retired Canadian Judge, Peter Cory, appointed by the Irish and British governments to examine six killings in which security forces collusion was alleged. Cory's report, delivered last October, recommended five inquiries including one into the Finucane case.

The British Government balked at the Finucane recommendation suggesting an inquiry might compromise criminal proceedings. However, after these convictions there are no proceedings pending. Over the years the links between British Intelligence and Loyalist murder gangs have been gradually exposed and there are strong suspicions that Finucane was targeted by the intelligence services due to his representation of many charged with offences relating to the war in the North. Barrett was convicted as a result of a sting operation mounted on foot of the Stevens Inquiry into collusion allegations in the North. He told the BBC *Panorama* TV programme that the killing was organised by the UDA intelligence chief, Brian Nelson, an agent of both MI 5 and the British military intelligence organisation, the Force Reaction Unit (FRU). An inquiry into the Finucane case is unlikely to be limited to his murder alone.

The FRU is believed to have been involved in over a dozen murders of Catholics in Belfast in the 1980s. Nelson, who

# Who Pulled the Strings? Hold an Inquiry Now!



*Sinn Féin protest calling for a public judicial inquiry outside Belfast Crown Court at the sentencing of Ken Barrett, convicted of the murder of Pat Finucane.*

reconnoitred the Finucane home and identified him to Barrett worked under the direction of FRU officer Maggie Walshaw. Nine years after the murder she was awarded a British Empire medal. The FRU head in Belfast in the 1980s, Lt. Colonel Gordon Kerr, is now a Brigadier and military attaché at the British embassy in Beijing. They would have to be called in addition to others to be asked if Finucane had been murdered as a matter of policy and at what level this policy had been sanctioned.

Barret was sentenced to 22 years but is likely to be released within a year under the terms of the early release scheme which followed the Belfast Agreement. Michael Finucane, a son of the murdered man said the sentencing of Barrett had never been a priority for the family and he called at that time on the British government to stop delaying the promised judicial enquiry. The family's priority was not who pulled the

trigger but who pulled the strings?

There are however ominous indications that Britain will seek to protect its establishment. A week after Barrett's conviction Northern Ireland Secretary, Paul Murphy, announced in a statement that an inquiry would be held under new and more restrictive legislation (yet to be introduced) which would allow substantial sections of the inquiry to be held in private. Nor was it stated that it would be headed by a High Court Judge. Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, said such legislation must fulfil the Weston Park commitment of Judge Corry.

The statement provoked a hostile reaction from nationalist representatives, Human Rights bodies and the Finucane family. Michael Finucane said the proposal sounded more like a 'government investigation' to him than the independent judicial inquiry his family had sought for the last 15 years.

## 'Who Needs Irish?' (continued)

provide an entrance into the Irish language for a general audience as the language debate is usually an ongoing issue within the Irish-language media but that makes only a sporadic appearance in the English-language media. Ciarán Mac Murchaí ends his excellent preface with the following statement: "Come to this book with an open mind and allow the voices speak to your heart as well as to your head. Even lovers of the language do not always agree about what is best for it, but one thing that cannot be questioned is the belief that all these writers share: that there is an intrinsic worth in preserving the Irish language for ourselves, for our children and for the generations still to come and that is the greatest challenge of all."

As Liam Ó Lonergain has stated in *The Irish Catholic* on 15 April 2004, it is «...an invitation all the more relevant and poignant at this time in our history when as a people only eighty years into partial independence we

have never been more rich and never more adrift...».

The thirteen contributors, well chosen by the editor, with their implication and experience of working in and for the language make us share their love, joy, enthusiasm but also realism, concerns, and worries for this beautiful language called Gaeilge! The different essays balance from optimism to more pessimistic contributions but at the end they have given us an entertaining reading which fills one with hope that we are not after all assisting at the funeral of a minority language. This book may help by bringing Irish people to a greater realisation of the treasure which they too often deny. I highly recommend this book so fascinating that I have myself read it in a day and a half!

« Who needs Irish? » the answer is simple: Ireland, the Irish people and the whole world need this invaluable treasure, this divine gift given to the Irish people!

José CALVETE.

## Ireland Second Most Expensive in Eurozone

The *National Competitiveness Council's Statement on Prices and Costs*, published in September, found that in the four years to May 2004 the average price of Irish goods and services rose by 22% above the EU average. Only Finland was more expensive. Consumer price inflation in Ireland exceeded that both in the Eurozone and the EU 15 for the past seven years, rising by 17.5% from Dec.1999 to Dec, 2003 as against an EU 15 average of 8.4% over the same period. Restaurants and Pubs were said to be the biggest contributors accounting for 25% of total inflation in the five years to Jan. 2004.

# Sinn Féin Gains in Local and European Elections

Sinn Féin made significant gains in the Local elections in June in the Republic. The party increased its first preference votes to 8% as against 3.5% in the 1999 elections and also improved considerably its performance in transferring votes. The net result was a gain from holding 23 seats on local councils prior to the elections to having 57 after it. The party won representation in some counties where it had none before. It is now the largest party on Monaghan county council and it increased its number on Dublin City Council from 4 to 10.

The major Government party, Fianna Fáil suffered bad losses in the local elections, losing about 20% of its local authority seats, while gains made by the opposition Fine Gael gave it greater credibility as an alternative in Government. Its possible Coalition partner, the Labour Party remained more or less static while gaining a second seat in Europe. The Greens did improve, doubling their seats from 8 to 16, but had expected to do much better.

In the European elections the Sinn Féin party gained two seats, one in the Republic, in the Dublin constituency, and one in the North. Mary Lou MacDonal was the victor in Dublin. This was at the expense of Green MEP, Patricia McKenna, who in her ten years in the European parliament was a consistent fighter for democracy, neutrality and the environment but seems to have neglected her home patch. The Green Party also lost their other European seat in the Leinster constituency, leaving them with no representation now in the European parliament. In the North the Sinn Féin seat was won by Bairbre de Brun, former Local Assembly Minister.

The referendum on citizenship, held at the same time, resulted in an 80% Yes vote in favour of the amendment to the Constitution. The referendum was proposed in order to do away with the automatic right to citizenship of anyone born in Ireland regardless of residency or citizenship of parents. The amendment to the Constitution read:

1. *Notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution, a person born in the island of Ireland which includes its islands and seas, and who does not have at the time of his or her birth, at least one parent who is an Irish citizen or is entitled to be an Irish citizen is not entitled to Irish citizenship or nationality unless otherwise provided for by law.*

2. *This section shall not apply to persons born before the enactment of this section.*

16 Cam



Mary Lou McDonald,  
new Sinn Féin MEP for Dublin

## PEACE AND NEUTRALITY ALLIANCE

### ANTI IRAQ WAR SHANNON AIRPORT DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 13th November

The PANA (Peace and Neutrality Alliance) National Executive has agreed to initiate the organisation of a demonstration at Shannon airport on Saturday 13th of November, to protest against its continuing use in the conquest and occupation of Iraq. We call upon all the affiliated organisations to mobilise their members and supporters. While PANA has individual members the success or failure of a demonstration called by PANA will be down to the willingness of affiliated organisations to mobilise. PANA will of course, seek to mobilise and work with all other antiwar groups. We need to make it clear that whoever wins the US elections, the use of Shannon in this Imperial War should be terminated.

#### EU Constitution

The EU Constitution expands and consolidates the militarization of the EU and therefore, will be opposed by PANA. PANA intends to hold a Seminar on the EU Constitution, this autumn, probably in November. They intend to seek to appoint Constituency Convener throughout the 32 counties, and are now asking affiliated organisations to nominate members who would be willing to act as such in each constituency.

Roger Cole, Chair PANA  
E Mail: [pana@eircom.net](mailto:pana@eircom.net)

# WEALTH GAP HIGHEST IN IRELAND

An ESRI (Economic and Social Research Institute) study published in mid September confirmed that Ireland has the highest level of relative income poverty in Europe, with 21% of the population living on less than 60% of median income in 2001 (Sweden and Denmark were best with 9% and 10% respectively). In 2001 a single person living on less than 150 a week was said to be in relative income poverty.

Moreover relative income poverty has increased in Ireland since 1995 in contrast to most European countries including the UK, Portugal and Greece. The report, *Why is Relative Income Poverty So High in Ireland*, found that differences in age and employment profiles, household composition and single parenthood did not explain much of the variation between member states. Rather the disparity was linked to contrasts in tax and welfare regimes in Ireland and the EU.

## OVERVIEW OF INCOME DEPRIVATION IN CELTIC COUNTRIES NEEDED

The Scottish Executive has been accused of 'gerrymandering' statistics on poverty by a Highlands Councillor.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation which was introduced last June aims to examine income, employment, health, education, geographic access, telecommunications and housing and supply accurate information.

However Highland councillors have expressed concern that the new poverty index introduced fails to reveal the extent of rural poverty in the north and the way the statistics were collected could ultimately lead to resources and development money being concentrated on inner-city areas.

The local government - Scottish Executive 'spat' over poverty statistics is the latest issue which publicises low incomes and the social problems attendant on them in the Celtic countries.

In 2003 the United Nations Human development agency reported grim statistics on poverty in both the United Kingdom and Ireland. Meanwhile, last month a think-tank, the Economic and Social Research Institute of Ireland, found that some 80,000 households in that country were below the poverty line.

Over the past decade a mixed picture of income deprivation in parts of the Celtic countries has become clear. It is obviously past time that an overview on income equality in the Celtic areas was determined and perhaps via the British - Irish Council the various governments might co-operate to that end.

J.B. Moffatt



## Niverans an bobel y'n vlydhen 2011

Ha'n Soedhva Reknans Gwlasek ow tarbari an nessa niverans an bobel. y tegoedh dhe'n re a's teffo hwans omdheskrifa 'kernewek'ynnia war an Soedhva may fo gorrys yn roth kyst arbennek poran rag an gorthyp na. Yn 2001 an unn fordh dhe wul yndella o lenwel an kyst 'arall' ha skrifa an ger 'kernewek' yn ogas.

Ny dhegoedh henna, efan yw. Kynsa, yth esa ow ri savla a le bri dhe'gan ethnegeth ni es dell esa ow ri dhe sowsnek. Nessa, dervynn a wre diwysogneth dhiworth pobel na vynna war neb kor bos owth oberi orth roth an par na. Trysa, yth omsyw na wrug pubonan omgemmeres an poenvos, awos oll mynnes derivas aga gwlasegneth; esya ha skaffa o merkya ken kyst. Lies kernow yw parys dhe omwul 'sows' war nebes troyow (kepar ha peldroes 'Hanaf an bys'). Yma'n media, ha menowgh aga hentrevogyon nowydh devedhys,ow tasleverel heb dhiwedh dell on ni oll sowsen.

Gwell yw dhe gemmys kowethyansow a allo bos, a bub sort, yn Kernow hag a-ves, skrifa dhe'n Soedhva yn unn dhervynn agan kyst agan honan. Tus yn Kembra a bysis kyst rag 'Kembreg' keffrys hag onan rag an yeth.

An dhew dhe omdhiskwedhes yn roth, hag yn Kembra hag yn Pow Sows. An vater a vydh erviry's troha penn an vlydhen ma. Termyn eus hwath rag gul kaskergh warlergh patron Kembra. Semlant moy soedhek dhe'n dewis a 'kernewek' a wra dynya ewnna gorthebow.

'War an ke', yth esa agan teylu ni yn mysk an re na a lenwis an roth niverans diwettha oll yn tien yn kernewek; ny wrussyn ni klywes ger vyth gans piw pynag a-wosa!

### Summary

*By the way, we were among those who filled in their last census in Cornish. There was no feedback whatever. (Cornish translation of Richard Tal-e-hot's article on the census.)*

## Aswonnvos an Yeth

Gwynn agan bys avar y'n vlydhen pan veu 'aswonnys yn soedhogel agan taves. Byttegyns, wosa redya skrif gans 'tus fur' a-barth an Konsel a Ewrop, my re heu ow hwilas derivadow downna yn kever an

'aswonnvos'-ma. Res yw derivas na yllis vy diskevra py rann an governans a biwvo surhe argerdh an gweythresow a res rag enora an ambos. Dhymm y feu profyes henwyn Soedhva an Is-Penn Mynyster, poken Soedhva Tre po hwath Soedhva Takklow Estrenyek! Unn dra sur yw, drefenn fowt digresennheans, nyns yw Konsel an 'Konteth'. Ny grysav pur wir bos 'Awtoryta Desedhys', an pyth a res herwydh an Charter, gorrys yn tyller vydh.

## Recognition of the Cornish Language?

*After the excitement, earlier this year of official recognition, followed by the rescue of two Tudor Cornish plays, hidden away in the back draw of a Welsh professor, we in the Cornish movement should be as happy as larks. Sadly though, the Government has not changed its attitude in any visible way. Following a report from experts on behalf of the Council of Europe, I have tried to discover which Government department is responsible for overseeing the measures needed to raise the status of Cornish. So far I have been unable to discover this.*

*There should be, in the terms of the Charter, a 'Delegated Authority' to do this. Unfortunately we have no devolution, and no democratic regional assembly is currently proposed by Westminster. The 'County' Council insist that they are not that 'authority'. Suggestions, as to who it may be range from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to the Home Office or even the Foreign Office.*

**Julyan Holmes**

## DYDH AN YETH BRETONEK

Synsys veu dhe'n 6ves a vis Metheven "Devezh ar Brezhoneg" (Dydh an Yeth Bretonek) a gynsa prys yn Karaez (Carhaix yn Frynkek). Synsys veu an jydh ma gans an kowethas "Dazont ar yezh" (Termyn a dheu an Yeth). Pur lowen o tus an kowethas gans sewena an darvos! Res yw dhyn perthi kov bos an jydh na Goel an Mammow yn Pow Frynk ynwedh, ha splann ha toemm o an awel ha pur doemm o hi yn-dann an tyldow. Yntra 3.000 ha 5.000 den a dheuth dhe'n darvos an jydh na.

Erviry's veu wosa an darvos gwitha kynsa Sul an mis Metheven avel "dydh an yeth bretonek" pub blydhen. Tus kowethas "Dazont ar Yezh" a vynn gul kuntellyans (kewar ?) rag Dydh an Yeth Bretonek yn termyn (kewar ?) yn spyrys an dus.

Kowethasow an "Emsav" (an Omsav

bretonek) a allas keschanjya derivadow, perthyans, hag all...dres oll kowethasow o ri dyskansow bretonek rag tevesigyon...

Gwerys veu kowethas "Dazont ar yezh" gans Kuzul-rannvro Breizh, Kuzuliö-departamant Penn-ar-Bed hag ar Morbihan ha Ti-Kêr Karaez (Burjesti Karaez).

Dadhelva gans politegoryon nowydh diwesys a-dro dhe'n strif a-barth an yeth a veu ordnys gans Anne-Lise Deleon. Hembrenkyas an kowethas "Dazont ar yezh!" yw an venyn yowynk ma. Tus kowethas "Dazont ar yezh" a garsa ordna testennow ha dadhelvaow diheval pub blydhen rag dydh an yeth bretonek. I a vynn displegya gwrians yn Bretonek ha der Vretonek. Pella derivadow orth [www.gouel.com](http://www.gouel.com) po orth [devezharbrezhoneg@voilà.fr](mailto:devezharbrezhoneg@voilà.fr)

**Summary:** *The "Day of the Breton language" took place this year for the first time on the 6th June. The event was successful with around 4.000 visitors despite the heat and Mothers' Day in France. This event was organized by "Dazont ar Yezh" (Future of the Language) lead by a young woman called Anne-Lise Deleon. It has been decided that the event will be held annually every first Sunday of June. It was a good occasion for those involved in the struggle for the language to exchange information, experiences, etc.. A debate about the struggle for the language with the newly elected politicians was also organised.*

More information at: [www.gouel.com](http://www.gouel.com) or [devezharbrezhoneg@voilà.fr](mailto:devezharbrezhoneg@voilà.fr)

# CORNISH LANGUAGE SOUNDINGS

The Cornish Branch have responded in a positive way to the first Draft Report from the Steering Group set up to undertake a soundings exercise of the Cornish language. The first stage began in September 2003 and took three forms.

The three forms included a series of six open public meetings were held in each of the districts of Cornwall, four focus group meetings that centred on public life, education, commerce and media and finally written submissions by post or online were taken into consideration.

The soundings exercise was the result of the inclusion of the Cornish language by

the Westminster Government under Part 2 of the Council of Europe Charter for Regional and Minority Languages in March 2003.

The Cornish Branch submitted comments in this first phase and were critical of the relatively short and limited consultation period allotted to the Steering Group in which to undertake their soundings exercise. Members were encouraged to see that many of the initial comments made by the Branch to the Steering Group during this first stage, were included in the Consultation Draft, which was published in May this year.

However, the Consultation Draft brought to light the great deal of work that needs to be undertaken to ensure that the Cornish language fits back where it belongs - at the heart of the Cornish community.

In this second phase, the Branch were consulted and asked to forward their comments on the Draft to the Steering Group before 16th July. This was an extended period, due to the limited time between publication of the document and the end of the second consultation period.

In their response, the Cornish Branch, identified several points about the Draft that they hope will be taken into consideration by the Steering Group, before the document will be finally published later in the year.

The following areas are where the Branch thought the Consultation Draft could be improved and now await the final publication:

- More meaningful language planning needed
- Creation of timelines linked to the development of the language
- An overall vision of what the Steering Group had set out to achieve
- A commitment to use a U.I.Pan Kernewek plan, based on similar lines to that used in Wales in the teaching and learning of Welsh

There was very little in terms of meaningful language planning. We also expected that there would be concrete timelines, set out in the Draft, linked to the development of the language. In addition to this, our Branch also agreed that there seems to be an overall general lack of vision, in terms of what the Steering Group has set out to achieve.

Members of the Branch were encouraged by the publication of the Consultation Draft by the Steering Group, which is made up of representatives of Cornwall County Council, Government Office of the South West and five members elected by the language community, but realise that a great deal more work needs to be undertaken to ensure that the Cornish language fits back where it belongs in the heart of the Cornish community.

Many of the initial comments made by the Branch during the first phase of the consultation process were included in the Consultation Draft, but members were critical of the relatively short and limited consultation period allotted to the Steering Group in which to undertake their soundings exercise. The Consultation Draft is described as a working document and will be amended in the light of the comments received and published later in the year.

## The Simpsons Take up Cornish Cause

The Cornish language will be broadcast to millions of people worldwide this Christmas, as Lisa Simpson from the cartoon The Simpsons, plans to take up Cornwall's cause. On Christmas Day a four minute cartoon will be broadcast on television, at the same time as the Queen of England's speech, where Lisa, the eldest daughter of Marge and Homer, will cry "rydhsys rag Kernow lemmyn!" (Free Cornwall now!) as she runs around the house waving the Cornish national flag. Tim Long, the executive producer of the hit animation, phoned the Cornish Language Fellowship to ask for translations into the Cornish language.

Mr Long explained to Matthew Clarke of the Fellowship, that he had seen a comedian in the States who had said that he was Cornish and not English, which had prompted him to find out more.

Matthew Clarke said that "Lisa is a great ally. She is a cult icon and a cool character, and to attach some of her coolness and cult status to the Cornish language is obviously good."

News of Lisa's appeal has spread across the world's media since its announcement and it's expected that many will tune in on Christmas Day for a more meaningful message.



Rhisiart Tal-e-bot

## Diversity is Richness

The Youth Group of Cornwall's Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall, met with over 50 political representatives from across Europe in April to participate in a week long project in Brussels.

The project, "Diversity is Richness", brought together young politicians from regionalist and democratic nationalist parties from across the EU, including those from the Eastern European States who joined the EU in May. The event, which was jointly organised by six different organisations throughout Europe, aimed at highlighting the contribution that young people make to building a rich and diverse Europe. Topics covered included language diversity, bilingualism and cultural diversity in the new Europe. Nelly Maes MEP, commented that:

"Occasions like these bring us all together and show that in many ways it is our

linguistic, cultural and national diversity that can be the strongest force..."

MK presented a project with representatives from the Breton Party, Union Democratique Bretonne (UDB), entitled "How to promote bilingualism in the European regions?" Unfortunately members of Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales couldn't make it to the event and had to pull out at the last minute.

A publication that will include information about all those organisations that took part, in addition to a description of each of their political struggles, will be published shortly and will be available from European Free Alliance Youth by contacting Eva Mendoza at EFAY (European Free Alliance Youth) 60 Rue Wiertz PHS 02C26- 1047-Bruxelles, Belgium

Tel 0032 22841711 Fax 0032 22841771  
emendoza@europarl.eu.int



## Sourey ayns y Chorn

Ta mish as y lught-thie dy jecragh er jeet dy valley veih laghyn seyrey ayns y Chorn. Cheau shin shiahtin ayns 'cot' er mayl, ayns balley beg son skibbyltee ayns Heyl, faggys da Porthia (St Ives). Va'n emshyr mie car y traa as ren shin scapail veih ny sterrymyn hug yn olk er buill elley. Va Porthia jeeaghyn feer aalin, ga dy row eh jingit ec thousaneyn dy hurrysee as thousaneyn dy ghleashtanyn va goll dy chooilley voayl gyn lhiettalys erbee, v'eh jeeaghyn. Agh foddee dy row shin beggan keoi as shynyn goll dys shen ec y traa s'preaysee jeh'n vlein.

Ga dy vel sleih dy liooar ayns Mannin nagh vel jannoo dy mie, shimmy peiagh sy

nagh vel monney jeh ny h-olteynyn toiggal dy kiart dy vel ashoon Manninagh ayn. Dy dooghysagh, ta Cornee dooie cheet dy ve corree tra t'ad clashtyn Sostnee gra dy vel y Chorn ayn jeh'n 'Cheer Heear'. Ayns aignaghyn lught Lunnin, she unnid chooie Devon as y Chorn, as by vie lhiu jannoo neunhee jeh jarroo-enney ny Cornee. Car y traa, ta gaue mooar ayn dy bee yn Chorn sluggit seose ayns 'Cheer Heear' vooar nagh voes cur enn er bee er jarroo-enney ny Cornee.

Dettyl shin voish Mannin gys Lunnin as hroailt shin er y traen gys y Chorn. Son shickyrys, cosoylit rish red erbee ayns

faggys da Heyl. T'eh baghtal ry akin dy vel ymmodee sleih croghey er y turrysid y Chorn. Cha vaik mee rieuu cho whilleen dy phamfladyn as loaranyyn as earishlioaryn daahit ta cleayney oo dy heet dys baljyn beggey, thieyn-bee, garaghyn, thieyn-ellyn, thieyn-cloie as ymmodee reddyn elley. As ta ram jeh ny h-earishlioaryn nastee shoh jeeaghyn glasagh as costyllagh. Jarrood Rheynt Turrysid Vannin! Foddee dy vel eh ny smoo onnoroil dy ve croghey er y turrysid na er yn argidys, agh cha noddym jannoo fegooish smooinghyn dy vel y jees jeu mechaigh.

Hug shin shillee er y Tate ayns Porthia, y thie-ellyn mooar ayns shen. Ta tradishoon-ellyn lajer ec Porthia as buill elley sy Chorn. Agh heill shin nagh vel yn ellyn cho lajer sy Chorn as v'ee keayrt dy row. Tra va mee sy Chorn, chionnee mee coip jeh shennaghys thalk-noa jeh'n cheer. Shoh 'Cornwall, a history' liorish Philip Paynton va currit magh mleecaney ec Cornwall Editions Limited. Ta Philip Paynton y stiureyder jeh Commyn Studeyrys Cornagh Ollscoill Exeter. Cha nel caa er ve ayns foast dy lhaih yn loar shoh dy kiart, agh t'eh jeeaghyn dy ve mie dy liooar. Ta roie-raa sy loar screet ec y Chornagh ard-ghoogh shen A L Rowse. She 'Shenn Chlaghyn' yn ennym jeh'n chieid chabdil, ta gra dy vod yn agh t'ou smooinghyn mychione y Chorn ve goll rish ymmodee reddyn. Eddy ta'n Chorn myr jeelym lich-yarroodit jeh'n chenn seihll Celtiagh, er nonney she boayl t'ayn raad ren y Ravloyd Jeadysshagh (Industrial Revolution) scoltey yn seihll. Ta ny Cornee myr peesh faagit jeh shenn chynney as yn agh-beaghee goll magh ass dy tappee kyndagh rish y traastey veih cultoor eddyrashoonagh. Er nonney, fy yerrey ta barrant dy liooar ec ny Cornee orroo hene dy hoilshaghey nyn yarroo-enney hene dy breeoil sy vosaic Oarpagh. Son joarreeyn, ta shee as kiunys ry gheddyn sy Chorn, boayl raad oddys ad scapail veih'n teihll jeianagh. Son Cornee cadjin, dy mennick she genney argid, genney obbyr as thieys treih y Chorn, cheer raad t'ad gleck dy veaghey. Gow dty reih.

Ta cabdil ayns y loar shoh ennyssit 'The mystery of the Celts' ta resooney yn argane mychione ny h-Albinee, Bretnee, Britanee, Cornee, Manninee as Yerne. Nee 'Celtee' t'ayn er chor erbee? Cha nel, ta shendaaleeyn ennagh gra. Agh cha nel adsyn loayrt y chengey cheddin as ny chengeydeyren as cha nel sleih cadjin boirit ec y chooish shoh. Ansherbee, my t'ou gra 'Celtiagh' rish pobble ta/va loayrt chengey Cheltiagh, ta shen mie dy liooar. Ayns y loar, ta Richard Paynton gimraa yn co-haglym dy hendaaleeyn ayns 1992 raad v'eh jeeaghyn dy row ard-shendaaleeyn gobbal dy row Celtee roie-hendeeagh ayn noadyr. Loayr Vincent Megaw as Ruth Megaw noi yn eie quaagh shoh. V'ad noi 'an unhealthy political correctness in modern British, or rather, English archaeological thinking.' Ta



*Porthia (St Ives).*

Chorn nagh vel ayns stayd mie. Ta'n cheer Chornagh nane jeh ny buill s'boghtey sy Vretyn Vooar, ga nagh row shen baghtal ry akin ayns Porthia, va jeeaghyn berchagh dy liooar. Agh quoid dy Chornee ta faagit ayns shen? Son shickyrys, ta ny thieyn ny s'costyllee na thieyn ayns Mannin. As t'ou clashtyn spotchyn sharroo nagh vod Cornee fordrail dy chummal ec y clyst-marrey jeh'n cheer ec hene. T'ad traastit magh ec lught yn argid voish Lunnin as buill elley. T'eh jeeaghyn dy ve ny smessey na ayns Mannin.

Er agh ennagh, ta shynyn ayns Mannin goll er coadey liorish y cheayn. Sleih ayns Lunnin, t'ad abyl lheim stiagh ayns gleashtan as gimman dys y Chorn. T'ad eliaghtit rish jingaghyn-traaght agglagh as cha nel ad feer voirit ec y lheid sy Chorn sy tourey. As er agh ennagh, ta shynyn ayns Mannin goll er coadey liorish yn emshyr: tee ny share sy Chorn. Erskyn ooilley, ta Tinvaal ain, ga

Mannin, ta'n Tamar ny h-awin niartal, as tra t'ou goll harree veih Plymouth gys y Chorn, t'ou toiggal dy vel oo goll gys cheer elley. Dy firrinagh, ta ny Cornee er nyannoo obbyr vittilagh as ad freayll y jarroo-enney ec hene. Lich-cheead blein er dy henney, sleih va gra nagh row yn Chorn Sostnagh. V'ad coontit dy ve ass nyn geeall, son y chooid smoo. Cha nel eh myr shen nish, ga dy vel beoyr er yn ym-ysseraght Hostnagh foastagh craiddey mysh yn ashoonaghys Cornagh. Agh nagh vel beoyr orroosyn craiddey mysh red erbee er lhimmey jeusyn hene? Va mee jeant booiagh dy akin ny h-enmyr jeh baljyn as baljyn beggey ayns Cornish er fograghyn oikoil, as dy akin y brattagh Cornagh dy chooilley voayl. As t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel enmyr Cornish er kuse dy straidyn noa. Hie mee lesh shillee er Oie Chornish raad va sleih eliaghtey loayrt y chengey ec hene ayns thie-lhionney ayns Gwinear, balley beg ta

# MANX MARGINALISATION

A recent article in the Scottish nationalist paper, "The Scots Independent", berated those who have seized upon the immigration paranoia pumped up by the English tabloids. The article claimed that Scotland was losing 10,000 people a year to emigration and without immigration, a problem would rapidly develop.

Alarm bells rang in my own mind upon reading this, due to the experience of Mannin. If you are losing a substantial number of people, you should be asking why and addressing that question before simply topping up the figures with immigration. The type of people leaving must also be considered in comparison to the type of people arriving or the country may rapidly find itself, like Mannin, with an ongoing skills deficit of its own creation.

Mannin's recent history should serve as a salutary lesson to those who follow bald

*Continued from page 19*

stoo dy liooar sy lioar mychione y chengey Chornagh, stoo ta goll gys y laa t'ayn jiu, bunnys. Roish y chield Chaggey Mooar, va Henry Jenner coontey Cornish dy ve yn ard-red ayns ashoonaght Chornagh. agh cha row eshyn soit er aa-vioghey ee myr chengey loayrit. Va Robert Morton Nance as A S D Smith slane son Cornish loayrit chammah as Cornish screent. Smooiner Jenner dy lhisagh yn aa-vioghey ve soit er Cornish Yeianagh - y chengey myr v'ee goll er loayrt tra hie ee sheese myr chengey yn theay. Agh smooiner Nance dy bare daue goaill ymmyd jeh'n Chornish ayns ny Mirri-chloieyn - Cornish Veanagh. Chroo Nance, Smith as sleih elley Cornish Unnaneysst, soit er Cornish Veanagh. Bentyn rish y chengey, va coardail dy liooar ayn eddyr ny caggaghyn mooarey as lurg y nah chaggey mooar. Agh ayns ny bleeantyn kiare feed sy chead shoh chaie, va sleih ynsit cremmey Cornish Unnaneysst as chroo Ken George Kernewek Kemmyn (Cornish Chadjin) as eshyn foast goaill ymmyd jeh Cornish Veanagh. Ren eh caghaaghyn syn agh- screeuee. Er y laue elley, ghow Richard Gendall ymmyd jeh Cornish Yeianagh. Dooyrt eshyn dy row yn agh va sleih loayrt Baarle ayns Penwith Heear soilshaghey yn agh va Cornish goll er loayrt. As haik yn argane eddyr ny possany-chengey dy ve garroo dy liooar. Er y gherid, ta Nicholas Williams er ghra dy bare da'n aa-vioghey goaill ymmyd jeh Cornish Unnaneysst. Red mirrilagh: ta'n chengey er vishaghey ga dy vel ny scoltaghyn shoh ayn. As ta Manninee as Cornee co-obbraghey.

*A Manxman gives impressions of a summer holiday in Cornwall and gives some thoughts on Philip Payton's new history of Cornwall.*

**Brian Stowell**

statistics too readily without looking at the details that lie behind. The government in the Isle of Man has, for the past 45 years, used the bare statistic of birth / death ratio to justify its policy of marginalisation of the Manx people.

Available figures show that Mannin's population had increased steadily up to the 1840s when it stood at around 40,000. This figure has been cited as the "saturation figure" beyond which emigration becomes inevitable. Readers of Carn will no doubt also recognise this as the period when the Celtic countries experienced mass emigration. Mannin was no exception: Thousands left from the 1840s onwards, going to Canada, the United States and Australia. Despite this, the population had increased to 60,000 by the 1860s! This was due to the flood of north-western English middle class who, with their relative wealth, swarmed in to take advantage of the burgeoning tourist industry.

This, as an aside, proves that "trickle down economics" is a lie. This economic "theory" (discredited on countless occasions through the centuries) remains the cornerstone of socio-economic policy for the government in the Isle of Man with the result that there is actually no socio-economic policy.

This mass immigration did nothing to enhance Manx culture and it was several generations before the mouldy crumbs of economic success landed on the tables of the indigenous Manx.

The mass tourist industry managed to keep Mannin's population at 55 - 60,000 until the Second World War. Those young Manx men who survived came back to very different expectations. They had fought to build a better future (don't they always?) but, unlike their English counterparts who walked straight into a buoyant, multi-dimensional job market (hence Enoch Powell's policy of using Afro-Caribbeans for menial work), the Manx found themselves just dumped back into a small, rural community with a severely cut-down tourist industry which, itself, was seasonal and led to high winter unemployment.

Young Manx people emigrated, sometimes to the far lands, in the last century but just as much to England. By 1958, the population had fallen back to 47,000 and the government in the Isle of Man was in panic: The smaller population was not capable of supporting the government in the style to which it was accustomed and, under legal obligation, the British Crown was coming close to actually putting a few shillings into the Island after having spent 200 years stripping billions of pounds out of it.

The British Empire, now in terminal collapse, was also faced with the problem of where to put all the white ex-patriot colonials who wouldn't find living in truly independent nations, not bending to England, to their liking. The Isle of Man was identified as the

ideal dumping ground for these people and the UK government, acting for the British Crown (the distinction is, in reality, a legal nicety), passed the "1958 Act" which gave income tax autonomy to the Island. This, in conjunction with the government in the Isle of Man's "New Resident Policy" was intended to attract ex-pats who would shower us with previously unimaginable wealth.

To try to justify itself to the remaining Manx people, the government in the Isle of Man claimed that the birth / death ratio predicted a "St. Kilda" type demise for the island. This was patent nonsense and only a liar or someone of profoundly low intellect could possibly advocate it. Nonetheless, it was put forward and continues to be used up until this day.

Naturally, the attraction of ex-pats and elderly tax dodgers actually made the birth / death ratio even worse and the dependency ratio (the number of self supporting individuals against those needing increasing support from the state welfare system in some way) also increased. Nor did they shower us with previously unimaginable wealth. Thankfully, the New Residents Policy was nowhere near as successful as intended. The real problem, that our youth was leaving in droves to find work and further education was not and never has been adequately addressed: Most tertiary education still takes place out of the island and, predominantly, talented Manx people who wish to advance themselves will have to leave or resign themselves to be used to do "donkey work" (i.e. carry) their imported superiors.

To this day, despite having a population of 30,000 greater than when the discredited "New Residents" policy was established, the birth / death ratio is still put forward as an excuse for forced immigration. Manx people continue to have to leave the country to find tertiary education, career development and (now) affordable housing.

Then, of course, you must ask the obvious question: If young, ambitious, well educated and talented people find it necessary to leave, what type of people are you replacing them with? It would be patently untrue to claim that all immigrants to Mannin are under-achievers looking for a quiet backwater where they can bullshit their way to a cosy retirement. It would be equally untrue to claim that a substantial number are not just that.

Whereas it is right to decry racism (as, essentially, the Scots Independent article was), I warn the Scottish not to fall into the trap that was so successfully set and sprung in Mannin. The causes of emigration must be identified and addressed to make sure that those who wish to stay and further the nation are given the best opportunity to do so: Simply topping up numbers serves no credible purpose.

**Mark Kermod**

# Celtica

## celtic universe

### A New Magazine in French covers Celtic Culture

Available in bookstores since 1st June this year *Univers Celtes* is produced by Celtic League member, Thierry Jigourel. This new magazine reflects a Celtic attitude open to the world but firmly rooted in the tradition, dealing with the music and culture in the six Celtic nations and also the Celtic traditions of Galicia and Asturias.

It is not the first time that a magazine in French has been available offering a wide view of the culture of the people living on the western fringes of Europe.

From 2000 to 2001, Didier Houcix, former editor of the bimonthly magazine, Pays de Bretagne (Lands of Brittany), had published *Celties*, first as a special issue of Pays de Bretagne, which attracted a large readership.

When the Free Way group was taken over by Ixo publishing they limited coverage to music only then later disappeared altogether ostensibly due to profitability and to a certain Parisian feeling averse to the cultural outpourings of Celtic peoples.

Phillipe Yvorra, President of Editions Harnois (Harnois Publishing) based in Provence (Southern France), responded favourably to the idea of producing *Univers Celtes* put forward by Thierry Jigourel, a freelance journalist who had regularly contributed articles to Yvorra's magazines, *Histoire Médiévale*, *Histoire Antique* and *Histoire Mondiale des Conflits*.

Aware of large public interest in international events such as Nuit Celtique in the 'French Stadium' in Paris, Celtica in the Beaujoire Stadium in Nantes and the Inter Celtic Festival in Lorient (which draws up to 600,000 people each year) and also the success of Italian magazines such as *Celtic* and *Keltica*, Yvorra decided to take a chance and this is how *Univers Celtes* was launched.

*Univers Celtes* aims to offer its readership all facets of Celtic culture while avoiding the traps of narrow regionalism and mundane generalisations.

The magazine strives to give an image of the Celtic world, which is both diverse and fraternal. Thierry points to the differences in Celtic music across the nations but also to fact that there is a strong link between the communities living along the Atlantic coast of Europe under the dominance of nation states which over the centuries had curtailed their freedom, yet despite this the Celts have continued to build on the cultural ties that

bind them.

With a circulation of 40,000 *Univers Celtes* will report on everything that creates the uniqueness of the Celtic world from paintings, movies, fashion and gastronomy -without ignoring local produce. Traditional myths and celebrations as well as the discovery of unusual points of interest will be dealt with through stories, illustrations and pictures.



This autumn due to public demand 50% of the magazine will cover music with accompanying compilation tapes. In the September edition the bagadou Kemper and Local - Medon, the singer Nolwenn Korbell, the Stone Age and Run are presented. In October, it will be the turn of the Irish Wolf Tones and Altan, the Scottish singer Karen Matheson, the gaitero from Galicia Xose Manuel Budijio and this issue will also bring Pascal Lamour, the Breton shaman, to the fore.

Gregoire De Gwern  
Translated by Jean Cevaer

*Univers Celtes* Editor, Thierry Jigourel, monthly magazine, 76 pages, colour with compilation disk with each issue.  
Subscription: 12 issues per annum, €64 (add €24 for postage) to Harnois abonnements, BP90 84 405 Apt. Cedex, France  
Tel: 0033 4 90 04 48 61  
[abonnements@harnois-editions.fr](mailto:abonnements@harnois-editions.fr)

## A CELTIC GATEWAY IN SOUTH AMERICA: AMERICA CELTA [www.americacelta.com](http://www.americacelta.com) 20 years a' growing

I have been giving regular news and information about Celtic activities in South America, especially in Argentina and Uruguay for the last two years. Once again I am happy to give you more news about my friends and their tireless activity spreading Celticism in South America. Celticism and Celtic activities have been thriving in South America for some years now. This time I will tell you of a very important event.

Not all the Celtic emigrants went to the United States or Canada or even to other English-speaking countries during the XIX<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the XX<sup>th</sup> centuries. A lot of them went to South America and in particular to Argentina where we find important Celtic-speaking communities such as the Irish, Scottish, and Welsh (see articles in Carn N° 124 Winter 2003/04 & N° 125 Spring 2004) and important communities with awareness of Celtic roots and identity such as those of Galicia and Asturias.

These important Celtic Diasporas in Argentina have maintained traditions and they have been responsible for this important movement which has taken place in Argentina since 1986 with the creation of the Liga Celta de Argentina by Manuel Castro. From that date on, more and more people began to gather, exchange and broadcast Celtic music, culture and history.

This movement echoes what happened in Europe some years before. In Argentina, it has enabled more and more people to be interested in learning the languages, knowing the history of their forefathers and knowing Celtic literature.

This important and deep-rooted movement has spread since 1999 from Argentina to neighbouring countries with Celtic communities in Uruguay, Chile and Brazil and also to other countries where the Celtic communities are far smaller such as Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama.

Today in 2004 we can see the latest important development of this movement, begun some 20 years ago, with the creation of a gateway or website called AMÉRICA CELTA which will make it possible to gather and broadcast information about the activities of the Celtic communities of South America, their knowledge and experience, uniting their strength to make known to the entire world that there are also Celts in South America, very active, including a wide range of excellent musicians, writers, craftsmen, dancers etc... with a strong passion for their Celtic roots.

It is hoped that América Celta will become a meeting point for the Celtic peoples which will enable the different communities to learn from each other, grow and make exchanges with communities located in the other South American countries and even in

North America. In order to foster these exchanges most of the articles will be bilingual Spanish/English and some articles will also be available in Portuguese. You will find articles about history, geography, culture, literature and art. You will find a complete programme of the activities planned in each country, information about the main festivals in the world, information about the Celtic musicians or groups in South America, a section dedicated officially to the Celtic League and its magazine *Carn* which would enable people to subscribe to our magazine and links with the main European pages dedicated to the Celts.

The address of this Celtic website will be: [www.americacelta.com](http://www.americacelta.com). The website will be open from mid-august as it will be announced during the 600th radio programme called "Plum Pudding" conducted by Susana Shanahan. The very well known Celtic musicians Carlos NUÑEZ, José Angel HEVIA, Luar na Lubre and very probably The Chieftains will take part in this special programme.

One of the main aims of this website is to maintain brotherhood and unity between Celtic Europe and Celtic America...

Susana SHANAHAN (journalist, writer, member of *Movimiento Celta de Argentina* and presenter of the radio programme "Plum Pudding") and Rolando RIOS (webmaster, creator of the *Temperley* and *Celtic News & Bands* web sites) will manage the website [www.americacelta.com](http://www.americacelta.com).  
**José CALVETE.**

### *New Irish Language Website*

In early September Foras na Gaeilge launched a new bilingual website [www.gaeilge.ie](http://www.gaeilge.ie) aimed at providing resources and links for learners. The website provides general information on the language and its roots. It shows learners how to go about learning the language, how and where it can be used and provides information on the services and support systems available.

Users are also given the opportunity to post notices including those for events, classes, meetings and courses. A search facility is provided. At the launch, the CEO of the Foras, Seosamh Mac Donnacha, said the site, which would be further developed, would be a one stop shop for the Irish Language.

### *American Branch Internet Site*

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

## Inter Celtic Sports

Manx children who do well in athletics are encouraged to compete in an English North-Western League. This means travelling regularly on a Sunday, leaving at 06.30 in the morning on a boat to Liverpool, travelling for several hours by road to a northern English town and competing against children who have come from an hour or two's drive away. Despite this, they have performed well and actually won the junior league this year.

The facilities are frequently far inferior to those in the Isle of Man where millions of pounds were spent on creating the National Sports Centre, a much under-utilised facility. Nonetheless, there have been, to my knowledge, no reciprocal visits.

Conversely, someone in the Ladies football league took the opportunity to bring the Manx squad to Ulster to play in the Inter Celtic Ladies competition a few years ago. Here, the amateurs were up against professional players and were utterly thrashed. Nonetheless, they enjoyed the experience and it gave them a broader experience than had they been confined to a North-western English League, the seemingly preferred option in Manx sporting circles (with the notable exception of the inter-Celtic match races of motorcycling).

Are the readers in the Celtic countries aware of national or even inter-Celtic sporting leagues in which Mannin could compete? If so, it would be nice to hear. Of course, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink so, if the sports organisers' eyes are too firmly fixed on the north-west of England, there is no guarantee of participation. At least we can offer them the opportunity though.

**Mark Kermodé.**

### ONE BRETON PRISONER RELEASED - BUT THREE STILL HELD

Alain Solé, the Breton detainee whose continued detention has been the subject of protest (particularly because of his deteriorating health) both in Brittany and the other Celtic countries has been released.

News from Brittany, forwarded to the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League which has co-ordinated a Pan-Celtic support initiative for Solé and other Breton detainees, confirmed his release (on parole) on the 6th of August.

Those still detained are:

**Stefan Philippe**

(due for release as we go to print)

**Paskal Laizé**

(seeking parole on medical grounds)

**Kristian Georgeault**

**Bernard Moffatt**

### Correction

CARN 126, on page 7, published a photograph of Gael ROBLIN one of the Breton prisoners. The photograph caption was incorrect. Gael ROBLIN is in the centre of the photo with Per LOQUET on his left. (He is the president of SKOAZELL VREIZH, the association which gives financial support to pay the expenses of lawyers and gives assistance to the families of the prisoners). On the right is another friend/supporter.

**Bernard Moffatt**

### RETURN PRISONERS TO BREIZH CALL

The Celtic League has called once again for the three Breton detainees to be allowed to serve the remainder of their sentences in prisons in Brittany.

All three have been incarcerated for several years in prisons around Paris and visits by legal advisors, supporters and families have been disrupted because of the logistics involved.

The League has reminded the French government that European Model Prison Rules require States to ensure that prisoners' contact with their communities are maintained not just in their interests but also in the interests of their families.

The League hope that the recent transfer of a Corsican Nationalist prisoner from France to his homeland can be used as a catalyst to campaign for parity of treatment for the Bretons.

Exile from home is a weapon that has been used for decades against Celtic and other nationalists held by the British and French governments and it is also developed strategy of the Spanish government to increase psychological pressures on Basque detainees and their families.

The League is calling for greater adherence to International standards for the treatment of prisoners and has cited European Model Prison Rules as an indicator that current French treatment of the Breton prisoners is unjust.

**Bernard Moffatt**

# Renewable sources of Celtic energy

Plans for the future development of renewable energy in Scotland have been unveiled with the publication of a report by the Forum for Renewable Energy Development that says that Scotland should be producing 10% of its electricity from tidal power within the next 15 years.

The Scottish National Executive believe that a £50 million investment by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) into a renewable marine energy fund will lead to the establishment of a new industry in Scotland that will create 7000 jobs.

Scotland already has the world's first commercial-scale wave power generators on the island of Islay and the development of its tidal power could make the country world leaders in the production of wave energy. This signals good news for Scotland, but how do the rest of the Celtic countries compare?

Well, it is expected that the extra money made available by the DTI within the UK will be held in a new marine renewable deployment fund and it is expected that the money will also be spent in Wales as well as Scotland. In Cornwall a new project that is looking into the possibility of harnessing wave energy through the use of disused mines shafts around its coast line, is also underway. The Waveshaft project is investigating the possibility of using wind turbines that can be installed in disused mineshafts that are linked to sea caves to create electricity and have been given a £100,000 grant to develop the theory further.

Hayden Scholes, who is leading the Waveshaft project, thinks that the use of this kind of renewable energy could be hugely beneficial to Cornwall, saying that: "Cornwall has got plenty of resources and a lot of people who know what they are doing in the area of renewable energy. "This is a huge opportunity. We are very well placed and we just need to get on and do it."

The development of wave energy in the UK will be seen by some as a more credible alternative to wind farms. In Cymru and Kernow over the past few months there have been several campaigns against the use of wind farms to produce renewable sources of energy. Last month a new organisation called the Renewable Energy Foundation was set up to challenge what it calls the Government's "grotesque political push" for wind turbines. (In Denmark, around 70% of the 3000 wind farms are locally owned and there is very little opposition to them). In Mannin, companies like Metoc were involved in off shore wind turbines from the beginning and organisations like the Manx Energy Advice Centre (MEAC) follow an educational programme, informing people about the benefits of renewable energy.

In Breizh, a tidal power station has been operating in the La Ranche estuary since 1966 and it is thought that a similar power generator built across the channel separating England and Wales could generate almost one tenth of the State's electricity supply. This would of course have a massive impact on wildlife in the area and be expensive to build.

In Éire, despite the fact that there is great potential for using a variety of renewable sources of energy like wind, solar, biomass as well as tidal energy, only 2% of the annual energy requirement and 7% of the electricity produced is derived from renewable sources. However there are major benefits for independent wind farms in the electricity market and the market is already fully open for wind energy producers and suppliers. There are over 20 wind farms nationwide - the vast majority of them independently owned. Government policy is to have 1250MW (about a quarter of present capacity) from renewable resources by 2010. Matters could further change as concerns relating to the impact energy consumption is

having on the environment heighten and the threat of global warming and climate change is beginning to be taken seriously. The Westminster Government target is for 10% of the State's energy sources to be produced from renewable energy by 2010, but it is thought that this target will not be met due to a lack of incentives for investors.

The public in Wales and Cornwall are increasingly against the building of more wind farms but the "traditional" sources of energy such as gas, oil and coal won't last for ever and have a massive and devastating environmental impact. The Celtic countries are in an enviable position, in both a geographical and environmental sense and are endowed with a rich and diverse choice of renewable energy sources and could lead the way in renewable energy production. The Governments in our respective countries should be pushing for a higher level of production of renewable energy by offering incentives to investors.

The Renewable Energy Centre in Machynlleth, Wales has come a long way from its humble beginnings in the 1970's in changing people's attitudes to how we can work with the environment in a sustainable and sensitive way. The centre, which is a self sustaining 'environmental village', stands as an example of how all our communities could be run. For Scotland to become a world leader in the production of tidal energy means that each of our countries also have the potential to do the same. The future of renewable energy depends on a number of different factors, political, economic and environmental, but one thing we can be sure of and that is the people of our countries have always had their own supply of renewable energy - so lets put it to good use and show the world that "people, nature and technology can live together successfully"!

Rhisiart Tal-e bot



*Celtic League Flag showing the flags of each nation with the CL Logo in the centre.*

## Skoazell Vreizh Appeal

Skoazell Vreizh is an association which helps the families of the prisoners and which finances the expenses of the defence in the courts of the Breton political prisoners. The lawsuit which took place this year was very expensive and other lawsuits have yet to take place. Skoazell Vreizh has a great need for money to cover all this expenditure. Please help and send subscriptions to:

Skoazell Vreizh / Secours Breton  
Feunteun Wenn - 3, straed A. Briand  
44350 Gwenrann / GUERANDE BRITTANY  
via France

Tél: 02.40.42.92.94 -

Fax: 02.40.24.81.38 -

info@skoazell-vreizh.org

## International Branch Internet Site

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

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**E-mail General Secretary:**

[b.moffatt@iom.com](mailto:b.moffatt@iom.com)

**E-mail Assistant G.S.**

[mkermode@mcb.net](mailto:mkermode@mcb.net)

## Membership and Subscriptions

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).

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

**ALBA** Iain Ramsay, 22 Denholme Gardens, Greenock, PA16 6RF, Scotland

**BREIZH** Jakez Derouet, 10 Verouri-Nevez, 29700 Plovelh (Plomelin), Breizh/Brittany.

**CYMRU** Robat ap Tomos, 11 Heol Gordon, Y Rhath, Caerdydd, CF2 3AJ.

**ÉIRE** Pádraigín Mylevreeshey 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath.

**KERNOW** Sue Bowen, Venten Lynnow, Trevalgar, Bos Castle, TL35 ORG.

**MANNIN** Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel. Tel: UK (0) 1624 843869.

**ENGLAND BRANCH** Florence Kenna, 72 Compton Street, London, EC1V 0BN.

**USA** Margaret Sexton, c/o P.O. Box 20153, Dag Hammarshjold Postal Centre, New York, NY 10017.

**INTERNATIONAL BRANCH** Mark Lockerby, 12 Magherdonnag, Pony Fields, Port Erin, IM9 6BY, Isle of Man.

**GENERAL SECRETARY & P.R.O.**

**Bernard Moffatt**, 11 Cleiy Rhennee, Kirk Michael, Mannin.  
Tel - UK (0) 1624 877918

**EDITOR** Ms P. Bridson, 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.

E-mail: [patriciabridson@eircom.net](mailto:patriciabridson@eircom.net)

Articles for *Carn* should be sent on disk preferably in Microsoft Word or e-mailed to the Editor. Appropriate photographs should be sent with them.

Material for the next issue of *Carn* should reach the Editor no later than 1st November 2004. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Celtic League.

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# IRISH DEMOCRAT

For news, analysis, reviews, features, and an independent voice

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# COMANN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 128

Winter 2004/5

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- Gaelic Medium Schools Success
- Parti Breton
- Declaration of Rights of Bro Gymraeg
- Redmond's Folly
- Yn Impiroilaghys Reeshtagh
- Pillars of Manx Language RIP

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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



# Gaelic Medium Schools Success

At its Educational Conference in November in Kilkenny, the Irish medium schools organisation, Gaelscoileanna, had as its guest speaker Professor Richard Johnstone of the University of Stirling who gave two lectures, one on comparative studies he had undertaken on the performance of pupils in Gaelic medium schools in Scotland and another on the international experience with immersion education. This report will outline the results of the former.

Professor Johnstone introduced his presentation by outlining briefly the current situation of Scottish Gaelic. Census data has shown a continuing decline in the number of speakers of Gaelic, only 58,652 people aged three or over spoke the language in 2001, compared with 65,978 in 1991 and 82,000 in 1981. The historical influences of the Highland Clearances and the Education Act of 1872 (which introduced monolingual English education) have been further augmented by the lack of jobs in Gaelic speaking areas (with displacement to the cities), the effect of high status English speakers moving in and globalisation via English as an international language, invading the traditional Gaelic space - the home and local community.

Initiatives to recover include Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic Broadcasting Fund, the Gaelic Bill about to go through Scottish Parliament and the development of Gaelic-medium (GM) Primary Education. The attainments of pupils in GM education are contained in the publication Johnstone, R., Harlen, W., MacNeil, M., Stradling, R. & Thorpe, G. (1999). *The attainments of pupils receiving Gaelic-medium primary education in Scotland*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive. This can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/education/i62-02.asp>

## Main aims of the investigation

- To compare pupils' performance against national targets in the 5-14 programme: Gaelic, English, Mathematics
- To compare GM pupils' achievements with those of English Medium (EM) pupils in same schools, local authorities and nationally: Science (1996), Mathematics (1997), English (1998)

The research sample was 31 Scottish primary schools which had developed GM education to Primary 7, the final year of Primary School education. It was based on the pupils in P7, and also to a lesser extent those in earlier years. The research instruments were assessments of 5-14 year olds which were administered by class teachers as and when they felt pupils were ready. These assessments were graded by teachers at 5-14 into levels A to E as shown in the next column.

To approach our second aim it was necessary to use data generated by the Assessment of Achievement Programme (AAP). This is a three-year rolling programme which surveys the achievements of pupils in English, mathematics and science. The National AAP survey covered Science, then Maths, and then English followed by Science & Maths translated into Gaelic. It was externally set, administered by schools and externally graded.

Targets for Levels	
Level A	Should be attainable in the course of the first three years at primary schools for almost all pupils
Level B	Should be attainable for some pupils in P3 or even earlier, but certainly by most pupils in P4
Level C	Should be attainable for most pupils in the course of P4 to P6
Level D	Should be attainable for some pupils in P5 or P6 or even earlier, but certainly by most in P7
Level E	Should be attainable for some pupils in P7 or S1, but certainly for most in S2

## Findings on pupils' attainments: 5-14 Criteria

For the 5-14 target pupils almost two thirds in P7 were at levels D or E in Gaelic for Listening, Reading, Spelling - just about what was expected. Performance in Gaelic Writing was well below this, though EM pupils'

performance in English Writing was also below expectation. It was considered that more thought is needed to help pupils write creatively in Gaelic and in teaching Mathematics in the middle Primary School years.

## Findings on pupils' attainments: AAP surveys

Science (1996) at Primary 7 found GM pupils results close to the national average but below EM in the same schools. Mathematics (1997) at Primary 7 showed GM higher than EM in the same schools and nationally. This was also the case at P4, but the gap was wider by P7. Slight problems were evident for GM pupils in problem solving at P4. For English (1998) at Primary 7 those in GM were ahead of EM in the same schools for Reading and Writing and GM pupils were the same as the national average for Reading and ahead for Writing.

## Scottish Gaelic Medium research: Conclusion

Gaelic Medium pupils are not being disadvantaged; in fact in some cases they are clearly exceeding English Medium pupils' performances. There were reasons to explain the initial problem with performance in AAP science. There was no clear impact relating to the gender of a pupil or the location of a school. Gaelic Medium pupils are gaining the clear advantage of fluency in two languages and access to additional culture. This clearly shows the success and benefits of Gaelic Medium education.

- Professor Johnstone's report on international research on immersion education may be found at: <http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/pubs.htm#067>

Johnstone, R. (2001). *Immersion in a second or additional language at school: evidence from international research*. Report for the Scottish Executive Education Department. PDF version only available. Click on to the buttons for Summary, Acknowledgement etc



Professor Johnstone of Stirling University, Director of SCILT (Scottish Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research) with Dónal Ó hAiniféin, President of Gaelscoileanna

# First Parti Breton Summer School

The first Parti Breton Summer School took place in Gwidel, near An Oriant, on the 18th-19th September. One hundred people came to listen and exchange ideas with a dozen guest speakers.

During the two days various speakers underlined the necessity for Brittany to be quickly given devolved institutions with a tax system in order to play a role in Europe. The Parti Breton sees its own priorities as reinforcing the party itself, working on the local level, and building a programme for the future. The party's strategy is to build a Breton way of political thinking, opening Breton minds to Europe-wide action in the economic, social, and cultural fields.

Joan Vallvé, a former minister in Catalonia, spoke first. He said that the stateless nation of Catalunya is as large as



Belgium and smaller than Brittany. In Spain, the Basques and Galicians do have devolved powers in various fields like education, health, and roads. They teach the native language in schools. In Catalonia they are able to cope with Catalan and Spanish. He said 98% understand Catalan. A long way to go for our political leaders in Brittany.

The journalist Yannick Le Bourdonnec addressed the audience on Sunday afternoon. In his last book *Que veulent donc les bretons?* (What are the Breton people asking for?) he gave a good sum up of the economical, social, and political situation in Brittany. In my opinion it's a good mix of 'la Bretagne dans 20 ans' (Breizh in 20 years) from the sociologist Ronan Le Coadic, and books and figures coming out of Rennes university with Jean Ollivro.

At the end of the day, the Parti Breton can

look back positively on this very interesting weekend and first Summer School. This new party, born in 2003, might change politics in Brittany if they can keep going forward with young politicians involved in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Gi Keltik.

## Call for more Breton Language Teachers

### AGM 2004

*Motion 2: "This AGM calls on the French government to employ more Breton language teachers because there is more and more demand."*

### Background

In 2002, the higher state court made it clear that French was the 'state language', therefore Diwan's schools could not be included in the state school system (Education Nationale). This made most parents and Breton people understand what a Jacobin republican state was about. Since 2002, the EN had told the parents that they were ready to train students in Breton courses in order to respond to the growing number of children in the bilingual schools, but they have not kept to their promise. In so far as they work for the state, it's not easy for Breton teachers to go on strike for Breton courses.

In secondary schools (lycées) teachers are not allowed any more to teach Breton if they are not enough children (at least six) in their classroom. Instead, the academy of Brittany bought a video conference display in order to teach Breton in five different schools. The socialist leaders of the Council of Brittany are refusing to give a single euro to this bad deal. At the end of the day, pupils are missing Breton lessons, and the education establishment make it clear that French alone is the language of this Jacobin state.

It looks as if the game is not over...who's next?

Gi Keltik.



## Kampagn skoazell Diwan 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.*

*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.*

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 a New Language Act is renewed

On the night of the 17th October members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith covered the windows of numerous large private companies (chain shops, banks) in Cardiff with stickers and posters demanding "Ble mae'r Gymraeg?" (Where's the Welsh?). The action took place in Heol Albany/Albany Road, Yr Eglwys Newydd/Whitechurch, and Treganna/Canton districts and the companies targeted included the Royal Bank of Scotland, Somerfield, Lloyds the chemists, Iceland, Boots, and Tesco, all of which make at most minimal use of Welsh. These are all large organisations with chains of branches, and they could easily afford to introduce extensive Welsh-language policies. Cymdeithas draw a distinction between these and small local businesses in Anglicised areas who could find difficulty in operating such policies.

This action was to draw attention to the fact that the present Welsh Language Act

does not cover the private sector and thus private businesses are free to provide services only in English if they wish, and most do. The protest followed similar action in Flint, Caernarfon, and Aberystwyth in the preceding weeks, and was part of Cymdeithas's campaign for a New Language Act. Spokesman Rhys Llwyd said "Time after time we see companies and institutions still refusing to provide most of their services in Welsh and trampling on the rights of Welsh-speakers. This will not change until we have a New Language Act. It is over ten years since the present Act was passed, and so it is a suitable time to consider revising and strengthening the legislation. Indeed, considering the way privatisation and technology have transformed the way services are provided, this is a matter of urgency." Society vice-chairman Hedd Gwynfor added "Through this action... we proclaim that the era of the old Language Act

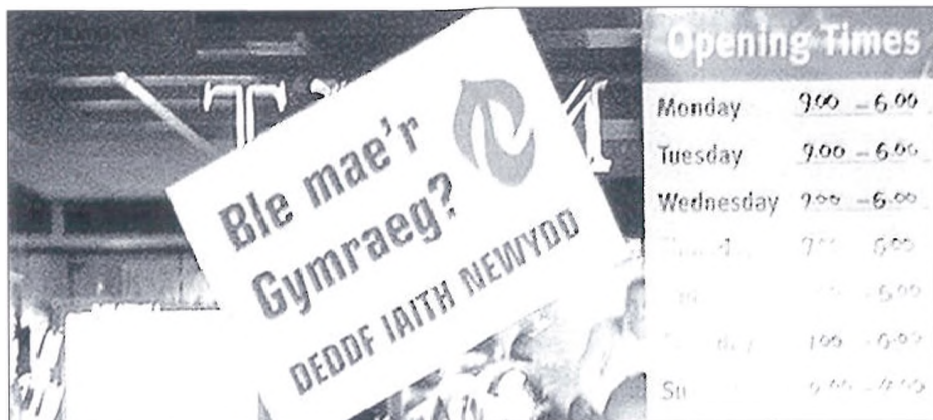
has come to an end. Wales has transformed since the passing of the old Act in 1993, and a New Language Act is back as a serious item on the political agenda."

Cymdeithas said that further action like this would take place in towns throughout Wales in the run-up to Christmas.

Indeed, the following Sunday night similar action took place in Bangor. Dozens of shops and offices were covered with the same stickers, including Kwik Save, Halifax, JJB Sports, Topshop, Burtons, Phones4U, and Debenhams. The message "Ble mae'r Gymraeg" was to be seen all over the city.

As a climax to this phase of the campaign, Cymdeithas will be holding a national forum on a New Language Act in the Old College, Aberystwyth, on Saturday March 12th 2005, where they will present their proposal for a new act. The aim will be to persuade the language quango to recommend that the Assembly demand a new language law from Westminster. Hywel Williams MP (Plaid, Caernarfon), who is in the process of drawing up a draft language bill to be put before Westminster, has agreed to address the forum and Meirion Prys Jones, the Welsh Language Board's Chief Executive, has agreed to respond. In the period up to the forum Cymdeithas are calling for a national debate on the possible contents of any new act. Their document *Canrif Newydd - Deddf Iaith Newydd* has been sent to numerous organisations and there is to be more internal debate within Cymdeithas too.

R. ap Tomos



## Plaid Cymru call for official EU status for Welsh

Plaid Cymru have launched a campaign to establish Welsh as an official language of the European Union following approval of the policy at Plaid Cymru's Annual Conference in Llandudno. The campaign will be led by the party's Deputy Leader Jill Evans MEP.

The party wants the proposed European Constitution translated into Welsh before it will consider supporting any referendum and is also calling for Welsh to become one of the EU's working languages. This would mean that Welsh speakers could write to the European institutions and expect a reply in their language and that Welsh speaking politicians could use the language in discussions on a European level.

The issue is back on the European agenda following Ireland's request for Irish to become an official language; the Spanish government is also making the same demands for Catalan,

Basque, and Galician.

Plaid Cymru Deputy Leader Jill Evans MEP will lead a campaign to put pressure on the London Government to negotiate the necessary changes. Conference delegates received campaign packs from the Euro MP. Jill Evans MEP said:

"It is a matter of principle for us that Welsh should be treated equally with the languages of other European countries. The European Union is funded through public money and should be there to serve all of the people - it should have a duty to provide services to Welsh speakers in their language of choice.

"We are calling for Welsh to be given the status of one of the EU's official working languages. This would mean that people could write to the European institutions and get a reply in Welsh. It would also mean that Welsh speaking politicians could use the Welsh

language in European negotiations with simultaneous translation provided into other languages.

"We're now seeing similar moves for Irish, Catalan and Basque to get this status. If it's good enough for them then why not Welsh? And let's not forget that Maltese already has this status even though fewer people speak the language than speak Welsh.

"Not only is giving Welsh official EU status right in principle, it would also be good news for the Welsh economy and for tourism, raising our profile on the international stage.

"It now needs the London Government to argue the case at the European level. We'll be doing all we can to make this happen and I personally look forward to the day when I can address the European Parliament in the language of the country I am privileged to represent."

# ANTI-WELSH RADIO CHANNEL IS WARNED

*Radio Carmarthenshire on 'Yellow card'*

The complaints by Cymdeithas yr Iaith and other language activists about a new local radio station's hostility to Welsh culture have been endorsed by the government quango Ofcom. Radio Carmarthenshire was given a licence to broadcast in Carmarthenshire, a county where 50% of the population still speak Welsh despite recent immigration, and which has the highest absolute number of Welsh-speakers in Wales. The licence stipulated a minimum number of hours to be broadcast in Welsh. Since they started broadcasting in June 2004 they have been criticised for their lack of Welsh language material and Welsh culture generally. Their nightly Welsh language programme broadcast from 7 to 9 every evening only plays English music with Welsh used to introduce each record. The only other Welsh heard on the station comprises bilingual trailers, twenty seconds of daily news bulletin and a patronising 'Welsh Word of the Day'. Cymdeithas are also unhappy that there are no live Welsh language programmes and therefore there is no opportunity for Welsh speakers to take part in programmes.

Cymdeithas have campaigned against the station using pickets and occupation of the studio.

The response to the campaign from the radio station has been unequivocal, with MD Keri Jones saying:

"It may be that 50% of the people of Carmarthenshire speak Welsh, but 100%

speak English"

\* "We do not play Welsh music and we never will"

\* "We will not support local bands unless they have an agreement with Sony or a similar company and have reached the British charts".

Jones even threatened to shorten the evening 'Welsh' program if Cymdeithas continued complaining.

A rally was held by Cymdeithas and local language group Menter Taf Myrddin on October 23rd outside the studio in Narberth, Pembrokeshire, which was addressed by Adam Price, Plaid MP for Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, and the bard Mererid Hopwood. It was followed by performances from two local bands, Mattoizd and Garej Dolwen - the type of music Radio Carmarthenshire ignores. Before the rally Catrin Howells of Menter Taf Myrddin said:

"While an alien broadcast will be going on inside the building, the alternative station will be heard from outside the building. The county's wealth of culture and talents, ignored now by Radio Carmarthenshire, will be heard in the language of over half the population of this county."

Speaking about the rally Radio Carmarthenshire's MD said "There is nothing for me to say that I haven't said before."

Following the rally Ofcom, the government regulator for the communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio,

telecommunications and wireless communications services, announced the results of an investigation they held following Cymdeithas's complaints. Ofcom's director in Wales said "Our monitoring suggested that the amount of Welsh broadcast by the station per day is less than that agreed. However, we are more concerned about the total absence of Welsh music ... It appears to be breaking the agreement clearly. Ofcom have the power to place statutory sanctions on licence holders including fines and shortening or revoking their licence to broadcast. We are today giving the station a yellow card and asking that they address these problems quickly and effectively".

In response to this Hedd Gwynfor of Cymdeithas yr Iaith said "Radio Carmarthenshire and their Chief Executive Keri Jones have shown total contempt for the Welsh language by not even broadcasting enough to meet the requirements of their license. Cymdeithas are calling for their licence to be revoked altogether and given to those with a real interest in reflecting and supporting the communities and culture of Carmarthenshire." He said that it was not a matter of the number of hours broadcast but of dealing with arrogance and prejudice towards the Welsh language and culture, and it is not a yellow card but only a red card that can deal with this.

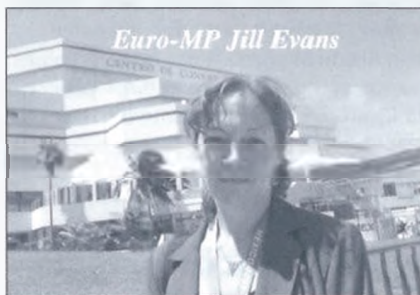
**Robot ap Tomos**

## Evidence before admission, says Welsh MEP:

Ahead of the report on Turkish EU membership, Plaid Cymru Euro-MP Jill Evans expressed dismay at reports that the European Commission was set to open the door for Turkey without first demanding hard evidence of progress on the country's human rights record, and in particular its treatment of the Kurdish people.

She explained that whilst Plaid Cymru and the European Free Alliance take the view that eventual Turkish membership of the EU would be good for Turkey and for Europe, there must be strict conditions attached, particularly in relation to human rights and the Turkish regime's treatment of the Kurdish minority:

"This is the reason for our dismay about the possibility of the Commission opening the door for Turkish membership with this report. Though our Group welcomes, up to a point, reports of a mechanism for slowing up or even halting the negotiations if Turkey fails to make progress on human rights, this falls well short of what we would have hoped for." Jill Evans, Deputy Leader of Plaid Cymru, continued:

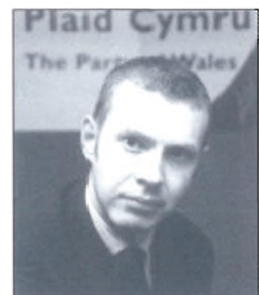


"Throughout this process we've voiced our concerns that not enough progress is being made in improving the human rights situation in Turkey, in particular the treatment of the Kurdish people.

"It remains the case that the linguistic, political and cultural rights of the Kurdish people do not get the recognition they deserve from the Turkish regime. Indeed it's reported that around 40% of the Kurdish population in Turkey cannot read or write - the legacy of an education system that doesn't recognise the Kurdish language. Can we really start accession negotiations against this backdrop?"



## Impeach Blair Campaign



Plaid MP Adam Price, shown here, is leading a campaign for the impeachment of Blair. Plaid members believe that an apology is no longer acceptable. Tony Blair must face the full consequences of his actions and his failure to resign has led to a call for impeachment.

# Éire

## tochailt Beartaíthe Le haghaidh shuíomh Chiaráin Naofa

Tá carthanas sa Chorn ag obair go dian chun tionscadal a chur le chéile d'fhonn tochailt a dhéanamh faoi fhothracha Theampall Chiaráin Naofa (Piran sa Chornais) an bhliain seo chugainn. Teampall meánaoiseach atá i gceist. De réir an bhéaloidis sa Chorn, tháinig Chiarán Naofa as Éirinn i mbád cloiche (cloch mhíle a ceanglaíodh air nuair a caitheadh le haill é) agus tháinig i dtír san áit atá ainmnithe air ó shin – Perranporth (Port Chiaráin). Gach bliain, déantar teacht an naoimh a cheiliúradh ar an 5 Márta. Dar ndóigh, is é Cros Chiaráin bratach náisiúnta na gCornach.

Cuireadh tús leis an tionscadal mar *Thionscadal Chiaráin Naofa* sa bhliain 2000 ach tá an bhuíon atá páirteach ann tar éis stádas carthanaís a bhaint amach anois mar *Iontaobhas Chiaráin Naofa*. Is é cuspóir na huíne ná na hiarsmaí seandálaíocha a bhaineann le Chiarán Naofa i bPerranzabuloe (An Paróiste – “Chiarán sa Ghaineamh”) i gceantar Perranporth, an séipéal paróiste a tógadh ina dhiaidh sin san áireamh, a chaomhnú agus a fhorhnaisiú.

Tá dhá mhórsuíomh reiligiúnda sna dumhcha ó thuaidh ó Perranporth: Aireagal Chiaráin Naofa ó luath-thréimhse na meánaoiseanna agus Teampall Chiaráin Naofa a tógadh ina dhiaidh sin. Is séadchomharthaí sceidealta iad an dá shuíomh agus tá cosaint dlí acu.

- Cill a tógadh go luath i ré na Críostaíochta is ea Aireagal Chiaráin Naofa ar tháinig clú uirthi san 19ú haois mar an foirgneamh Críostaíochta ba shine sa Bhreatain. Tá ardstádas aige toise an bhaint atá aige le Chiarán Naofa, naomh náisiúnta an Choirn. De dheasca tadbhanna leanúnacha le loitiméireacht agus tuilte, cuireadh faoi ghaineamh arís í sa bhliain 1980 agus anois tá dumhach shaintóghtha os a cionn.
- Tógadh Teampall Chiaráin Naofa timpeall na bliana 1150, tar éis don phobal éirí as Aireagal Chiaráin Naofa a úsáid, agus tá seans gur ar shuíomh réamhstaire a tógadh é.

### Tochailt faoin Teampall

Tháinig an teampall slán. Cros Cheilteach in aice leis agus dumhcha Thrá Penhale timpeall air. Cruinníonn na mílte timpeall ar an gCros agus ar an Teampall gach bliain mar chuid de cheiliúradh Lá Chiaráin Naofa.



*One of three Celtic crosses of its type in Cornwall, this cross stands next to the sand covered church of St Piran.*

Níor tugadh mórán aird ar an suíomh féin le fada. Tá codanna d'fhallaí an Teampaill le feiceáil cé go bhfuil an taobh istigh fós lán de smionagar agus de ghaineamh na farraige. Teastaíonn ó Iontaobhas Chiaráin Naofa tionscadal pobail a eagrú chun an smionagar a bhaint as an Teampall agus cabhrú cuid den chuma a bhí air a fháil ar ais.

I dteannta radharc níos fearr ar an Teampall a chur ar fáil, beidh obair chaomhnóireachta ar siúl ar na fallaí atá fágtha agus ar ghnéithe eile a nochtdh. Chomh maith leis sin, eagrófar taispeántas áitiúil de na nithe a aimsíofar ar an suíomh tar éis na tochailte, cuirfear leis na háiseanna léirmhíniúcháin sa cheantar agus déanfar plean bainistíochta seandálaíochta le

haghaidh an cheantair a cheapadh. Beidh Seirbhís Timpeallachta Stairiúla Chomhairle Contae an Choirn ag tabhairt lámh chunta don Iontaobhas san obair seo go léir.

Arsa Eileen Carter, urlabhraí de chuid an Iontaobhais:

“Cuid thábhachtach de thairpéis stairiúil Chiaráin Naofa, Perranporth agus an Choirn is ea Teampall Chiaráin. Is dóigh linne go geuideoidh an tochailt faoin Teampall chun a bhfuil fágtha a thabhairt chun beatha athuair, rud a chuirfidh ar chumas daoine tuiscint a fháil ar an stair iomlán a bhain leis.

Ina theannta sin, tabharfaidh an tochailt an deis do mhuintir na háite páirt a ghlacadh san obair chun a dteampall a aisghabháil as an ngaineamh.”

### Suirbhéireacht Gheofisiciúil

Cuireadh suirbhéireacht gheofisiciúil ar bun, Márta 2004, chun léargas a fháil ar na hiarsmaí atá fágtha faoin talamh timpeall ar Theampall Chiaráin Naofa. Chuir “Oidhreacht Shasana” an maoiniú ar fáil ar iarratas ó Sheirbhís Timpeallachta Stairiúla Chomhairle Contae an Choirn, agus gnóilacht as Devon, Substrata Ltd., is ea a dheimhniú an tsuirbhéireacht féin.

I dteannta taifeadadh a dhéanamh ar an mbábhún, deineadh taifeadadh ar fhianaise thábhachtach faoi sheanBhaile an Teampaill. San áireamh ansin, bhí roinnt páirceanna beaga siar ón mbábhún agus fianaise ar rian an echéarta agus ar shaothrú talún a bheith ar siúl. Thángthas, ina theannta sin, ar thrí cinn d'aimhrialtachtaí maighnéadacha a d'fhéadfadh a bheith bainteach le hurtheach na reilige, tigín nó foirgneamh dá leithéid.

Dar le Dick Cole as Comhairle Contae an Choirn go bhfuil torthaí na suirbhéireachta go hiontach. Ar seisean:

“Leis an suirbhéireacht seo, táthar tar éis líon mór gnéithe seandálaíocha a aithint timpeall ar Theampall Chiaráin Naofa, gnéithe ar léir baint a bheith acu le lonnaíocht stairiúil Bhaile an Teampaill. lonnaíocht atá anois faoin talamh. Ábhar sceitimíní is ea eolas a fháil faoi mhéid agus cineál na n-iarsmaí seo, nithe atá anois faoi ghaineamh a séideadh anuas orthu leis na céadta bliain.

Beidh torthaí na suirbhéireachta an-úsáideach maidir le cabhrú oibreacha timpeall ar Theampall Chiaráin Naofa amach anseo a bheartú.”

**Tuilleadh faisnéise:** Dick Cole (Comhairle Contae an Choirn) 00441872 322056 / [ricole@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:ricole@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Summary

*This article describes the work being undertaken to restore St Piran's church, now covered under sand dunes near Perranporth in Cornwall.*

**Vivian Uíbh Eachach.**

# JOHN REDMOND'S FOLLY

In an address given by former Taoiseach John Bruton, to a conference held by the 'Reform Movement', last September, He questioned the need for the 1916 Rising, and suggested that Irish independence could have been achieved without a shot being fired. This erroneous view is, unfortunately, shared by many, especially those of the 'revisionist' school. What is not widely known is that on the eve of the Great War, John Redmond, the Irish Party leader agreed to Partition, limiting Home Rule to a 26 county Southern Ireland. This was John Redmond's Folly!

After the disaster of the Parnell split, Redmond had re-united the Irish Party. In the 1911 election, they held the balance of power at Westminster. Redmond's price for supporting Herbert Asquith's Liberals to form a government was a new Irish Home Rule Bill, which would be put before parliament in 1912. Edward Carson's Unionists and their Tory allies were appalled. Even allowing for the possibility of a small number of Liberal defectors, the

numbers just wouldn't add up. Once the Bill passed its final reading, it would become law. With the formation of an Ulster Volunteer Force, extra parliamentary methods came to the fore.

On April 25th 1914 a massive arms importation took place at Larne. Faced with an armed insurrection, should Home Rule be enforced on Ulster, Prime Minister Asquith's nerve failed. He met with Tory leader, Bonar Law, who suggested excluding at least four of the six North Eastern counties, unless a majority there voted to accept Home Rule. John Redmond reiterated his view that Irish nationalists could never assent to the mutilation of the Irish nation. In early February, Asquith had given Redmond a number of reassurances that both he and his Cabinet were opposed to even the temporary exclusion of any part of Ulster. Now, faced with an armed Unionist militia contemplating a coup d'état, Asquith came up with a new proposal: any Irish county where a majority of its voters so decided, could opt out of Home Rule for

a six year period. After six years, unless Westminster had made a new provision, these counties would then automatically come under Home Rule.



*John Redmond*

## Gaelscoileanna Progress – new attitude from a new Minister?



*Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanifin, reviewing the Irish language software package 'An Cat Dubh' with pupils from Gaelscoil Osraí in Kilkenny following her launch of it after her address to the Gaelscoileanna Education and Annual Conference.*

The new Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanifin, was a guest speaker at this year's very successful Education and Annual Conference of Gaelscoileanna in Kilkenny in November. She at least, while showing the influence of the Department of Education mandarins in some parts of her speech, did, unlike her predecessor Noel Dempsey, indicate a willingness to accept a delegation from the organisation to discuss a range of issues affecting the position of many Gaelscoileanna and the broad range of difficulties facing Irish Medium Education. A series of very informative

workshops were held over the weekend ranging from curriculum oriented ones to those directed at planning second level schools (see also p.3). Amongst matters of concern shown in the reports of the executive and in motions discussed were the attitude of the Department to immersion education in the infant years in particular, the pressing need for development of second level schools and rejection of the policy evidenced by the Dept. earlier in the year with their refusal to sanction two new primary schools in Mullingar and Dublin. (See Carn 126).

After consulting with Ulster nationalist Joe Devlin, who had most to lose, given his position as an Ulster MP, Redmond suggested a temporary arrangement to allow Antrim, Armagh, Derry and Down to remain outside the Home Rule area for three years. Redmond then presented this watered-down opt out clause to Asquith. After more long hours of fruitless negotiations, Redmond finally agreed to the four-county, six-year opt out clause, but only as his very last concession. What John Redmond didn't know was that neither the Tories nor Edward Carson knew anything about these new proposals. When the new offer was put to Carson some days later, he rejected it contemptuously, stating,

*"We do not want a sentence of death with a stay of execution for either three or six years".*

As the Home Rule Bill got its second reading in the House of Commons, Carson took his members out of the House and returned to Belfast. The rumour was he was going there to stage a Unionist coup. The Liberal government watched and waited as Carson's now well-armed Ulster Volunteer Force prepared to flex its muscles. While the Irish Volunteers were organising their own small-scale arms importation at Howth, King George V invited all parties to a conference at Buckingham Palace in an attempt to find a way past the deadlock. The conference which took place from the 21st to 24th of July was amicable enough.

# Kernow



## GWIASVA RAG BAGASOW BYGHAN EUROPEK.

Yma gwasva pur dhe les a-dro dhe vagasow byghan Europek. Trigva an wasva ma yw [www.eurominority.org](http://www.eurominority.org) Gwasva bagasow byghan Europek, kenedhlek, ranndiryel, gonisogethek ha yethoniethek, poblow genesik, bagasow ethnek, tiredh arbennik, rannvroyow a omsyns diaval a dus erell ha gans plegansyow federalek yw. **Organisation pour les Minorités Européennes (OME)** yw hanow an kowethas. Henna a styr **Restrans rag an Bagasow Byghan Europek**. Hwithrans, derivadow hag avonsyans yw amkan an kowethas ma gras dhe lavar 90 kesskrifer a-berth yn Europa.

Yma baner dhe'n OME ynwedh. An baner a dhiskwa unyans yntra tus Europa ha liester poblow Europa. Baner an OME yw sevys war vaneryow Konsel Europa ha'n Unyans Europek. An sterennow yn kylgh a dhiskwa an liester, an vri ha'n golowder gonisogethek an bagasow byghan.

Gwrys vetu an wasva ma yn 1999 yn



Michel  
Bolloré-Pellé

Kemper (Breten Vyghan) gans **Michel Bolloré-Pellé**. Breton yw an den yowynk ma. Privedh yw an kowethas ma ha nyns yw kevrennys gans an Unyans Europek. Pur boesek yw lavar an OME ha'n wasva yw hembrenkys ha gwithys dhe dhydh pup-prys. Gwrys yw an lavar ma gans an gesskriforyon hag ordenys gans **Michel Bolloré-Pellé**. Gweresys yw **Michel Bolloré-Pellé** (Ordenor hag alhwedhor) gans **Darko GAVROVSKI** (skrifennyas), **Perdu**

**PERRA** (kynsa islywydh) ha **Johannes HOFMEISTER** (nessa islywydh). Ygerys yw an OME dhe bub bolonjedh da. Heb kost yw bos esel an OME. Ty a yll dos ha bos esel an OME ow pos kesskrifer. Rag bos kesskrifer res yw ri derivadow kewar ha heptu heb godrosow aghel. Pub kesskrifer a yll skrifa y erthygel yn yeth y dhewis. Nyns yw trelyys an wasva ma dhe Gernewek hwath ha da via kavoes kesskrifer kerneweger parys dhe drelyya an wasva ha dhe ri derivadow yn-kever Kernow ha'n Kernewek !

Pella derivadow orth: **Eurominority**, **Michel BOLLORÉ-PELLÉ**,  
86, kae Stêr an Oded, 29000 **Kemper**,  
**Breizh / Bretagne** (Dre Bow Frynk)  
**Tél. +33 (0)2 98 52 96 46**  
**[www.eurominority.org](http://www.eurominority.org)**

### Summary:

*www.eurominority.org is a website created in 1999 by a young Breton called Michel Bolloré-Pellé. The aims of the website are research, investigation and promotion of the minorities of Europe. Michel Bolloré-Pellé is helped in his task by Darko Gavrovski, Perdu Perra, Johannes Hofmeister and also by 90 correspondents all over Europe. Membership is free and this website is open to every good will. Everybody can become a correspondent. Articles written by the correspondents have to be objective, neutral and non-racists. Cornish correspondents are needed as the website has still not been translated into Cornish.*

José CALVETE

## Henry and Katharine Jenner

A Celebration of Cornwall's Culture,  
Language and Identity

Edited by Derek R. Williams



## Henry and Katherine Jenner

A Celebrations of Cornwall's Culture, Language  
and Identity

ISBN 1 903427 19 3 Price £12.50

This collection of essays is published to mark the centenary of the publication of Henry Jenner's Handbook of the Cornish Language in 1904, a landmark in the revival of Cornwall's ancient tongue, and to celebrate the contribution to Cornwall's culture of Jenner and his wife, Kitty Lee. Having helped Cornwall gain acceptance as a Celtic nation by the Pan-Celtic Congress, the Jenners went on to found the Old Cornwall Societies and Henry was to become Cornwall's first Grand Bard. Kitty Lee was a talented painter, poet and novelist, whose work until now has received little recognition. The book includes essays by Henry Jenner and poems by Jenner and Kitty Lee, with contributions by, David Everett, Alan M. Kent, Donald Rawe, Tim Saunders, Brian Coombes and Derek R. Williams, who explore the Jenners' writings, their achievements and their Anglo-Catholic and Royalist beliefs.

This book is produced in association with Gorseth Kernow.

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# Mannin

## Yn Impiroilaghys Reeshtagh

Lurg y Nah Chaggey Mooar, shimmei peiagh va smooïnaghtyn dy row eash noa vaynrey cheet rish. Va ny Natseeyn currit mow, va ny h-Ashoonyyn Unnaneyssit currit er bun, as feiy ny cruinney va sleih streeu son seyrnys as cairys. Ayns cheeraghyn Oarpagh dy liooar, v'eh coontit dy ve yn red kiart dy chroo shirveishyn-slaynt as shirveishyn-ynsee son dy chooilley pheiaagh, boght ny berchagh. Ec y traa cheddin, va ny shenn impiraghtyn Oarpagh goll sheese y liargagh dy tappee. Ny veggan as ny veggan, va ny meeryn slaait jiarg ec Sostnee niartal er caslys-cheerey yn teihll geddyn sorch dy heyrnys. Va'n red cheddin taghyrt bentyn rish ny h-impiraghtyn Frangagh as Belgagh as impiraghtyn elley. Ga dy daik y Caggey Feayr rish as va sleih goaill aggle roish caggey cheshveanagh, hannee meeryn mooarey dy yerkallys.

Tra huitt yn Unnaney Soveidjagh veih my cheillei, va tooilley jerkallys ayn. Dy firrinagh, she yn Impiraght Rooshagh huitt veih my cheillei. Lhig ny Soveidjee er dy row ooilley yn pobble syn Unnaney oc corrym, agh, ginsh yn irriney, va laue yn eaghtyr ec ny Rooshee.

Agh cha row yn jerkallys shen cooilleenit. Vrish caggaghyn magh ayns cheeraghyn dy liooar, yn Yugoslaavey ny mast'oc. Fo'n ennym foalsey jeh Æjeianaghey<sup>1</sup> (Æmodernising<sup>1</sup>), ta poaraghyn lajer er vooadaghey yn vaarney eddyr sleih boght as lught yn argid. Ta'n Ædellal seyr<sup>1</sup> stroie ny beaghyn jeh sleih feiy ny cruinney.

Gyn ourys, shione dhyt ooilley yn stoo shoh hannah. Agh, myr Celtiee, erskyn ooilley, shegin dooin cur geill da'n impiroilaghys noa. Neayr's lhing ny Romanee ny shlee na daa veeilley blein er dy henney, ta ny Celtiee er hurranse kyndagh rish yn impiroilaghys. Shoh yn polasee ta dellal rish sleih as cheeraghyn ta currit fo chosh myr greieyn-obbyr ta currit er y teihll cour cosney argid son ny mainshtyryn oc. Foastagh, ta ny h-aghtyn-smooïnaghtyn ec ymmodde Celtiee soilshaghey dy vel yn impiroilaghys jannoo orroo ec y traa t'ayn.

Va kuse jin bolvaneagh dy liooar dy chredjal ny skeealyn dy row yn impiroilaghys goll ersooyl son dy bragh lurg y Nah Chaggey Mooar. Cha row shen kiart - t'eh cheet erash dy lajer nishtagh, goll er

leeideil ec deiney goll rish George W. Bush as Putin sy Roosh.

Neayr's hoie ny h-Arabee shen er America lesh etlanyn, ta leshtal cooie er ve ec Bush as Putin as fir-toshee elley dy lhiggey er dy vel sheshaght agglagh dy h-ymaggleyderyn gobbraghey ry cheillei feiy ny cruinney, dy jeean as dy fondagh. As ny jean jarrood y dooinney treih shen, Tony Blair. Agh hooar yn FBI as yn CIA nagh vel lheid y cheshaght agglagh shen ayn. Son shickyrys, ta possanyn dy gheiney debejagh ayn ayns ymmodde cheeraghyn ta arryltagh dy varroo sleih elley as jannoo reddyng scammlytagh elley. Agh t'eh er ve myr shen rish ram bleeanntyn.

Ta reillyssyn ennagh goaill ymmyd jeh skeealyn ard-yindyssagh mychione Al Qa'ida (Yn Undinys) dy cheau ersooyl cairyn sleih. Cooinee er yn chennaghys. Shimmei leigh hranlaasagh va bree currit jee ec fir-toshee Hostyn harrish ny bleeanntyn kyndagh rish yn eab dy chur Nerin fo chosh. Ta ny leighyn shoh er chur stiagh er sleih cadjin ayns Sostyn, Bretyn, Nalbin, Mannin as y Chorn chammah as orroosyn ayns Nerin hene. As nish, kyndagh rish ÆY Chaggey noi'n Atchim<sup>1</sup> t'lad croo leighyn smessey foast ayns America, Sostyn as cheeraghyn elley. As ta Putin er naavioghey yn impiroilaghys Rooshagh liorish y chaggey scammlytagh ayns Chechnya.

Agh ta'n sampleyr share jeh'n impiroilaghys noa ry gheddyn syn Earack nish. Rish ymmodde bleeanntyn, ta Rumsfeld as e chaarjyn er naarlaghey dy hoie er y cheer shen. Nish t'eh jeant oc - as cre'n brock fuilltagh t'ayn. Jarrood y blaatar mychione Wappinyn Cour Ard-Chragh. As jarrood y boghtynid mychione seyrey pobble - t'eh jeeaghyn nagh row ad laccal agh geddyn greim er yn ooill, s'cummei vel meeillaghyn dy leih oney marrooit.

Ayns Sostyn, ta'n impiroilaghys noa ry akin ayns ny claareyn Æshennaghys<sup>1</sup> ta goll er creeley er y chellveeish. Jeeagh er y strane dy chlaareyn jeant ec y fer shen David Starkey son Ammyr Kiare. Ta Starkey er ngoll erash dys ny shenn laghyn as eshyn livrey goo Yee mychione cre cho yindyssagh as va reeaghyn as mraane-rein Hostyn. Choud's ta fys aym, cha row ny Celtee imraait echey agh un cheayrt - myr pobble neu-fee'u va scughit ersooyl ec Anglo-

Hostnee va jeeaghyn da'n teihll yn agh dy chroo ashoon veagh reill harrish y chruinney. Ta Starkey gra dy vel Crooin Hostyn er nyannoo reddyng mooarey son Æyn ashoon<sup>1</sup>. Shione dou cre'n ashoon t'eh loayrt mychione. Ny sodjey, ta Starkey corree Ædy vel shin er chur sthap er ynsaghey shennaghys as cultoor yn ashoon ain dy kiart<sup>1</sup>. Gyn ourys, t'eh smooïnaghtyn dy bare dooin jarrood y theay ayns shennaghys. Share y lught-reeoil my t'ou cur yn impiroilaghys er e hoshiaght. Ta Starkey ny charrey mooar da'n Phrinse Chalse, ren gra ÆTa shin er choayl yn agh dy hoiggal yn eiraght ashoonagh ain. T'eh ooilley kyndagh rish ny bleeanntyn tree feed.<sup>1</sup> Cre'n jeeyl va jeant ec ny bleeanntyn shen. As ta shin toiggal c'led ta'n prinse ooasle cheet er tra t'eh loayrt mychione Æyn eiraght ashoonagh ain<sup>1</sup> as Æshin<sup>1</sup>. Shione dhyt dy vel reddyng beggan ersooyl cam tra ta Starkey gra ÆShe yn rheam reeoil yn agh dooghysagh dy reill. Gagh sorch elley dy reilty, she red aggairagh t'ayn<sup>1</sup>.

Fer -shennaghys elley, shen dooinney enmyssit Ferguson. Ta eshyn lane shickyry dy row (as dy vel) impiraghtyn foaysagh. Vel shen yn oyr hooar eh obbyr yindyssagh myr olloo niartal ayns ollooscoill Americaanagh myr Yale ny Harvard? Son shickyrys, ta ny Æneocons<sup>1</sup> Americaanagh goll rish Rumsfeld slane ayns foayr jeh'n impiroilaghys. Shimmei neocon as shimmei sidoor Americaanagh ta lhaih dy jeean mychione yn Impiraght Ghoaldagh nish. Foddee ad jeeaghyn da ny h-Arabee treih yn agh dy chosney yn deynlaght.

Foddee nagh vodmayd, ny Celtee, jannoo monney mychione ny cooishyn shoh. Agh er y chooid sloo fodmayd gaccan mychione claareyn chellveeish nagh vel agh ashoonaghys Sostnagh. As ta currym er l'eh ain dy ve caggey noi'n impiroilaghys. Son shickyrys, ren ram jeh ny shennayraghyn ain cooney dy jeean lesh yn impiroilaghys - jeeagh er ny captany-marrey Manninagh va dellal ayns sleabyn. Agh er y laue elley, va shennayraghyn ain va mastey yn chied sleih va currit fo chosh ec yn impiroilaghys syn Oarpey. T'eh fassanagh ec y traa t'ayn dy hannaghtyn dty host. Lhig dooin gyllagh magh.

### Summary

*A new and dangerous imperialism is appearing, led by the unholy alliance of the Bush clique, Blair and Putin. Celts may appear powerless in the face of all this, but the insular Celts should at least protest about the stream of imperialist propaganda masquerading as history which is appearing on British television.*

Brian Stowell



# Celtica



## AGM 2004

This year's AGM took place on the 16th October 2004 in Perranporth, Cornwall. The following resolutions were adopted for progress by the branches.

### Alba

This AGM proposes that we liaise with the Unrepresented Nations of People Organisation (UNPO) with a view to membership of the Celtic League.

This AGM requests that the International Olympic Committee hereby recognises the legitimate right of the ancient Celtic nations (Alba / Scotland, Breizh / Brittany, Cymru / Wales, Kernow / Cornwall, Mannin / Isle of Man) and in doing so proscribe the false, non-nations of Britain and France from participation.

### Breizh

This AGM calls on the French government for the reunification of a Brittany of 5 departments as it was before World War II without any opposition to connections with other Atlantic regions.

This AGM calls on the French government to employ more Breton language teachers because there is more and more demand.

### Cymru

The AGM notes the decision of Cymuned to adopt a strategy of trying to win recognition of the Bro Gymraeg as an entity in order to preserve Welsh as a naturally spoken community language. The AGM endorses this direction.

### Éire

This AGM calls on the new Minister of Education, Mary Hanifin, TD, to reverse Dept. of Education and Science policies which are curbing the expansion of Gaelscoileanna in the Republic. In particular we call for an end to the ridiculous policy of stating that demand for new schools must be accommodated in existing Gaelscoileanna, when they are in fact full and have little room for recreation let alone any totally disruptive expansion. We also call for a change to the date requirement for application for new Gaelscoileanna from September to December.

This AGM calls on the Irish and British governments to ensure that the Good Friday agreement in the North is maintained and implemented. The Assembly must be



*Sua Bowen,  
Secretary, Kernow Branch*

restored and cross border bodies fully implemented.

This AGM congratulates Stádas on its successful campaign to get the Irish government to ask for full EU working language status for Irish. We call on the EU Council of Ministers and the EU Commission to grant the request of the Irish government for full EU working language status for Irish and to expedite its implementation.

This AGM demands that the Irish Government stop its collusion with the US in the Iraq war in its illegal granting of the use of Shannon Airport for transfer of US military personnel and material. We call for the proper maintenance of Ireland's neutrality.

The Celtic League deplores what has happened in the recent past in the six counties of the North of Ireland in regard to collusion between Westminster State security forces and loyalist paramilitaries. This AGM calls for an immediate independent international inquiry into the London Government's collusion in murders committed there in the past.

### Kernow

1.1 That the Church of England in Cornwall should be disestablished to create a new province of the Church of England - a Church of Cornwall.

- 1.2 That the Archbishop of Canterbury should acknowledge on behalf of the Church of England its part in provoking and suppressing the 1549 Prayer Book Uprising.
- 1.3 That the Archbishop should make a statement of regret on behalf of the Church of England for all it has done since 1549 and continues to do to suppress Cornwall's national identity, political freedom, language and culture.

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN TO BECOME SUBJECT OF RACIAL EQUALITY COMPLAINT

A Perthshire man is promising to make a complaint to the Commission for Racial Equality the next time he hears God Save the Queen played.

Mark Hirst, 35, of Abernethy, a public relations executive, said he had already contacted the commission for advice and intended to report a racist incident next time he hears the anthem.

Mr Hirst, who is not a member of any political party, said: "I have long been bewildered that God Save the Queen, with its openly racist and anti-Scottish lyrics, has not led to prosecution by the authorities.

"While Flower of Scotland simply asks the English to have a wee think to themselves, God Save the Queen wallows in the 'crushing' of our rebellious ancestors."

He said the commission advised him to make an official complaint the next time he heard the song played.

Mr Hirst does not intend to scour events schedules and TV listings in the hope of finding some place where he will hear it soon, but insists he will report an incident the next time he chances upon the anthem.

He added: "As for my preference to the Scottish national anthem, I think Flower of Scotland is a fine tune with inspiring lyrics, and long before the chattering middle classes started organising focus groups and petitioning the parliament, it was accepted and embraced by the people as our rightful anthem.

"Had it not been for the preference of Scots to sing Flower of Scotland as their anthem these last few decades, we might still be droning along to the tune which celebrates our defeat and humiliation at the hands of our English conqueror."

Mr Hirst also described it as ironic that the British anthem's lyrics were written to celebrate the defeat of the Jacobites.

He said the tune was an old Jacobite one, with the lyrics changed to suit the political agenda of the day.

*The third verse in full  
Lord grant that Marshal Wade  
May by thy mighty aid  
Victory bring,  
May he seditiön hush,  
And like a torrent rush,  
Rebellious Scots to crush.  
God save the King/Queen!*

# The Chough - an Avian Link between the Celtic Nations



The Celtic League journal *Carn* is subtitled *A link between the Celtic Nations*, because the word “*Carn*” occurs in all of the 6 Celtic languages. As a Manxman who has watched choughs for almost all of his life, I would like to suggest that this bird is also a link between the Celtic nations, as it occurs in all of the Celtic countries.

For those who are not familiar with the chough, either in the wild or on the Cornish coat-of-arms, it is a crow with glossy black plumage and striking red legs and bill. It is about the same size as the much more numerous and widespread jackdaw. Unlike other species of crow, such as the magpie and raven, the diet of the chough consists mostly of insects and other invertebrates. It is particularly spectacular when flying, both when soaring with wing feathers spread out like fingers and when swooping down with closed wings to its nesting and feeding sites. A sociable bird, it seems to do best in areas where there are lots of other choughs around to join in flocks for flying, feeding and roosting. Its name in the Gaelic languages is onomatopoeic. Thus, in Manx it is called *caaig*. The English name is not onomatopoeic, but a Cornishman once told me that he had heard the name “chough” pronounced like “chaw.”

The Celtic League’s definition of a Celtic nation is one which has a living Celtic language. How can I claim the chough as a Celtic bird? Although the species is fairly widespread in mountains in southern Europe, especially Spain, as far as north western Europe is concerned it only breeds in the 6 Celtic countries. There is no other species of bird which has a range like that. As examples, the two birds flanking the Manx Government heraldic shield are the raven and the peregrine falcon. The raven nests in the 6 Celtic countries, but also in all the other countries of north western Europe except Luxembourg. The peregrine falcon is, I believe, extinct in Breizh. It breeds in the other 5 Celtic countries, but also in parts of England and Scandinavia.

Even within some of the individual Celtic countries, the chough is concentrated in what might be regarded as being some of the most traditionally Celtic areas. Thus, although choughs are found almost all round the rocky coasts of Mannin, they are especially concentrated in the far south west, where more than 40% of the breeding population occupies less than 3% of the Island’s area. It was

in this part of Mannin where some of the last of the old generation of Native Speakers of our language lived in the twentieth century, including Ned Maddrell himself. Coincidentally, in the same way that the census of the human population in 2001 found a higher number than for many years of people who professed an understanding of the Manx language, a census of the chough population in 2002 found 426 birds (including 150 breeding pairs) in Mannin, likely to be the largest population since at least the mid 19th century.

In Alba, the chough is now restricted to just two of the Inner Hebrides, Islay and Colonsay, except for one pair that nests in Galloway. It is thought that the Galloway choughs went there from Mannin, thereby providing a link between the two countries. Single pairs also nested on Jura and Mull until recently. The population of choughs in Alba is now about 80 pairs. Choughs are more widespread in Cymru, with at least 200 pairs, but most breed in the west. Likewise, although there were more than 900 pairs in Eire in 1992, they were found mostly in the west, especially in Cork, Kerry and Donegal. I do not have an up-to-date figure for Breizh, but there were fewer than 40 pairs in 1988, and most of those were in the far west, except for some on Belle Ile.

As a Manx enthusiast for the chough, I like to point out that the species occurs in a higher population density in Mannin than in any other country in Europe (except for Andorra). However, I am happy to concede that the strongest historical and traditional link with the species is with Kernow. That said, when I wrote about the chough in *Dhooraght* a few years ago, I lamented the fact that it was extinct in that country. On a visit to Kernow in 1982, I bought a fine little book by T.O. Darke called *The Cornish Chough*, published by D. Bradford Barton Ltd. of Truro. In it, Mr Darke described the history of the chough in the country, the disappearance from the south coast in the 19th century, the eventual extinction in the north, reasons for the decline and prospects for a return of the species to Kernow, which he regretted were nil. However, even at the time of my trip to Kernow, Paradise Park in Hayle had been working for several years towards releasing choughs that they had bred in aviaries. This scheme was not supported by the ornithological establishment, including the Royal

Society for the Protection of Birds, not least because they felt that the reasons for the chough’s extinction were not fully known and, it was claimed, had not been corrected.

As a Celt, the extinction of the chough in Kernow concerned me for many years. I have always been very interested in wildlife, and one of the animal books that I had as a young boy contained a photograph of 2 young choughs on a cliff in Kernow, but the last Cornish chough died in 1973, when I was 15. Much of the research on the ecology of the species during the last 30 years or so has concerned the effects of changes of agriculture. Grazing by livestock and rabbits is very important, but so is some arable farming, like grass and grain growing. Stubble and newly mown grass fields often attract large flocks of choughs in areas where there is a sizeable population. The importance of mixed agriculture is probably best illustrated in the far S.W. of Mannin by the two farms of Cregneash (Church Farm) and Shennvalley (Sound Farm). With all due respect to Manx National Heritage, Shennvalley has almost always attracted the largest numbers of choughs of any farm in Mannin, including the best ever spring count, 86 on 22nd May this year. This was not just an isolated event; the area is consistently good for choughs.

Another factor that contributed to the decline and eventual extinction of the Cornish chough was persecution by man. The concentration on agricultural changes seems to have underestimated the effects of the collection of eggs and chicks, and the killing of adult birds. In Mannin, a decrease in the chough population in the mid 19th century was preceded by the likes of the visit by one Sir William Jardine in 1827, who wrote of acquiring “nearly thirty specimens in a forenoon.” Reading *The Cornish Chough*, it is clear that egg collectors from England must take some of the blame for the extinction of the Cornish chough, offering Cornishmen what must have seemed like large sums of money to risk their lives taking clutches of eggs from the caves, fissures and mines where the nests were placed. Fortunately, humanity’s attitude towards our fellow creatures has improved greatly since the days of Sir William Jardine and his like, but some persecution of choughs still taken place. With the increased numbers of choughs in Mannin, some are nesting in places that are much more accessible to people, resulting in an increased risk of accidental disturbance. However, some pairs of choughs are very resilient to quite high levels of human activity near their nests, with the females sitting tight on the eggs, for example.

I visited in Kernow in 1982, and stayed in Tregowris, near St Keverne. One day, I went for a very long walk, south to

Republicans to participate in British direct rule of the six occupied counties in the north of Ireland. Adams and his purloined posse are swapping sentex for summer homes, guns for governmental positions, and they are cementing over arms dumps to secure their status as second class citizens in their Loyalist controlled state – not what George and his compatriots had in mind when they set about their clandestine weapons quest.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention George's support of freedom movements worldwide. Of George it was said, "Never met a revolution he didn't like.", and to paraphrase the old ballad, "God grant you glory, old George, and open heavens to all your men, the cause that called you may call tomorrow in another cause for the Green again."

*Thomas McGrath,  
Celtic League American Branch*

George Harrison was not in the street sense a Centrist. He was not an Irish language scholar such as his fellow Irish republican Martin O'Caer. Nonetheless, his life should serve as an example to those of us who seek to establish an ethnic or cultural identity that extends beyond the borders of one particular country.

Although born in the small west of Ireland village of Shammer, County Mayo, George viewed the Irish people's struggle for national and cultural identity in a global setting. He saw parallels to the cause of Africans oppressed by the apartheid regime in South Africa. This affinity was most clearly evidenced when David Ndaba of the African National Congress testified as a character witness at his trial.

George took great pride in detailing the role of the IRA in the fight against fascism in Spain. He time and again expressed his solidarity with the Basque people in their efforts.

George was truly as he was described by Ruairi Ó Brádaigh in a message to the Michael Flannery dinner in his honour "A rebel without a pause" but never without a purpose and a goal.

Those of us who wish to attain Pan-Celtic unity would do well to follow the transnational vision of one of the sincerest and courageous men it has been our privilege to know.

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# Britonia: camiños novos

**SIMON YOUNG**

List Price: €8.50

Paperback 167 pages (March 2002), (140x215 mm)

Language: Galician. ISBN: 84-95622-58-0

**Publisher:** Editorial Toxosoutos, Serie Keltia. **TOXOSOUTOS**, is a recently established Galician publishing company covering medieval Galician history and language and also Celtic studies and Galician literature. The Keltia series has very interesting titles dealing with the Celts in Galicia as well as with the Celts in general. Visit their website at [www.toxosoutos.com](http://www.toxosoutos.com)

**About the Author:** Simon Young is 31 years old. This young English author is now living in Italy. He became interested in the early Middle Ages (400-1000) and especially the British Celts in this period at university, ten years ago. Since then he has written 3 books and many articles both academic and freelance on the theme and, at the moment, he is in the middle of a doctorate at Florence University where he is cataloguing «*The Insular Peregrini*» (Columbanus and others). This April 2005, Wedensfield and Nicholson will be publishing his latest book «*AD 500*», which is a kind of travelogue describing a trip around Britain and Ireland. His interest in Britonia (the British Celtic colony in Spain) began many years ago when an undergraduate at Cambridge. As a freelance journalist he has written on European minorities and the right of self determination. In 2001, he received the «*Premio Historia Medieval de Galicia*» (Galicia Medieval History Prize) for his book «*Britonia: camiños novos*».

### Book Description:

This book covers a subject seldom covered by Celtic scholars and little known among British Celts. Galicia has always claimed a Celtic past. But this Celtic past is not only pre-Roman as most people think. Like Brittany, though on a smaller scale, Galicia received British Celtic immigrants during the Dark Ages, fleeing the «*Saxon fury*» as Gildas told us in his «*De Excidio Britanniae*». These colonies of Britons on the shores of the north-western corner of the Iberian Peninsula, in what is now Galicia and Asturias are much less well known than those in Brittany. Few scholars have dealt with this subject as few scholars have had enough competence in Celtic studies and also in Galician medieval history. **Simon Young**, using the works of **Pierre David** and **Antonio García y García** was determined to put down the basic foundations for future researchers, something that was totally lacking in studies up to that time, studies that



tended to be woolly or full of folklore considerations. The book is divided into three parts. Part one looks at the traditional sources on the settlements. Part two shows us new sources of study. And part three is a provocative interpretation of parts one and two of the book. It also contains a very useful and interesting appendix dealing with place and personal names linked to these British settlements. The history of these British Celtic settlers in Galicia and Asturias is fascinating. The first mention of these British Celtic colonies is found in 572 in the acts of the second Council of Braga, stating that «*Mahiloc Britonorum ecclesiae episcopus hic gestis subscribitur*» which means «*I, Maeloc, bishop of the Church of the Britons signed this act*». Some 10 place-names directly connected with the British Celtic colonies of the Dark Ages are still to be found in Galicia and Asturias, among them the famous «*Bretonia*» near Mondoñedo. I would like to recommend very warmly this excellent and very interesting book which would merit an English translation in order to make it accessible to English-speaking readers. It would be also worth reading by British Celts and Celts in general...

**Simon Young** also hopes to publish in English a series of articles expanding chapters of this book. In fact, the first of these has now come out and appeared in **Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies in 2003** »*The Bishops of Britonia*«.