

# CAWPN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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MANNIN: YN COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE 



# Alba



## Gaelic Education Compromise for Skye

### AN CÈITEAN 1707 – AN CÈITEAN 2007



Abair gu bheil fiughaireachd ann, abair gu bheil sinn air bhioran air feadh Alba.

Carson? Uill, thug Sasainn buaidh oirnn air a' chiad latha den Chèitean no Màigh 1707 leis an Aonadh, trì cheud bliadhna air ais. A bharrachd air sin, bidh taghadh don Phàrlamaid Albannaich againn sa Chèitean an ath bhliadhna, 2007.

Air a' chiad latha den t-Samhain am bliadhna, rinn am pàipear naidheachd "An t-Albannach" suirbhìdh tro ICM agus fhuair iad a-mach gu bheil 51% airson neo-eisimeileachd no saorsa do dh'Alba agus gu bheil an SNP air thoiseach air na Làbaraich! Abair gu bheil an SNP toilichte, is iad ag ràdh, "It's time for the SNP/ An t-àm airson an SNP."

Tha an SNP airson saorsa do dh'Alba agus leis a' chumhachd bhiodh ar sràidean fada na bu shàbhailte a thaobh eucoir, le tuilleadh phoileas agus tilleadh do dh'fhoghlam an asgaidh agus bhiodh cisean ionadail reusanta a rèir mar a biodh duine comasach ri phàigheadh agus chumadh iad ospadalan ionadail fosgailte. Ach, gu h-àraidh, chuireadh e crìoch air smachd à Lunnainn.

Ach dè mu dheidhinn Tony Blair? Dè mu dheidhinn an taghaidh don Phàrlamaid againn anns a' Chèitean? – dìreach coma co-dhiù. Bheir e ionnsaigh air saorsa na h-Alba. Tha e leis gu cuideachd a ràdh gu bheil e Albannach e fhèin, ged a rugadh e ann an Queen Mary Maternity Home, Lauriston Place, Dùn Èideann agus ged a bha e a' fuireach aig 5 Paisley Terrace, Dùn Èideann agus an deach e gu ruige Adelaide (baile glè Albannach ann an Astràilia) fad trì bliadhnanach gu leth. Thill e gu Alba agus chaidh an teaghlach aige gu Stepps, faisg air Glaschu agus chaidh e don sgoil ann an Colaiste Fettes, Dùn Èideann. Ach tha e coma nuair a theireadh duine gu bheil e Albannach! Faicibh an dealbh èibhinn!

Nuair a dh'fhaighnich fear naidheachd de Blair, an robh e Albannach, cha robh Tony Blair cinnteach; ag ràdh, "Rugadh mi ann an Alba . . . . tha mi a' ciallachadh . . . . tha fios agad . . . . 's urrainn dhut na nithean sin a chantainn. Chan eil mi a' smaointinn mar sin, bhon a bha mi a' fuireach ann an Sasainn fad mo bheatha."

Arsa Alec Salmond, ceannard an SNP, gum biodh na Làbaraich a' toirt ionnsaigh air saorsa do Alba, le smiuran/ smears agus le eagal . . . . . "Mar as motha a tha am Prìomhaire a' toirt ionnsaigh air saorsa is air an SNP, mar as motha a tha iad a' fàs taitneach don t-sluagh!"

Gun teagamh cuiridh Taghadh Holyrood air 3 Cèitean 2007 air bhioran sinn.

Am bi sinn nas fhaisg air Saorsa na h-Alba an dèidh trì ceud bliadhna fo smachd Shasainn. Tha a' mhòr chuid cinnteach gum bi!

#### Summary

*There is great excitement over the forthcoming General Election for the Scottish Parliament in May 2007, as there was in May 1707. Three hundred years ago we lost our independence and our sovereign Parliament and was so conquered by our neighbour, England. This excitement was further heightened with a report in The Scotsman newspaper in November last when an ICM survey found that 51% of the Scottish electorate wanted independencs. This inspired the SNP with the slogan, It's time... for the SNP.*

Gillesbuig Mac a' phearsain no  
Archy Macpherson

**SNP** It's time

Gaelic-medium education is to remain optional rather than becoming standard in the most viable Gaelic community in the Scottish Gàidhealtachd as the result of a decision by Highland Council committee.

Following a consultation process on the option of designating Sleat primary in the Isle of Skye as a Gaelic-medium school where monolingual English-medium education would be gradually discontinued, the council have instead chosen a compromise position. The school is to be designated a "Gaelic school" but will have an English-medium unit which will continue to offer monolingual education in a separate building within the school grounds for those not wishing their children to learn Gaelic.

A group of parents with children in Gaelic-medium education (GME) had requested that Sleat primary school be designated a Gaelic school. The area is an energy centre for Gaelic activity, being home to Scotland's national Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and the majority of children within the school are currently being educated through the medium of Gaelic. Campaigners believed that an all-Gaelic school would both support pupils' ability and confidence in Gaelic and strengthen the language in the community. Some others in the community fiercely fought the proposal, however, believing that learning Gaelic should continue to be optional and that an all-Gaelic school would create division locally.

The compromise solution is unlikely to please either side of the argument. Those supporting a Gaelic school are unhappy that GME will not become standard and are worried that the existence of the English-language unit will limit the Gaelic ethos of the school and restrict the use of Gaelic in all-school events. Those against a Gaelic school are concerned that the proposal will divide local children.

Language activists believe that the council's decision has set a worrying precedent for the future development of GME. To date, entrance to GME even in strongly Gaelic-speaking areas has been entirely voluntary with parents having to positively opt-in and often having to transport their children some distance to school.

The designation of Sleat primary school as a dedicated Gaelic school would have established the principle that it is acceptable for GME to become the normal form of education in Gaelic-speaking areas and that parents wishing their children to be educated monolingually in English should have to actively opt-out and be willing to transport their children to schools outside their community. This would have brought



# An Leabhar Mòr

A new CD of classic Irish and Scottish Gaelic songs was released at the end of 2006. The songs all come from the hugely successful Leabhar Mòr, or Great Book of Gaelic, and are sung by some of the greatest tradition bearers and singers in Gaelic Scotland and Ireland. Each of the songs is sung by a different Gaelic singer and the Scottish singers include Flora MacNeil, Ishbel MacAskill, Christine Primrose, Anne Lorne Gillies, Margaret Stewart, Rachel Walker, Mary Smith, Finlay MacNeill and Donnie Murdo Macleod. Ireland is represented by Nicolas Toibin, Peadar Ó Ceannabháin, Albert Fry, Gearoidin Breathnach, Roisin Elsafty, Eilis Kennedy, Aine Meirbhic and Padraighín Ní Ullacháin.



The CD is published by Colmcille and Pròiseact nan Ealan (PNE): the Gaelic arts agencies behind the Leabhar Mòr project. PNE Director Calum MacLean said: "Some of the best and most respected exponents of Gaelic song in Ireland and Scotland have contributed to the CD and the songs they sing are all classics from the traditions of both countries. This latest evolution of the Leabhar Mòr project vividly brings to life, in another medium, the deep cultural and linguistic links between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland. "The poems, artworks and calligraphy of the original Leabhar Mòr exhibition and book continue to inspire

## Gaelic Education

continued from page 2

Scotland in line with the Irish Gaeltacht and strongly Welsh speaking areas of Wales.

Another local authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, which serves the most strongly Gaelic speaking area of Scotland, also recently backed down from designating two schools as dedicated Gaelic schools following local opposition (Carn 133).

Màrtainn MacLeòid

interest in the Gaelic arts from all over the world. The exhibition has now been touring for four years and has several more years of touring confirmed. It has been seen by more than a million people in Scotland, Ireland, France, the USA and Australia and exhibited in thirty locations in Ireland alone. It has generated more than 100 associated events and more than 100 schools visits with numerous schools going on to produce their own Leabhar Beag, or Wee Book of Gaelic, with student artwork and poetry. This new song CD can only add to this success."

The Leabhar Mòr was launched by First Minister, Jack McConnell, in 2002 and brought together the work of more than 200 poets and visual artists from Ireland and Scotland. The 100 Gaelic poems date from the 6th to the 21st centuries and were all nominated by poets as their personal favourites. Thirty of the poems are also songs and it is these that feature on the CD. Fifty visual artists in both countries were commissioned to create new artworks inspired by their chosen poem and a small team of calligraphers and typographers worked with the artists and poets to integrate the selected lines of poetry and the artists' images. It is anticipated that a new edition of the Leabhar Mòr book publication will be reprinted by Canongate within the next few months. For more information on the CD see Website: [www.gaelic-arts.com](http://www.gaelic-arts.com) or Website: [www.leabharmor.net](http://www.leabharmor.net)

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## Gaelic Language Plan notices issued

The statutory Gaelic development agency, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, has issued formal notice for the first time under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 requiring public authorities to prepare and implement Gaelic Language Plans.

Six public bodies have been formally notified that they must develop plans in 2006/7 and the Bòrd has also announced a further 25 groups to which it plans to issue notifications in 2007/8 and 2008/9.



Ailean  
Caimbeul

The Act covers public authorities devolved to the Scottish Parliament but does not apply to the private sector or to public authorities which are reserved to the UK Parliament.

In announcing the news, Bòrd na Gàidhlig Chief Executive, Ailean Caimbeul said:

"These plans will mean that Gaelic users can access some public services in their own language more often. It is also expected that authorities producing Gaelic plans will encourage people to use Gaelic when dealing with them, and that the authorities will expand their Gaelic services and resources.

"In time this should mean that there are more opportunities to communicate in Gaelic, more services through the medium of Gaelic, and a more visible promotion of the language such as through signage."

The Public authorities to be notified by Bòrd na Gàidhlig under Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 are:

2006/7: Scottish Executive, Scottish Parliament, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise;

2007/8: Scottish Arts Council, Learning & Teaching Scotland, Scottish Funding Council, UHI Millennium Institute, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd, Scottish Natural Heritage, HM Inspectorate of Education

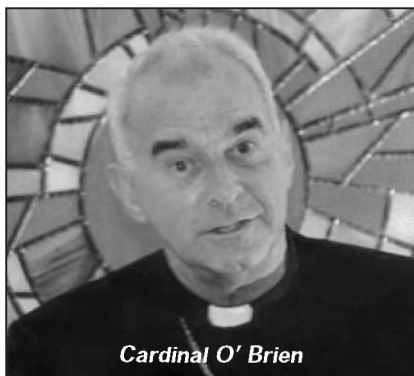
VisitScotland, Crofters' Commission, NHS Western Isles, NHS Highland and Argyll;

2008/9: Cairngorms National Park Authority; City of Edinburgh Council, Forestry Commissioners, Glasgow City Council, Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd, Historic Scotland, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, NHS Greater Glasgow, North Lanarkshire Council, Northern Constabulary, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, sportscotland, Stirling Council.

Màrtainn MacLeòid

## MAJOR VOICES FOR INDEPENDENCE

Since the last issue of *Carn*, a number of major figures have come out for Scottish independence. These range from Cardinal O' Brien, leader of Scotland's Catholics, to Kwik Fit founder and millionaire Tom Farmer, and English singer-socialist Billy Bragg. Others include journalist Murray Ritchie, and historians Niall Fergusson and Michael Fry. Fry is particularly surprising, as he is a major figure in Highland Clearance revisionism.



Cardinal O' Brien

Cardinal O' Brien re-echoed the sentiments of his predecessor Cardinal Winning, saying recently that "Independence is coming... within the foreseeable future." Less guarded than colleague Archbishop Conti, he does include some disclaimers about political involvement, but mentioned factors such as Trident, and that "in my travels I have had much experience of small countries and ... seen what benefits independence can bring." He added, "I am happy if it is the will of the people, [that] Scotland becomes an independent country." O' Brien recalled how John Paul II and other popes had always treated Scotland as a separate entity back to the Middle Ages. JP II kissed the runway when arriving at Edinburgh airport, and spoke some words in Gaidhlig.

Tom Farmer, a prominent businessman said that Scotland would be richer under independence and also donated £100K to the SNP fighting fund.

Billy Bragg, who supports an independent Scotland and Wales, is an English protest singer, and author of *The Progressive Patriot*. He is trying, so he says, to wrestle a positive English identity from the far right, and said "[Scottish] ideas of patriotism don't only come through blood and soil... there are clearly two different types of nationalism... the narrow racist nationalism of the British National Party, and then there's the broad inclusive nationalism of the SNP... patriotism doesn't have to be about loving the Queen and [the British] Empire." Bragg's left English nationalism, like Ken Loach's overturns many stereotypes.

The three people quoted here represent the left, right and centre of the political spectrum. Support is growing across the board. They are interesting when contrasted with recent comments of British minister Jack Straw: "Historically, England called the shots to achieve a union because the union was seen as a way, among other things, of amplifying England's power worldwide. And the reverse would certainly be true. A broken-up United Kingdom would not be in the interests of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, but especially not England." The Governor of the Bank of England has also made similar comments.

Ray Bell



Independent Scots read the  
'Scots Independent'

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## 300th Anniversary of the Union of Scotland with England

May 1st 2007 marks the 300th anniversary of the Union of Scotland with England.

The devolved Scottish Parliament was described by the late Donald Dewar as the 'settled will of the people of Scotland'. However, a recent poll conducted by You Gov shows this far from being the case with an estimated 44 per cent of Scots saying that they back full independence, 42 per cent saying they would oppose it and 15 per cent being undecided. Alex Salmond the Scottish Nationalist Party leader was the preferred choice as First Minister comfortably beating Jack McConnell, Labour leader of the current administration. Surprisingly, even former hard line unionist historians and academics are now declaring their support for independence with Michael Fry, one of Scotland's most prolific historians calling for a break up of the British state. His apparent volte-face has, he said, been brought about by the failure of devolution. You can do more, and do better under independence than you can by basically rattling the begging bowl at the British Government saying 'Can we have some more money?'

Fry's conversion is refreshing and with the approaching Scottish parliament elections on May 3rd next year, a swing to the SNP may mark the end of the Union which has proven not only unsatisfactory for Scotland but for the other Celtic Nations of Britain which were seized by the English generations before 1707.

Many small nations now exist and thrive in Europe either as sovereign states in their own right or with huge degrees of autonomy from the original country. The Belgian state is again seriously considering sub-division, autonomous regions of Spain are referring to themselves as Nations and calling for complete independence and Italy shows signs of political change. Indeed, offshore so called 'Crown Dependencies exist quite happily with huge political and fiscal freedom from the Westminster Government. Many of these states, countries and regions have smaller populations than Cornwall.

I look forward to the time when our Cornish academics, politicians and activists and patriots will speak with one clear voice for our little land of Kernow. to ask that it is allowed to achieve its full potential and to spare us Cornish the humility of providing an income for an uncaring and eccentric Duke whilst being administered by a discredited and unaccountable Government who have little idea of domestic issues outside the M25 belt.

If my belief in Cornwall and my views as a Cornishman cause others to label me a Nationalist, then so be it. I do not fear ridicule or scorn as was recently the case when a well placed member of the Church of England in Cornwall branded us as such in an insulting address. My opinions matter as much in Cornwall's case as does the Scottish Nationalists in the case of Scotland, Plaid Cymru in the case of Wales or Sein Fein in the case of the north of Ireland. No one dares scoff at those political organisations nor should they scoff at us.

Michael John Chappell





# Breizh



## Skol-veur hañv Pbloù ha Rannvroioù Kengred

Dalc'het eo bet unnekvet Skol-veur hañv ar gevredad Pbloù ha Rannvroioù Kengred e Mulhouse, e Bro-Alzas, eus an 28 d'an 30 a viz Eost. Er gevredad-se e vez bodet strolladoù politikel demokratel eus Bro-Alzas, eus Bro-Oksitania, eus Bro-Gorsika, eus Bro-Euskadi, eus Bro-Gatalonia, eus Bro-Savoia hag eus Breizh, d.l.e. strolladoù eus broioù Bro-Frañs. Aozet e oa bet ar Skol-veur hañv gant Unvaniezh Pobl Alzas (UPA), leviet gant Daniel Willmé. Muioc'h eget daou c'hant den o deus kemeret perzh enni.

Eus pemp kraf ez eus bet kaoz. Da gentañ ez eus bet ur brezegenn gant an istorour Georges Labouysse diwar-benn plas ar minorelezhioù broadel e istor Bro-Frañs. Da c'houde en deus Masin Ferkal komzet diwar-benn plas ar Verbered e Bro-Frañs. Pleustret o deus ar gwiraour Eric Sander, a anavez mat gwir lec'hel Bro-Alzas, Djamilia Sonzogni,

holl dud ». Bez o deus kemeret perzh en diviz, Fabiana Giovannini, renerer e gazetenn gorsat « Arritti », un dileuriad eus ar gevredigezh « Harz da Fessenheim ! » (ur geriadenn eus Bro-Alzas, e lec'h m'ez eus bet savet ur greizenn nukleel) ha Yann Wehring, genidig eus Bro-Alzas ha Sekretour Re C'hlas Bro-Frañs, diwar-benn kudennoù an energiezh.

Evel er bloavezhioù tremenet ez eus kiniget ul lodenn eus ar Skol-veur hañv da Emglev Libr Europa. Danvez an emgav-se a oa ar mod-ober gant yezhoù ar rannvroioù hag ar minorelezhioù e buhez Unvaniezh Europa. Pleustret o deus Prezidantez an E.L.E., Nelly Maes, eus Bro-Flandrez, ha Maïté Puydevall, eus Skol-Veur Kêrdiz, war ar pezh ez eus tu d'ober pe get war an dachenn-we e-barzh Unvaniezh Europa ha keñveriet o deus ar politikerezhioù evit ar yezh e Bro-Gembre hag e Bro-Gatalonia.

addegaset da soñj istor Re Yaouank an ELE ha J.G. Truiller en deus displeget labour e gevredigezh Fer's Elsass a vez termenet evel ur strollad sevenadurel engouestlet ; plijet eo bet an holl gant he nerzh ha degemeret eo bet e-barzh Rannvroioù ha Pbloù Kengred evel ezel-arvester. Dedennet-tre eo bet an dud gant ar veaj da Freiburg im Breisgau, e Bro-Alamagn ; aet int da welout ar c'harter Vauban , e-lec'h ma vez graet e mod all evit ar pezh a sell ouzh an energiezh, an endro hag an darempredoù sokial. Da c'houde ez eus bet ur goan e mod Bro-Alzas e-barzh un ostaleri.

D'an 30 a viz Eost eo bet dalc'het Kendalc'h-bloaz ar gevredad. Ur mennad abouez-tre a zo bet degemeret. Kenlabouret e vo gant ar Re C'hlas evit mont a-gevret d'ar votadegoù a vo er bloaz a zeu, a-benn dilenn ar Prezidant hag ar gannaded. War-raok e vo kaset an divizoù gant ar Strollad Sokialour en ur bouezañ war pevar c'hraf : klask un diskoulm evit lodenn Bro Euskadi Bro-Frañs war-du ur framm nevez, kas war-raok an divizoù diwar-benn Bro-Gorsika, kaout an engouestl e labourfe ar gouarnamant nevez en erbed yezhoù ha sevenadurioù ar rannvroioù, kaout ur plas evit ar gevredad en emglev a vefe etre ar strolladoù war an tu kleiz.

A-ziwar ur pennad gallek skrivet gant Nicole Logeais.e karg eus an Aferioù Etrevroadel e-barzh Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh.



From left to right: Philippe Sour, Nicole Logeais, Christian Guyonvarc'h, Gustave Allirol, François Alfonsi, Daniel Willmé.

eus ar Re C'hlas ha dilennet da Guzul Rannvro Bro-Alzas, ha Daniel Willmé, levi-er an UPA, war « dibarelezhioù rannvro Alzas, etre Bro-Alamagn gevredel ha Bro-Frañs kreizennet. Etre div brezegenn ez eus bet skignet ur film diwar-benn Koumoulenn Tchernobyl, heuliet gant un diviz a oa e zavez : « Koumoulenn Tchernobyl : etre dibab energiezhioù hag ober war-dro yec'hed an

War an dachenn-se en em ziskouez Bro-Frañs evel ur vro a c'hiz kozh e-keñver e amezeien en Europa. Dav e vo d'ar vro, he deus strevet ar c'hreizennañ, daou gantved a zo, kemm hec'h emzalc'h evit chom hep bezañ an hini ziwezhañ e-barzh Europa a vez savet war doujañs d'al liested.

O flas o eus bet ivez ar re yaouank er skol-veur-mañ. Eva Mendoza eus an ELE he deus

### Summary

At the end of August 2006 the 11th Congress of R&Ps (= Regions & Peoples Solidaires) took place in Mulhouse city. This summer school started with the history of the minorities in the french state. The 2nd discussion was on NHS for everybody. The film 'Chernobyl's cloud' was shown followed by a debate with the journalist F. Giovannini from Korsica and Y. Wehring from Alzas and a speaker for the french green party. As usual during the summer school, the EFA/ALE/ELE had a meeting. This year it was about the lesser spoken languages in Europe. The R&Ps Congress also had other subjects on the table. At the end of the day they had an agreement with the Green Party to unite with labour for the elections in 2007.

Yves Jardin

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# Agence Bretagne Presse

For the last 50 years, there has been no daily Breton press. *Ouest France* is not a regional newspaper but a multi-regional paper covering Normandy, Brittany and part of Poitou and Anjou. Their interest is to create a new identity "grand ouest" fitting exactly the area of their coverage. The daily newspaper *The Telegram* on the other side covers only the west part of Brittany and its owner, the Coudurier family is especially against Breton nationalism since Yann Fouéré tried during the war to take over their paper. The have never forgotten nor forgiven. It is important to remind everybody that all press that continued publishing during WWII collaborated with the German authority. This included the *Telegram* and *Ouest Éclair* –however, the Breton nationalist press was completely dismantled.

As a consequence the two daily newspapers covering Brittany were highly biased against Breton nationalists. All opportunities are used to mix-up nationalists with Nazism. The mistake of a few Bretons during the war was used effectively some 50 years later to discredit the whole movement.

One of the consequences was that the rich cultural life in Brittany, structured around thousand of associations, was often ignored. And a web site could be started mainly as a communicating tool for the associative cultural and political life. Besides, a newspaper of 20 pages could not publish everything. More, in the press, a kind of firewall was used: Breton news was diffused only in the local edition. A demonstration in Guingamp will be printed only in the edition of Guingamp. Internet as a planetary media could explode the whole conspiracy.

ABP (Agence Bretagne Presse) is born of necessity. After having been 25 years out of France mostly in the USA but with some time spent in Cornwall, I had the opportunity to come back to France as the main webmaster for the *International Herald Tribune* in Neuilly.

At the *Herald Tribune* it became obvious to me that creating a news web site from scratch was not so hard. This was few months before the arrival of the blog technology that allows anyone to launch such a site. This proved to be good timing, since having written all the publishing programs myself, I am now able to have them evolve faster and in the way we need rather than wait for a new version of SPIPE or other open source package.

After leaving the *Herald Tribune* in early 2003, I started working hard on developing my own site and launched ABP. We have been on the net for 3 years now and growing steadily. With an average of 12,000 visits per month we regroup more than 300 accredited associations and half a dozen correspondents. Only one of them is a paid employee.



Philippe Argouarch  
Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The growth is slow because we benefit of no subventions and no private investment. The only source of income is the association fees since we incorporated as associations last May, the pubs, and the sale of photos...

Although ABP is mainly a political project it is slowed down by its lack of funding. The network of correspondents is limited since we cannot pay them except for the eventual sales of photos.

With this in mind ABP has developed a site based on fast and easy publishing system.. An article can now include 32 photos, video clips and pdf documents.

This is the force of the internet media. We can integrate the newspaper technology, but the newspapers cannot integrate the multimedia as they had done with color photos or icy paper. Our force is the future. We will be winners because the cost of our articles is 0.015 euros. One can imagine the cost of an article of *Ouest-France* printed 600 000 copies. The discrepancy will be even more obvious once the French government cuts all aid to the press as has been done in Germany and Great Britain (grants to the press in France amount to 200 millions of euros every year including more than 100 millions for AFP only).

We have used new technologies to bypass altogether the editor in chief. We have developed a virtual editor based on a computer program. The home page is re-organized on the go when you load the page. (see <http://www.agencebretagnepresse.com>) The headlines are cast automatically depending on an algorithm called CPH (number of clicks per hour). The article with the higher CPH is always what you see first on the home page. The 5 highest CPH are posted on the left, the others news arriving are on the right.

Others automations are coming, in particular the automatic acquisition of news, using the RSS flux of official sites; the support of other media to receive ABP news. In addition

to the web and the RSS for the text and podcasting, the news will soon be available on phones.

The email newsletters are now available in English and Brezhoneg. To subscribe to the free newsletters visit <http://www.agencebretagnepresse.com/abonnements.php>.

Philippe Argouarch

## 'Sego'! - and New Labour arrives in the French state

In mid November, Ségolène Royal, the President of the Poitou-Charente region and a deputy in the French National Assembly (representing the Deux-Sèvres département), won the internal party election to become the Socialist Party candidate for the 2007 French presidential election. She took 60% of the votes, with the other two candidates, Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Laurent Fabius, taking around 20% each. Ségolène Royal is now on track for the final lap of the race to the French presidency with a real chance of beating the Gaullist party leader, Nicolas Sarkozy, in the presidential election due to be held in April 2007, and which is now being dubbed the 'Sarko-Sego race'.



Ségolène Royal is the first woman to be the candidate for a major French party in a presidential election. She has tended to campaign on family and social issues rather than economic or foreign policy issues, and is seen as a pragmatist rather than an idealist, leading to comparisons with England's Tony Blair. She is seen by some to represent the current trend of pipolisation - the centring of politics on personalities rather than policies.

Ségolène has a Catholic background like many Breton socialist leaders, close to the Catholic reformist trade-union, CFDT. She is in favour of real devolution as well as the European Charter for Lesser-Used Languages, and her candidature has given rise to a degree of optimism on the radical side of the political spectrum.



# Skipailh football bro Skoz zo bet trec'h (1 da 0) war skipailh bro Frañs!

D'ar 7 a viz Here skipailh meur stad Frañs o doa ur match football da c'hounid e ker Glaschu/Glasgow a enep skipailh ar vro. Ur paokaz skipailh kuzet an tu all eus ar tregont plas war daolenn ar FIFA. Gwir eo ar re «Bleus» a zo ur skipailh eus ar c'hentan klas, peogwir o deus gounezet ar « World Cup » ur gwec'h hanter!



**Craig Gordon, Scotland goalkeeper.**

Setu perag an holl dud eus ar vicher o deus sonjet dezho e vefe ken aes war an dachenn eget war ar paper. Ar breizhad, Pol Ar Gwenn, eus Penn-ar-C'hann, ha coach evit ar Glasgow Rangers ar bloaz mañ o eus lavaret e-giz ar re all. Marteze eo deuet e-giz ar re all goude ur frapad amzer e Paris ha Lyon... Kroget mat an traou evit skipailh ar vro latin. Krouet mat ha buañ an traou war an dachenn e-giz kustum. Thierry Henry o deus tennet war barrenn Craig Gordon, d'ar vinutenn dek. Dek vinutenn diwezhañ Malouda o deus tennet ur gwech pe zaou tro dro ar barrennoù ivez. Tamm ha tamm ar skoziz zo deuet en-dro e-barzh ar jeu. Gwir eo an doare da ober oa klasel tre. Meur a gwec'h ar paotr dirag oa e unan. Dreist holl e oa diaes dezhañ plantañ palioù. Dre vras, ar volloten oa kollet evit ar vro Skoz hag adtapet gant skipailh Frañs. Memestra, ar c'hoarierien e kreiz an dachenn oa atav prest da sioulaad an traou. Benn ar fin e oa netra da netra d'an hanterhent. Ur gwir souezadenn evit ar vro keltiek dirag ur skipailh latin deus ar c'hentañ.

D'an hanterhent e chome hanterkant vinutenn gant an amzer kollet dumañ duze da labouraat gant nerzh, startijenn ha galon. E saozneg e vez implijet ar ger « fighting-spirit ». Lazoù kanañ kaer ha kreñv oa ivez evit sikour ar paotred gwisket e glaz teñval e-giz ar mor. Loc'het an traou en un doare boutin gant bro Frañs o vont war ar raok hag ar skoziz o difenn uhelloc'h war an dachenn, en un doare solutoc'h. Setu perag o deus bet tro da tennañ un nebeut taol-korn.

Tregont vinutenn eus fin an abadenn, diwar un taol-korn tennet eus an tu dehou, ar skoziz a zo aet war ar raok. Unan o deus klasket ober un taol penn. Re uhel ar volotenn. Padal tro kein Gary Caldwell o doa heuliet ar c'hoari ha plantet ar volotenn donn e-barzh ar rouedoù. Ar paokaz Coupet oa re ziveza-

at e-giz ar re all. An holl dud oa sebezet. Skipailh ar vro latin oa hanter kollet pad ur frapad. Memestra, tamm ha tamm ar re «Bleus» zo deuet en dro e-barzh ar jeu. Start tre eo bet an traou evit ar gelted pad dek vinutenn bennak.

Thierry Henry o deus klasket lakaat un taol penn. Dre chañs ne oa ket kreñv awalc'h hag war ar gaol ouzhpenn. Saha pe Malouda zo bet danjerus ivez met ar paotr Gordon oa solud er palioù. 93 vinutenn...echu an abadenn gant nezh, startijenn ha laouenedi-

gezh evit ar Gelted eus ar vro Skoz gant 1 da 0.

**Gi Keltik**

## Summary

*Scotland's soccer team beat former world champions France 1-0 in October in a European Championship qualifier - great encouragement for supporters of the Celtic countries on the international world football scene.*

## Brittany - Wales: a marriage of love

Last June 12, Wales celebrated in great style, the 150th birthday of its national anthem. As in 1838, in Abergavenny, a Breton delegation was invited. It is true that between the country of Glenmor and that of Dylan Thomas, the history of love joins itself to the present and to the future as to the past.

Under a big white tent, jostled together all the establishment of Pontypridd. It is only in the country of the Red Dragon that one knows how to devote oneself to conviviality, and to a national interest conceived like a greater necessity.

Mr. Terry Hopper, the old labour mayor of the city, dined in Brynffanon, a small country inn. Next to him, treated with all honour, a Breton delegation, composing among others of Yann Jestin, next to the mayor of Lesneven and Jean-Claude Rivalain, respectively city councillor of Vigneux in the Nantais country, of Jacques-Yves Le Touze, Secretary of Askoll (association of the elected Bretons for the democracy) and of Dom Duff, one of the most Welsh of our modern Breton bards. Further on, the President of the local Rotary Club, Huw Goronwy, the Archidruid of Wales. Everybody gets together before the big day of Sunday. Some of the schoolchildren clothed in the uniforms of their colleges for the occasion, presented for these learned authorities the spectacles they have practised for months, with their teachers, in a country where more than a third of the children are schooled in Welsh.

Normal if one thinks of the event! The event? Yes, the birthday of the Hen wlad fy nhadau ("the old country of my fathers"). A hymn written in Pontypridd, one and a half centuries ago by Evan James to the music of James James, his son. A really well-known and recognized national anthem by the gathering of sons of the red dragon and used on all great occasions, from the National Eisteddfodd to the rugby matches that regularly gather 80 000 people to the Millennium Stadium, the veritable temple of the oval ball.

On Sunday evening, in the Municipal Library where Jacqueline Gibson, the Breton married a Welshman and Gwyn Griffiths, the former journalist of the BBC presented their "Bible" dedicated to Breton literature, Yann Jestin offered to the mayor a commemorative plaque in the name of the township léonarde, before Dom began on the guitar a Miz Du ornamented with some verses in Welsh...



**Yann Jestin gives commemorative plaque to the Mayor of Pontypridd.**

Between the Large and the "small" Brittany, between the two branches of Arthur's old people, the ties of the heart, although ill-treated by greedy States, were never separated. Let's wager that this century sees their realization of common projects and enterprises.

**Thierry Jigourel**

## Kan Al Loar - 20th year of the 'most Celtic' festival

The 20th Kan Al Loar festival, held in Landerne in Bro Leon between the 8th and the 15th of July, was another opportunity to show the vigour of Celtic culture in the north-west of Breizh.

The 20th annual festival faced greater financial pressures than usual because of a robbery in 2005. The organizer had to find a balance between stars like Gilles Servat and the local Celtic rock group, Merzhin.

This festival was a sum-up of the 20 years. The new content included the show "Reuz'n'Roll", a creation of Gourc'han Kervella in which several Breton groups performed, scheduled for the evenings of the first Saturday and the Friday. Reuz means a mess-up, which Rolls on the rocks of Breizh. The show started with a lot of groups on stage. Bernez, the manager, had to deal with security, money, performers, and staff. In fact, Bernez organized most of this Celtic festival, including coping with the punk group Nothing to Hide.

The festival provides a platform for the expression of Breton national aspirations as well as for our music. Yes! Naoned is in Breizh. Yes! The Breton language is guttural and tonic. Yes, it's difficult for human beings to be open-minded when the gap between the punks and the bagadoù (pipebands) is so big. Between the punk group and the bagadoù the spectators had the pleasure of hearing a choir, a poet, a black singer, a harpist, a Welsh trio, the Christ passion, and the brand new play by Ar Vro Bagan.

The 40,000 fans of Breton culture were very happy with this new and exceptional show especially organized in Landerne for



the 20th anniversary of the Kan Al Loar festival – the most Celtic festival of Breizh because the organizers use the Breton language at different levels. We must thank the outgoing president for his ability to present the festival to the media and the spectators with a good balance of Breton and French.

Unfortunately, a thunderstorm stopped the first show of Reuz'n'Roll, with an adverse effect on the budget. At the end of the day, this show caused half of the deficit €90,000, out of a budget of €360,000. Since 40% of the budget came from public finance, feelings were running high among those opposed to Celtic culture. Of course, the weather was not the only reason for this deficit. There was also competition in the euro-zone. The World Cup in Germany kept a lot of our German tourists at home, as well as Breton fans of soccer. Otherwise, the euro, which is a good thing for the economy as a whole, does not

stop the inflation of the prices in restaurants and food in general. So, less people and fewer meals make less money for Kan Al Loar.

The competition is tough in Breizh and a few other main festivals are also in trouble, like that of Douarnenez, of Pont-'n-Abad, and even the Interceltic Festival of An Oriant.

Those who dislike Kan Al Loar find the festival too long and too traditional. These questions will be discussed, in order face the next challenges in Landerne. So the supporters of Breton culture cannot take Kan Al Loar for granted. It has its enemies, so everyone must help and take part in the next one, in order to show strong solidarity in this most Celtic of the big festivals in Breizh. The fighting spirit of the Celtic lobbies will keep the Kan Al Loar festival out of financial problems.

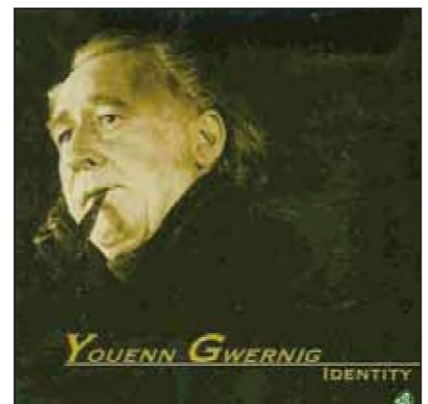
**Gi Keltik**

## Youenn Gwernig (1925-2006)

Youenn Gwernig was born in the town of Skaer in Bro Gerne in 1925. As a teenager he learnt to play the biniou and had a special talent for wood-carving. He married his wife Suzig in 1950, and in 1957 they left Breizh for the USA where his sister was living in the Bronx in New York. There Youenn worked, among many other things, as a wood carver. In New York Youenn Gwernig met and befriended the poet and writer Jack Kerouac, "father" of the Beat Generation. He started at this time to write Breton poetry and short stories for Al Liamm.

In 1969, Youenn came back to Breizh and continued his cultural activities. He started singing in a group with his wife and three daughters, in association with numerous poets and musicians such as Menez-Kamm (Y. Gouasdoue) and Nominoe (Pat Ewen, G. Delahaye, M. Favenneg). He was able to campaign for Brittany from the stage with his guitar, his songs, and his poetry. In 1974 he was active in the campaign for more Breton on television. From 1983 to 1990 he was in charge of Breton programmes on FR3.

Youenn Gwernig was a true poet, not shut up in his own world, but a voice for the



people of Brittany in day-to-day life. He was a campaigner who used poetry and humour to further the cause of freedom. He appealed to both young and old.

His recorded music, in Breton, English, and French, includes *Distro ar Gelted* (1974) and *Foeter Bro / Just a traveller* (1993). His books include the collections *An toull en nor* (1972, in Breton and French) and *An diri dir* (1976, trilingual), and a French novel *La grande tribu* (1982).

Youenn Gwernig died in hospital in Douarnenez on the 29th of August 2006. His funeral was held on the 1st September in Skaer, where he was buried next to his wife Suzig who had died 16 years previously.

*(Based on Breton of Goulc'han Kervella)*



# Cymru

## Wikipedia – maes y gad?

### Mae Valencià yn dafodiaith Gatalaneg - swyddogol!

Dyfarnodd Uchel Lys Sbaen y llynedd fod tafodiaith talaith Valencia yn Sbaen yn dafodiaith o'r iaith Gatalaneg ar ôl hir drafod. Mae Valencia yn ffinio â Chatalwnia ond nid yw'n cael ei llywodraethu gan senedd Catalwnia - mae gan Valencian ei chynulliad ei hun ond â llai o rym na senedd Catalwnia. Yn hanesyddol mae'n rhan o'r ardal Gatalaneg ei hiaith ac mae gan yr iaith, a siaredir gan gyfran helaeth o'r boblogaeth, statws swyddogol gyda'r Sbaeneg. Ond ers amser Franco mae'n arfer gan yr awdurdodau siarad am y dafodiaith leol, a elwir yn *Valencià* (*Valenciano* yn Sbaeneg), fel petai'n iaith ar wahân er mai ychydig iawn iawn o wahaniaeth sydd rhwng y ffurf ysgrifenedig a ddefnyddir yn swyddogol a Chatalaneg swyddogol Catalwnia, ac mae'r arfer swyddogol wedi treiddio i mewn i ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd i raddau. Nid cymhellion cenedlaetholgar sydd y tu ôl i'r syniad mai iaith ar wahân ydyw Valencià, ond cymhellion unoliaethol (Sbaenig) sydd yn ceisio atal unrhyw dueddiad i Valencia glosio at Gatalwnia a pheryglu undod gwladwriaeth Sbaen yn fwy. Cymharer pwy ydyw'r rhai yng Nghymru sydd yn mynnu na fedran nhw ddim deall "iaith y De/Gogledd" a bod pobl rhyw ran arall o Gymru yn hollol wahanol iddyn nhw. Nid siarad cenedlaetholwr na gwlatgarwr yw felly.

Dywedodd yr Uchel Lys wrth roi eu penderfyniad terfynol mai mater i'w benderfynu yn y maes academaidd, nid yn y maes gwleidyddol ydyw. Mae tafodieithoedd Valencia a Chatalwnia yn un iaith, ond gellir galw'r iaith gyfan yn *Català* neu'n *Valencià*. Wrth gydnabod undod yr iaith Gatalaneg cyfeiriodd yr Uchel Lys at y consensws a geir o'r prifysgolion, y geiriaduron, a hyd yn oed yr "Academi Iaith", a sefydlwyd gan senedd Valencia, sydd wedi datgan bod Valencia, Catalwnia, Ynysoedd Balears (Mallorca ayb.), ac Andorra i gyd yn rhannu'r un iaith.

#### Summary:

*The Supreme Court of Spain has stated that indigenous speech of the Valencia region, known as Valencià, is a dialect of the Catalan language, as generally agreed by linguists, and not a separate language as claimed by (Spanish) unionists.*

Mae [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) yn wyddoniadur ar-lein lle bydd y defnyddwyr yn cael ysgrifennu neu newid yr erthyglau eu hunain. Mae fersiynau mewn llawer o ieithoedd yn cynnwys y Gymraeg (<http://cy.wikipedia.org>). Mae angen mawr i bobl ysgrifennu erthyglau Gymraeg am eu hoff feysydd, neu gyfieithu o'r erthyglau Saesneg os yn briodol, er mwyn gwneud y fersiwn Gymraeg yn fwy sylweddol. Hefyd, mae angen gwneud yn siwr bod erthyglau yn ymdrin â'r cenhedloedd Celtaidd yn deg ac yn gywir. Mae peth o'r deunydd, yn enwedig yn y wikipedia Saesneg, wedi'i ysgrifennu gyda golwg Brydeinllyd neu imperialaidd a gyda chamsillafu a chamdddefnyddio enwau Celtaidd, ond yn wahanol i wefannau eraill, mae'n bosib gywiro ac addasu - a gwneud hynny yn ddi-enw hefyd. Ond mae ein gelynyddion yn weithgar hefyd, ac mae rhai erthyglau wikipedia am bynciau dadleuol wedi bod yn destun 'brwydrau golygu' rhwng deiliaid gwahanol safbwyntiau. Mae hyn wedi digwydd ar yr erthygl Saesneg am Gernyw lle mae'r rhai sy'n mynnu bod Gernyw yn rhan o Loegr wedi mynd ben-ben â'r cenedlaetholwyr. Mae'n werth i bob cenedlaetholwr Celtaidd ag amser gymryd cip ar y wefan hon a chyfrannu tipyn bach tuag at ledaenu gwybodaeth a dealltwriaeth am ein hachosion.

#### Summary

*The on-line encyclopaedia, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), allows users to write and edit articles, which gives us an opportunity to ensure that those concerning the Celtic nations are correct and fair.*

## Y Gymraeg yn Lloegr

Mae miliynau o blant Lloegr yn gorfod dysgu un neu ddwy iaith Ewropeaidd bob blwyddyn o'u bywyd yn yr ysgol. Mae hyd yn oed plant ysgolion cynradd yn dysgu iaith fodern nawr. Felly mae gwariant sylweddol ar athrawon ac adnoddau yn cyrraedd cost o dros £100,000,000. Swm anferth i gefnogi ieithoedd tramor. Cofiwch na fydd y rhan fwyaf byth yn defnyddio'r ieithoedd hynny. Bob degawd mae tua hanner miliwn o bobl yn gadael Cymru am Loegr a hanner miliwn yn symud i mewn i Gymru (ffigyrau o gofrestradau meddygol), yn eu plith myfyrwyr a theuluoedd hollol ddi-Gymraeg. Mae angen tynnu sylw at y ffaith hyn ac am effaith hyn ar gymunedau Gymraeg. Mae ffigyrau'r Cyfrifiad yn dangos yn glir taw ardaloedd Aberystwyth, Llambod, Bangor, a Chaerfyrddin yw'r ardaloedd mwyaf di-Gymraeg yn y Fro Gymraeg gan fod degau o filoedd o fyfyrwyr yn dod bob blwyddyn ac yn Seisnigo'r ardaloedd hyn. Mae miloedd eto yn aros yn ardal eu colegau, a miloedd eto yn priodi Cymry lleol cyn symud yn ôl i

Loegr i setlo. Mewn rhai cyd-destunau gellid galw hyn yn lanhau ethnig i ddinistrio cenedl fechan drwy eu glastwreiddio a'u boddi dan fwyafrif estron.

Boddi, cymysgu, alltudio yw dyfodol y Gymraeg dan y fath lif o boblogaeth. Gyda pholisi cryf o ddysgu Gymraeg ym mhob ysgol yn Lloegr yn lle Almaeneg neu Ffrangeg buasai hi'n bosibl i weld y miloedd sy'n dod i Gymru fel cyfle euraidd i atgyfnerthu yn lle gwanhau ein cymunedau. Gyda Chymraeg i oedolion yn Lloegr ar yr un raddfa â Saesneg i fewnfudwyr bydd miloedd o'r teuluoedd sy'n symud i gefn gwlad Cymru yn dod gyda rhywfaint o'r iaith.

Bydd y degawd neaf yn dangos effaith hanner miliwn arall o fewnfudwyr a hanner miliwn arall yn gadael. Cynyddu ac nid lleihau yw'r patrwm mewn symudolrwydd boblogaeth ac mae rhaid i ni ymateb i hyn.

Petroc ap Seisyllt  
Llundain

#### Summary:

*With some one million people moving (to settle or study) between England and Wales each decade the exchange of population is a major threat which has gone unreported. The author expresses his wish that the 100 million pounds spent on promoting mainland European languages each year should be redirected to teaching Welsh in schools in England and in Adult Education. The long term effect of this exchange is to weaken Welsh language and identity, creating a physical merger of the two countries through population exchange on a level unknown elsewhere in Europe. This same process has already made the Cornish and Manx minorities in their own lands. The author argues that if they must come, which they will, they should at least come speaking our language.*

## ***You cannot become the cure if you are the source of the problem –***

### **Plaid and SNP lead Commons Debate on Iraq War**

In a debate on troop withdrawal from Iraq in the London Parliament in October, Plaid Cymru's Defence spokesperson, Adam Price MP, said that continued military presence makes the situation worse, and that the English government has done enough damage and that it is time to get out of the way. Mr Price said:

"I believe that the invasion of Iraq was illegal, and the fact that we 'kicked the door' down, in General Dannatt's phrase, robbed us of either the moral legitimacy or practical capacity to rebuild the country that we had destroyed. In those circumstances the only sensible option is to withdraw our troops and find other, more constructive ways of meeting our obligations to the Iraqi people.

"There are those – including some who opposed the war – who argued that we have a responsibility to stay in Iraq to clear up the mess we have created. That opportunity has long gone. Whether we stay or whether we go it is clear that Iraq will remain at war with itself for many years to come, its government divided and its people dependent on foreign economic aid. If you are not sure whether British servicemen and women are putting their lives at risk day in day out does more harm than good, then you have to seriously ask yourself if we should be there at all.

"The first thing we need from the Government is some honesty and humility, an admission that the policy has failed and that the strategy has been disastrous. The Government say that we are there to prevent civil war. Well, if this isn't civil war I don't know what is. They argue that that withdrawal would be a propaganda victory for the terrorists, but British and American Intelligence suggest that the opposite is true. It is our continued presence that is the recruiting sergeant for Al-Qaeda throughout the entire world."

Calling for a Marshal Plan for Iraq, Mr Price said:

"We have an obligation to the Iraqi people, but we cannot meet that obligation through a military strategy that cannot succeed. Rather than attacking the symptoms of the civil war, we've got to address the root causes. "If it were up to the ordinary Iraqis the occupation would end. If it were up to ordinary people here the occupation would end. The willingness of this government to ignore the will of the people is actually quite breathtaking."



*Adam Price,  
MP.*

Plaid Cymru and the SNP together used an allocated opposition day in the House of Commons on 31 October to debate the war in Iraq further. The debate was entitled: "The conduct of Government Policy in relation to the war in Iraq and its aftermath".

Speaking before the debate Adam Price said:

"This debate next Tuesday is not about revisiting the events of 2002 and 2003; it is an urgent attempt to restore trust and credibility in our democracy. For the first time in three and a half years we will take the Iraq war matter into the House of Commons Chamber, and will give MPs the chance to vote."

SNP leader Alex Salmond MP said of the debate:

"This is the first time since the invasion of Iraq that the government can be held to account over this illegal and unwanted war. It was vital that time was made to debate such an important issue, the SNP and Plaid Cymru have given parliament that opportunity."

Dafydd Iwan, Plaid Cymru President, thanked his party's parliamentary team and their SNP colleagues for bringing the matter of the war in Iraq to the forefront of the political stage again. He said afterwards:

"Everyone has to acknowledge by now that the situation in Iraq is absolutely unacceptable, and that the presence of our troops does more harm than good. The way to show respect for our troops is to withdraw them from an impossible and untenable situation.

"Furthermore, a full inquiry is needed into the basis and conduct of this unnecessary war and the debate last night has shown that the feeling of dissent and unease goes far beyond the opposition parties. Only a full and open inquiry can avoid this tragedy being repeated in future."

## **Plaid Unveils Alternative Queen's Speech for Wales**

Banning plastic bags from supermarkets, charging foreign haulage companies for using Welsh roads, and creating a Welsh people's bank administered through the Post Office are just a few of the measures that Plaid put forward in their Alternative Queen's Speech, in November. Unveiling the party's proposals, Plaid's Parliamentary Leader, Elfyn Llwyd MP (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy), said:

"Following years of being ignored by Ministers and Prime Ministers in Westminster, Plaid Cymru believe that Wales deserves its own unique and full legislative programme created for Wales by a party which places the interests of the people of Wales at the top of its agenda. The measures introduced in our programme for government are measures we believe will deliver real improvements to the lives of the people of Wales.

"Our alternative Queen's Speech offers the people of Wales safer, cleaner, and more prosperous communities. All of these policies would be deliverable if Wales had a proper Parliament with full legislative powers.

"Climate change is the single most important issue of our time, and we in Plaid Cymru believe that small changes to our every day lives, such as the banning of plastic bags in supermarkets, will go a long way in safeguarding a sustainable and cleaner Wales. We also believe that more community sentences and increasing the availability of drug treatment in the community would do far more to tackle crime and re-offending than locking people up and throwing away the key."

Adam Price MP (Carmarthen East & Dinefwr) said:

"We want to see a thriving Wales; a country where people have equal access to services whoever and wherever they are. The proposals we are putting forward today will make life easier for the vulnerable in society. We want to see a Wales where all disabled people and all people over 65 receive £200 winter heating allowance; where children will receive NHS dental treatment without having to travel tens of miles to access it; where pensions and benefits are available for collection from the local Post Office; and where first time buyers have a chance to step on the property ladder.

"Scrapping council tax and introducing a fair taxing system, promoting the Welsh language and extending the mobility component of the Disability Allowance are issues we believe the people of Wales want to see a government giving priority to."



## 'New Language Act!' rally at new English-only shops in Aberystwyth

On the 14th of October about 100 members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Society) marched to the Ystwyth Retail Park in Aberystwyth for a rally protest as part of their campaign for a new Welsh Language Act. This new retail park in an area where Welsh is the language of most natives was selected because all the external signs on the park are in English only, and a number of the shops there, such as Brantano Footwear, had refused to make use of Welsh.

The protest had started in the centre of the town with speakers including Cllr. Marc Strong of Aberystwyth Town Council, Gwenno Teifi of Cymdeithas in the University of Wales Aberystwyth, and Menna Machreth, president of the Aberystwyth Welsh students union (UMCA). The speakers stressed that Ceredigion County Council was asking every shop and business moving into the town to adopt a bilingual policy, but that few were doing this and the present Welsh Language Act (1993) did not oblige them to do so.

The protesters moved on to Espresso, the new fish & chip shop, sticking 'New Language Act' stickers on it because it was an example of a new business in the town without a bilingual policy. Then, on to the Ystwyth Retail Park, an enormous new shopping development in Aberystwyth, where the crowd were addressed by Siân Howys of Cymdeithas who said "I challenge Rhodri Morgan (the First Minister) to come down to see this wholly English new development, and to see the need for a new Language Act". She pointed out that Cymdeithas had visited shops on the retail park, and the response of Brantano Footwear to their request was "There's no need for Welsh since we're all British."

Four members were then arrested as slogans calling for a new Language Act were painted on the Brantano shop. They were Gwenno Teifi, Geraint Edwards, Ceri Phillips, and Siwan Tomos. After the painting of slogans, the shop was occupied by protesters for half an hour. Siân Howys said that the shop staff would not have to face such protests if adequate language legislation were in place.

On a slightly more positive note on another occasion, the supermarket chain Morrisons agreed to consider a seven-point plan for using Welsh, after a meeting with Cymdeithas representatives at their headquarters in Bradford, England. Cymdeithas had urged the company to act ahead of the introduction of language legislation, and make a commitment to the language now.



The seven points discussed were:

1. All permanent signs should be bilingual, including external signs and those in the street.
2. All the company's weekly promotional literature, together with pricing, posters, and leaflets, should be bilingual.
3. Morrisons should consult with local colleges to ensure that courses are available to train staff how to provide a bilingual service for customers.
4. The labels of Morrisons brand goods should be bilingual.
5. Loudspeaker announcements in shops should be bilingual.
6. The parts of the company website that are relevant to Wales should be bilingual.
7. Full use should be made of local Welsh produce in shops.

The Morrisons representative said that the company were already operating points 1 and 7. They would have to give 2-6 further consideration.

Dewi Snelson, Cymdeithas organiser in north Wales, said "While we strongly believe that bilingual permanent signs are important, we are also pursuing an equality agenda, and insist that equal use of Welsh and English should be made throughout the shops. We are not satisfied with using Welsh for show."

In the past however, large companies like Morrisons have often stated they will increase their use of Welsh, especially when faced with attention from Cymdeithas, and then either the promised changes have not materialised or improvements have been of temporary duration. It is this that makes a New Language Act essential.

## Owen John Thomas AC welcomes the BBC and S4C's new agreement

The Shadow Culture Minister in the Welsh Assembly, Owen John Thomas AC, welcomed the news that the BBC is to spend more on producing Welsh language programming for S4C. The corporation will increase its spending from a little under £22m in 2006/07 to over £25m by 2008-09. The Plaid Cymru AC said:

"In the present age, with the advent of a wide variety of digital channels, the competition is fierce. It is vital, therefore, that the BBC commits, in this way, to increase spending in order to continue to produce quality Welsh-language programming.

"On 25 April, it was announced that Channel 4 would receive licence fee money towards the costs of digital switchover. The switchover will be a challenge for every channel, but especially for S4C as it stops broadcasting English programmes. The new BBC deal is, therefore, good news for Welsh-language television."

## Translation cuts in Assembly

Concerns has been expressed by both Assembly members and the language movement about possible cuts in the translation budget of the National Assembly and what they would mean. An Assembly report in October proposed a £250,000 cut in translation costs with a reduction of the amount of translation into Welsh of the proceedings of the main chamber.

## Colon Houses Threat in Pont Tyweli

Cymdeithas yr Iaith, following consultation with Carmarthenshire County Council and Eatonfield Holdings (a property business), have expressed concern that the 50 new houses could be built in the small village of Pont Tyweli, and work could commence as early as next Easter. Pont Tyweli is in the Welsh-speaking Teifi valley in Carmarthenshire, near Llandysul on the Ceredigion border.

Initial planning permission for 31 houses had been given over 20 years ago, but the developers intend to use not only this, but to seek permission from Carmarthenshire Council to build 50 houses, which would result in a 50% increase in the size of the village with a significant linguistic change if the houses are to be occupied mainly by non-Welsh speaking colonists - a real possibility since incomers from England are much more able to compete in the housing market than the local people here. The developers told Cymdeithas that 30% of the houses will be 'affordable' (to locals), but this means that 70% will not be. This confirms that the houses will cause a linguistic change in Pont Tyweli. We can assume that Eatonfield's interest in the matter is only profit.

Angharad Clwyd, a Cymdeithas organiser in the south west, said "We will press Carmarthenshire Council to give permission for only the 15 (30%) 'affordable' houses. Even the council's controversial Unitary Development Plan limits the number of new houses at this location to 14.



Angharad Clwyd.

"We are not convinced that Carmarthenshire Council has either the resources or the ability to make a meaningful study of the effect on the language. They have not made any effort to study the effect of previous large housing developments on the linguistic situation. This profiteering from land and houses at the expense of Welsh-speaking communities must be stopped."

Cymdeithas yr Iaith are calling for a Property Act for Wales. The Act proposed deals with a wide range of problems associated with the housing crisis in Wales - reasonable house prices, the shortage of rented accommodation, and linguistically dangerous housing developments. Cymdeithas believe that a measure of this kind is essential if our Welsh-speaking communities are to have a viable future.

## Plaid says 'Croeso' to new EU Languages Commissioner

Plaid's Euro-MP Jill Evans welcomed the announcement that a European Commissioner specifically responsible for multilingualism is to be appointed. The Plaid Cymru MEP said the development could be very good news for the development of the Welsh language and could hopefully lead to more EU support for projects backing Welsh.

The move has come about as a result of Bulgaria and Romania's accession to the European Union on 1st January 2007. Each member of the EU can designate one member of the European Commission which will grow to 27 members from next January. Romania has nominated its Chief EU Negotiator and Cabinet Minister Leonard Orban as its Commissioner and he has been proposed for the multilingualism portfolio.

Jill Evans said:

"I was very encouraged to hear that responsibility for multilingualism is to be given to one single EU Commissioner. We have been working very hard to raise the profile and increase the status of Welsh in the EU and I hope that this new development will open new opportunities.

"We have a constructive relationship with the present Commissioner responsible for languages, Jan Figel, who acknowledged Welsh as a language skill in the Europass CV scheme and has supported a network to promote minority languages in Europe. It is yet to be seen whether Mr Orban will have the same positive attitude but we will have an opportunity to question him at the forthcoming confirmation hearings before the European Parliament. If his appointment is confirmed then I would like to invite Mr Orban to visit Wales. He will be able to experience our bilingual nation at first hand and see for himself the social, cultural and economic potential of multilingualism. It will then be in all our interests to make sure that Wales is fully engaged with the new Commissioner as early as possible."

## New History DVD

With the voice of local historian Dr John Davies, the DVD portrays ten of the most important buildings in Wales from the Cathedral at St David's in the South West to the Froncysyllte Aquaduct near Llangollen in the North East.

The DVD is the result of almost a years work by publisher Gareth Butler and film company Ffab Ltd based at Aberystwyth.

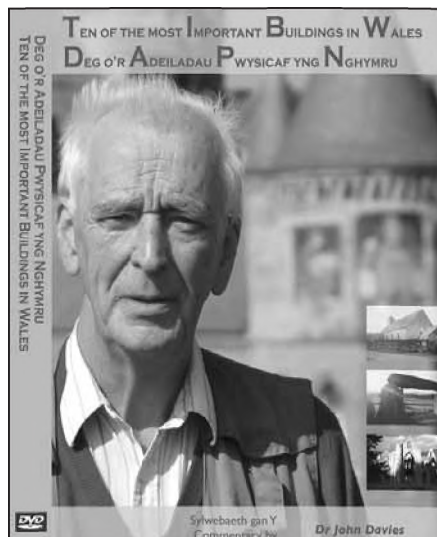
The DVD includes footage of the Old College building at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, as well as sections on the Abbey at Ystrad Fflur (Strata Florida) and the 'Parliament Building' in Machynlleth.

Gareth Butler, who directed the film said that "The footage included more than just the buildings themselves as the story behind them took in other locations such as the home of Dafydd ap Gwilym in Penrhyncoch, Devil's Bridge and the Church at Pennal in Meirionnydd. He hoped that the product would be of interest to both amateur historians and teachers."

The 35min DVD is available at £9.99 in many shops throughout Wales.

Contact: Gareth Butler

Phone: 07989434542



## New Cymuned websites:

Cymuned have launched a new website to help persuade businesses that move into the Bro Gymraeg to make use of Welsh. Through [www.Business-in-Wales.com](http://www.Business-in-Wales.com) postcards may be ordered free of charge, and then sent to businesses selected.

Another website, [www.English-in-Wales.com](http://www.English-in-Wales.com), provides free postcards to be ordered for sending to incomers into the Bro Gymraeg to try to persuade them to learn Welsh. Gellir archebu'r cardiau drwy ymweld â'r wefan.





# Éire



## Aghaidh ar an todhchaí ag Mebyon Kernow

Tá iarracht ar siúl ag Mebyon Kernow, páirtí an Choirn, an feachtas ar son Tionóil don Chorn a bhogadh ar aghaidh. Mí na Nollag, eagraíodh comóradh cúig bliana i mBodmin ar an Achainí ar son Tionóil don Chorn a shínigh 50,000 duine. Ceiliúradh a bhí ann, agus rincooirí agus ceoltóirí i láthair, chomh maith le hiarracht beocht as an nua a chur isteach san fheachtas náisiúnta. Ar na cainteoirí a bhí ann, bhí Dick Cole, ceannaire Mhebyon Kernow, agus Dafydd Iwan, uachtarán Phlaid Cymru. Bhí slua mór i láthair agus tá MK ag siúl go dtabharfaidh an cruinniú spreagadh don ghluaiseacht ar son Tionóil.

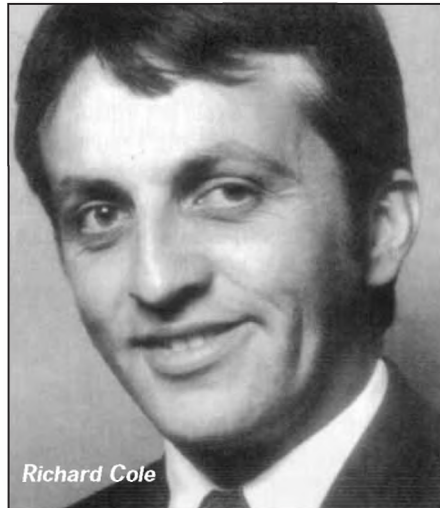
Ar cheann de na nithe atá ag bagairt ar bhaint amach Tionóil don Chorn faoi láthair, tá pleananna ag na páirtithe Sasanacha sa Chorn aon cheantar riaracháin amháin a dhéanamh as an gCorn. Shamhlódh duine gur dul chun cinn a bheadh ansin i dtreo Tionól a bhunú ach miníonn MK gur cleasaíocht é chun an t-éileamh ar Thionól a mhaolú agus deireadh a chur leis an daonlathas áitiúil ar fud an Choirn ar mhaithe le comhairle contae amháin a bheith ann. Dar le MK gur cineachadh breis cumhachtaí seachas cleasa athainmnithe atá ag teastáil.

I dteannta an fheachtais sin, tá MK tar éis athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar a chuid polasaithe ar na mallaibh, agus tá iarracht á déanamh acu straitéis shoiléir chomhaontaithe a bhaint amach chun cás an Choirn a chur ar aghaidh. Ag a nArd-Fheis san Fhómhar, bheartaigh MK polasaithe a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn a bheadh dírithe ar fhéinrial a bhaint amach don Chorn agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar fhadhbanna éagsúla na tíre. Ba mhaith leis an bpáirtí go ndéanfaí na polasaithe sin agus cás an Choirn i gcoitinne a chur chun cinn ar shlí a bheadh dírithe ar aghaidh i dtreo todhchaí an Choirn seachas a bheith dírithe siar ar an stair agus ar uafáis an choilínithe Shasanaigh.

Tá eagla ar MK go mbíonn an síorolagón faoi bharbarthacht na Sasanach sa Chorn, cé gur fíor, ag cur daoine ó dhóras, daoine a mbeadh suim acu i bpolasaithe an pháirtí thairis sin. Deir an páirtí go bhfuil siad ann chun troid thar ceann gach duine de mhuintir an Choirn, agus san áireamh ansin tá daoine nach bhfuil préamhacha doimhne acu sa tír nó atá díreach tagtha isteach. Tá eagla ar an bpáirtí go gceapfaidh na daoine sin, gan trácht ar na Cornaigh dhúchasacha féin, gur imeachtaí na gcéad atá caite amháin a bhíonn ag déanamh scime do ghluaiseacht

náisiúnta an Choirn seachas fadhbanna iomadúla laethúla an phobail.

Mar shampla, le linn an tsamhraidh agus Corn Sacair an Domhain ar siúl, bhí na mílte bratach Shasanach le feiceáil ar crochadh ar fud an Choirn. Spreag sé sin litreacha go leor ar na nuachtáin ó náisiúntóirí Cornacha agus iad ag gearán go láidir faoin léiriú ionannais sin le scríostóirí a dtíre. Dar le Dick Cole gur imíodh thar fóir i gcuid mhaith de na litreacha sin agus gur chuir tagairtí do ‘naprún’ an bhúistéara’ agus do shlad agus ár na mblianta atá thart scanradh ar roinnt mhaith daoine nach dtuigeann na cúrsaí sin go maith. Ceapann Cole gur ar na fadhbanna



Richard Cole

atá ag muintir an Choirn anois seachas ar imeachtaí atá clúdaithe le ceo na gcianta cairbreacha is cóir an fuinneamh a dhíriú, má táthar chun an bonn tacaíochta atá ag MK agus ag an ngluaiseacht náisiúnach i gcoitinne a leathnú.

Deir an Cólach nach bhfuil sé in aghaidh imeachtaí corraitheacha i stair an Choirn a cheiliúradh. Is é an tslí a dhéantar é is ábhar buartha dó. In ionad a bheith ag cur daoine ó dhóras le cuntais sceoiniúla ar bharbarthacht fhuilteach na Sasanach, is cóir, dar leis, comóradh na n-imeachtaí sin a dhíriú ar riachtanais an lae inniu. Luann sé comóradh 500 bliain Kesderdh Kernow ar éirí amach An Gof sa bhliain 1497. Ar an ócáid sin, lean an slua coiscéimeanna shaighdiúirí an Choirn go dtí Blackheath. Ach ócáid le haghaidh carthanais chomh maith le hócáid comórtha staire a bhí ann agus chuir sé sin an gníomh comórtha chun leasa carthanais i gCorn an lae inniu. Ina theannta sin, nuair a bhain an slua ionad an chatha amach, d’eisíodar sraith

éileamh polaitíochta a bhí dírithe ar leas an Choirn sa todhchaí. D’éiliodar go mbunófaí Gníomhaireacht Forbartha an Choirn, go mbeadh an Corn ina thoghcheantar aonair do thoghcháin Pharlaimint an hEorpa, go mbunófaí Ollscoil an Choirn, agus go gcuirfí stair, cultúr agus teanga an Choirn ar an gcuraclam scoile.

Sampla maith a bhí ansin, dar le Cole, den tslí is féidir comóradh a dhéanamh ar stair pholaitiúil an Choirn ach ag an am céanna aghaidh a dhíriú go muiníneach dóchasach ar an am i láthair agus ar na blianta atá ag teacht. Ní bheidh gach duine ag aontú le MK ar an gceist seo, dar ndóigh, ach níl aon dabht ná gur gá do ghluaiseacht an Choirn cur le líon a dtacadóirí sa mheántréimhse. Má tá an tslí a dhéantar ócáidí tábhachtacha stairiúla an Choirn tábhachtach ón taobh sin de, b’fhéidir gurb é sampla An Gof 1997 an múnla feasta.

### Summary

*In December Mebyon Kernow – the Party for Cornwall – organised an event to commemorate the petition of over 50,000 signatures for an assembly for Cornwall gathered five years ago. The Party has overhauled its policies to gain self-government and address the problems facing Cornwall.*

**Tadhg Ó Neachtain.**

## Demand for Irish Language Act for North

The group ACHT has intensified its campaign calling for an Irish Language Act for the North. The essential demands are rights for Irish speakers, adequate resources to enable any legislation and an Irish Language Commissioner. In early Dec. these main points were publicised at events in Dublin, Belfast and Derry and a publicity campaign launched which will see the dissemination of emblems, posters and postcards in support of the demands. A consultative document is expected on draft legislation which Westminster would be expected to pass before restoration of the Local Assembly (LA). The group intends to actively canvass politically and cooperate with POBAL who have to date been to group which pressed demands.

Sinn Féin and the SDLP are to press for this legislation to be enacted before the setting up of the LA after confirmation from Northern Secretary Peter Hain that if the act is not passed by then it would be referred to the LA, where unfortunately Unionists would it seems try to block it.

[www.petitiononline.com/acht](http://www.petitiononline.com/acht)

# The North – A new Agreement and a new Deadline!

The last report in CARN on Northern Affairs concluded 'Wait until year end, even if matters have not become clearer they may have moved on! ". And so indeed it was, despite previous dire warnings that if the Assembly was not up and running by 24th Nov. salaries would be stopped, elections deferred indefinitely and the two governments would take over implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. Little progress would have seemed possible with the DUP saying that Sinn Féin support for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) would have to be in place for a year before Dr. Ian Paisley would join an Executive as First Minister while Sinn Féin's position was that the Executive and full devolution must be up and running before it would even call an Ard Fheis to discuss policing policy. In mid October the Irish and British governments organised three days of talks in St. Andrew's in Scotland, at the end of which they announced their sequenced set of proposals for restoration of full devolution by the end of next March. Termed *The St Andrews Agreement* this was not agreed between the parties but between the governments although it was facilitated it seems by a softening of the DUP stance on power sharing and of Sinn Féin's attitude on endorsing the PSNI. The key points in the Agreement inclusive of the implementation timetable were:

- Commitment to the full principles of the Good Friday Agreement including stable inclusive partnership government and with equality and human rights to be at the heart of the new dispensation.
- Support for law and order including endorsing fully the PSNI and the criminal justice system.
- Parties to continue discussion in the Preparation for Government Committee to create the necessary administrative arrangements to create a new policing and justice department.
- A forum to be established on a Bill of Rights which would convene its inaugural meeting in December 2006.
- Commitment to a Single Equality Bill and to work rapidly to make the necessary preparations so that legislation can be taken forward by an incoming Executive at an early date.
- The British Government to pass an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language



**Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern at the launch of the St. Andrews's Agreement.**

- Following publication of the St Andrews Agreement all parties to consult and respond by Nov. 10th.
- Legislation to give effect to the Agreement by Nov. 2nd and the Local Assembly to meet to nominate First Minister and Deputy First Minister on Nov. 24th.
- Elections in March which would endorse the Agreement, members of the Executive to be nominated and by March 26th powers devolved.

The initial parts of this plan went somewhat haltingly into place with Sinn Féin and the DUP giving qualified approval by 10th Nov. and British Chancellor Gordon Brown unveiling a £35 Billion package ( criticised as insufficient) over four years subject to successful restoration of powersharing by March. Thereafter matters disimproved for the Agreement architects, with Dr. Ian Paisley indicating he would refuse to be foramlly nominated as First Minister in the transitional Assembly on the 24th Nov. if

Sinn Féin did not first indicate support for the PSNI and rumbles of discontent within his party.

On the 24th he was true to his word and no formal nomination was made although in his statement he did say that 'when commitments are delivered the DUP will enter government'. This coupled with a later statement saying that if his terms on policing and other outstanding matters are met he will accept nomination as First Minister was deemed sufficient by both Irish and British Prime Ministers to confirm that the St Andrews' Agreement was on track. Sinn Féins Chief Negotiator, Martin McGuinness, was nominated by Gerry Adams as Deputy First Minister. In his short acceptance speech he said he would 'promote the common good of all our people at all times'. Both Mr Adams and McGuinness may have had a lucky escape from an assasination attempt from the loyalist killer Michael Stone, who tried to burst into the Assembly building armed with a handgun and a bag of homemade bombs. He was overcome by unarmed security staff and admitted in a letter already sent to the newspapers that Adams and McGuinness were his targets.

Differences within the DUP continued to bubble with a statement issued by a number of their MLAs disputing the fact that Paisley had signed up to be First Minister. He moved quickly to quell dissent with a party meeting after which it was claimed all were in agreement. At the time of writing Sinn Féin has yet to indicate when it might hold a special Ard Fheis to discuss policing and while it has been reported that this might take place in January is unlikely to until Sinn Fein gets more clarification on the proposals for the new policing and justice ministry, a resolution of the involvement of MI 5 with the PSNI and a timetable for the transfer of powers. In Republican West Belfast a public meeting on the policing issue gathered a substantial attendance of 250 and many critical views were heard from the platform and audience. In this scenario is it likely that the Assembly will be restored in March? It does not seem so unless more agreement is reached in the meantime on the key outstanding issues and the DUP is prepared to give a firm commitment to power sharing and the devolution of policing powers before Sinn Fein hold its Ard Fheis. Already voices are being raised on the wisdom of holding an election to endorse a deal which has not really been done. At every critical juncture the DUP has made some outlandish demand that they hope Sinn Fein cannot meet or balked at giving a firm commitment to power sharing, things seem to be shaping up for this again.



# Irish Immersion Education – Excellent Education!

For its Annual Educational Conference in Nov 2006 Gaelscoileanna chose the theme *Immersion Education –Excellent Education*. Over the two days experts and practitioners discussed important issues relating to Irish-medium education from pre-school onwards, but especially at primary and post-primary levels. Areas of discussion included language and literacy in Irish-medium primary schools; development and planning of schools; the immersion education system, as well as support services for Gaeltacht and Irish-medium second level schools. Workshops were held on practical methods to develop Irish as the medium of communication in primary schools, on literacy development in the infant classes, on second level support services, on the School Community Forum initiative and on immersion education in the context of continuity from preschool, through primary and second level and on to third level.

In his presidential address, Micheal Ó Broin, stressed the benefits of immersion education and called on the Minister of Education, Mary Hanifin, to ensure that it was recognised within the Department of Education on the basis of research carried out in the Irish medium schools. No attempts should be made to force Irish medium schools to teach English in the early classes. It may be noted that these comments were made in the context of attempted action by a parent in Scoil Mhic Easmuin (Tralee) to have the Department force the school to introduce English at entry, an action which is to date being successfully resisted and on which issue the Gaelscoileanna Conference expressed unanimous support for the stand of the Management Board of Scoil Mhic Easmuin. In debate on this issue in one of the workshops a call was made for all Gaelscoileanna practising immersion methods to formally write to the Dept in support of Scoil Mhic Easmuin by telling them that this was in effect in their schools.

The CEO of Gaelscoileanna, Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin, gave a presentation on the ten year draft strategic plan for the organisation, reminding the audience that six new primary schools had opened this year (Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Glanmire, Cork; Gaelscoil Riada, Athenry, Co. Galway; Gaelscoil Bhaile Bríghín, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin; Gaelscoil na Lochanna, Blessington, Co. Wicklow; Gaelscoil Choillín, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath; and Gaelscoil na gCrainn, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.) and two second level colleges, Colaiste an Eachréidh, Athenry, Co. Galway and Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh, located in Limerick city.

A presentation from the TCD researcher, Dr. John Harris, author of the report *Irish in Primary Schools – Long Term National Trends in Achievement* was one of the keynote addresses to the Conference. In his presentation he outlined the results of research presented in that report on the range of language skills achieved by pupils in both Gaelscoileanna, Gaeltacht and English language ( Ordinary) primary schools in Ireland and gave



**Gaelscoileanna Uachtarán (President), Micheal Ó Broin, and Ardfheidhmeannach (CEO), Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin, appear happy with events at the Gaelscoileanna Educational Conference and AGM.**

comparative results for periods almost twenty years apart, from 1985 and 2002.

The report on which the presentation is based is over 200 pages long and contains full details of the whole survey methodology and objectives along with very detailed results and with discussions on their interpretation, it may be found at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) (enter John Harris in the Search panel). Only some brief information on the some of the main comparative findings for some of the objectives can be given here. To put matters in perspective for those in the other Celtic countries is it also useful to give the overall position on pupil numbers in the different types of schools for the two periods. Irish medium schools outside the Gaeltacht comprised 1.1% of pupils (6,250) in 1985 while in 2002 this had grown to 5% (just 21,000). Gaeltacht schools were 2% (11,117) in 1985 but had dropped to 1.8% (and only 7942 pupils) in 2002.

Chapter 3 deals with Irish Listening Achievements. In the Conclusions it is stated "There has been a substantial and statistically significant fall-off between

1985 and 2002 in the percentage of pupils in ordinary schools attaining high levels of performance (mastery) for six of the seven Irish Listening objectives tested. For example, there was a fall of 36.1% and 40.5% respectively in the percentages of pupils mastering the *Listening vocabulary* and *General comprehension of speech* objectives."

"In all-Irish schools very high percentages of pupils achieved mastery of most objectives in 2002. *Listening vocabulary* and *General comprehension of speech*, for example, are mastered by 89.3% and 96.3% respectively. In the case of a further three objectives, the lowest percentage attaining mastery is 86.4%. For all seven objectives, the percentages of pupils attaining mastery in Gaeltacht schools in 2002 are intermediate between ordinary and all-Irish schools, though considerably closer to all-Irish schools. For example, the percentages attaining mastery of *General comprehension of speech* in Gaeltacht schools in 2002 was 73.3% whereas it was 96.3% in all-Irish schools and 7.8% in ordinary schools."

Another area dealt with ( in Chapter 4) is Irish Speaking Achievement. In the discussion it is stated "It is clear that while there has been a substantial decline in the Irish Speaking performance of pupils in ordinary schools over the seventeen-year period examined, the performance of pupils in all-Irish schools has largely remained stable notwithstanding the fact that, as shown in Chapter 3, the number of pupils attending all-Irish schools increased from 1.1% of the population of primary school pupils to 5%" [the figure today would be 6%].

Data presented on Irish Reading Achievement reflects the same pattern. There is a wealth of information on the influence of defined key variables on achievement in Irish and on the influence of practices of teachers and parents. The reports conclusions and recommendations deal with many aspects but the core recommendations are:

- a) promoting the teaching of one or two subjects, or parts of subjects, through Irish in ordinary schools - an *extended core programme*.
- b) developing *intermediate forms of immersion education*, less ambitious than the full-immersion approach of all-Irish schools but more ambitious than a subject-only or extended programme

These to be undertaken in the context of an overall long term strategy by the Dept of Education and Science on development of a language education policy for Irish, the assembly of a plan of action relating to the teaching and learning of the language in primary schools and implementation of that plan. The issue hinges as the report says on "whether we consider Irish important enough to give it the kind of attention at the highest level in the educational system that we give other major educational challenges"

The response of the Minister of Education and the Government to these positive recommendations will indicate how serious they are in regard to ensuring that pupils in ordinary primary schools are given the opportunity to attain high levels of achievement in Irish.



# Mannin



## Ny Chengaghyn Gaelgagh

Foddee nagh vodmayd loayrt mychione 'ny chengaghyn Gaelgagh'. Foddee dy bare dooin loayrt mychione mosaic dy foghlaraghyn Gaelgagh fud Nerin, Mannin as Nalbin. Agh loayrym mychione tree chengaghyn Gaelgagh ayns shoh: Yernish, Gaelg Albinagh as y Ghaelg. Er agh ennagh, she yn Ghaelg y chooish sassey. Cha vod oo jannoo arganeys mychione ny slystyn jeh ellan. As she yn Ghaelg chengey ashoonagh Vannin, ga nagh vel y Ghaelg ec y chooid smoo jeh ny Manninee, as ga dy vel ymmod-ee joarreyn er jeet dy chummal ayns Mannin. Myr haghyr eh rieau, hig paart jeu shen dy ve nyn Manninee. Ga dy row ny shenn Vanninee currit fo chosh dy bollagh as ta'n Manninaghys er leodaghey, cha ren ny Manninee surranse ny reddyn agglagh haink er ny Yernee as ny Gaeil Albinagh. Dy firr-nagh, va eabbaghyn jeean jeant dy gheddyn rey rish Yernee as Gaeil Albinagh, nyn jengaghyn as nyn gultooryn. Ga dy row ny eabbaghyn shen speeideilagh er aghyn ennagh, cha row ad speeideilagh er aghyn elley. Ta spyrryd noa ry akin ayns Nerin as ayns Nalbin Gaelgagh neesht, ga nagh vodmayd gra dy vel cooishyn goll er oi dy yindyssagh.

Bentyn rish ny tree chengaghyn Gaelgagh, heill sleih keead blein er dy henney dy beagh y Ghaelg slane marroo ayns tammylt beg. Cha haghyr shen. Foddee dy raink shin y grunt ayns 1961 tra dooyrt mysh hoght feed dy leih dy row Gaelg oc. Ayns 2001, dooyrt ny shlee na jeih keayrt yn earroo shen dy row Gaelg oc. Son shickyrys, cha nod oo gra dy nee loayrtee flaaail ooilley yn sleih shen. Agh hoilshee eh dy vel tooilley sleih pohll-dal y chengey – erskyn ooilley sleih aeg. Y red smoo scanshoil, shen y Vunscuill Ghaelgagh ayns Balley Keeill Eoin. Son y chied cheayrt rish ny shlee na keead blein ta paitchyn ayn as Gaelg flaaail oc. Chammah as shen, ta thousaneyn d'eallagh aeg er nyn-saghey paart dy Ghaelg ayns ny scoillyn elley. Ec y traa t'ayn, cha nel shin jannoo reddyn dy liooar dy chooney lesh y feallagh aeg shen – as dy chooney lesh Gaelgeyryn ooilley cooidjagh. Cha nel caaghyn dy liooar ayn Gaelg y loayrt. As cha nel shin croo sleih aasit dy liooar as Gaelg flaaail oc. Agh ny yei shen as ooilley, s'mooar y sharaghey t'er jeet rish.

Bentyn rish Nerin, tra hooar aym jeh'n cheer sorch dy heyrnsys, smooinee sleih dy liooar dy beagh Yernish aavioghit liorish cur ee ayns ny scoillyn. Cha hoig ad dy row feme er foddey ny smoo na shen – argid as

kiartaghyn. Cha nod oo beaghey er y chengey ny lomarcen. As haink y reiltys ayns Divlyn dy ve lhag-chreeagh bentyn rish aavioghey'n chengey. Sy jerrey, hoig y poble hene dy row eh orroosyn dy yannoo red ennagh as ghow ad toshiaght dy chur scoillyn er bun raad t'ad gynsaaghey trooid Yernish. Va lheid ny scoillyn shen currit er bun ec y reiltys Yernagh ayns ny bleecantyn feed as ny bleecantyn jeih as feed, agh chaill y reiltys shen cree bentyn rish y chengey as huitt yn earroo dy scoillyn-Yernish sheese as sheese. Chammah as shen, haink Yernee dy ve cur feoh da'n chengey kyndagh rish yn agh broutagh va Yernish (as cooishyn-scuill elley) goll er ynsaghey ayns ny scoillyn. Ny yei shen as ooilley, ga nagh row Yernish aavioghit er yn agh va ymmoddey Yernee jerkal, va thousaneyn dy Yernee er chosney fys er y chengey. As va bree noa currit da'n ghleashaght-chengey ec ny Gaelscoillyn – as ny Trubbylyn ayns twoaie Nerin. Va Gaeltaghyn-balley currit er bun ayns Beal Feirshtey as Doirrey.



**Professor Colin Wilson.**

Nish, kyndagh rish Coardail Noo Andreays er y gherid, ta'n reiltys Goaldagh er ghial-dyn dy der ad bree da Slattys Yernish. Ta Yernish ayns Nerin twoaie bishaghey. Sy vlein 2001, dooyrt 167,490 dy leih ayns Nerin twoaie dy row fys oc er Yernish – bishaghey jeh 18% neayr's 1991. Ayns Nerin twoaie nish ta tree feed as nuy-jeig dy scoillyn raad t'ad gynsaaghey trooid Yernish. Sy vlein 2010, t'eh grait dy bee ny shlee na jeih thousane paitchey vees goll er ynsaghey trooid Yernish ayns Nerin twoaie. Shoh bishaghey feer niartal. Ta lught y Yernish breeoil as niartal nish, agh ta'n chengey ayns feme jeh coadey leighagh. Hannah, ta Yernish goll er coadey liorish Aym III jeh'n Chaart Oarpagh cour Chengaghyn

Ardjynagh ny Myn-chengaghyn, agh ta'n coadey shen faase dy liooar. Ta feme er coadey stroshey. Ta'n cheshaght-Yernish Pobal (Pobble) er nobbraghey dy niartal dy chur er y reiltys Goaldagh bree y chur da Slattys Yernish ec Westminster. Hirr Pobal er oaylleeyn-chengey ad dy screeu sheese treealtysyn cour lheid y clattys shen. Mastey ny oaylleeyn va Robert Dunbar (Ollooscuill Aberdeen), Wilson McLeod (Doon Edin), Colin Williams (Caerdydd) as Fernand de Varennes (Ollooscuill Murdoch, Yn Austral). She Wilson McLeod vees cur Leaght Ned Maddrell ayns Mannin mleeaney. Nish, ta'n reiltys Goaldagh gra dy jean ad gaarlagey Slattys Yernish son Nerin twoaie dy chur y chengey er e toshiaght. T'eh jerkit dy der ad bree da Billey dy Chairyn vees goaill stiagh cairyn-chengey.

Ec y traa cheddin, ta'n reiltys Goaldagh er ghra dy vel ad soit er lliasaghey Ulleish (Ulster Scots) as y cultoor as eiraght ta goll maree.

Surrys enn dy vel feme er Slattys Yernish. Ta'n Partee Unnaneysagh Deynlagh (DUP/PUD) er ghra dy vel ad boirit ec lheid y clattys – oddagh ymyd ve jeant jeh dy leodaghey'n 'Goaldaghys' ayns Nerin twoaie, t'ad smooinghyn. Ta lught-PUD gra dy jean ad shickyraghey nagh jed argid er 'jummal' er skeymyn-Yernish. Cha nyrrys dy vel feme leighagh er coadey Yernish.

Va art mychione Gaelg Albinagh sy lhiagan Yernagh jeh'n Sunday Times Jerrey Fouyir. Myr yinnagh oo jerkal, she ron-neeaght v'ayn noi'n chengey lesh stoo ayn goll rish 'zombie language'! Nagh vel nearey orroo as ad clou lheid y voghtnid shoh? Ta shin gynsaaghey veih John Josephs dy vel Gaelg Albinagh ny chengey Yernagh ren cheet gys Nalbin sy chiaghtoo eash jeig! Rere yn art shoh, ta John Josephs yn olloo jeh chengoaylleaght-obree ec Ollooscuill Ghoon Edin. Veih ny barelyn jeh'n fer shoh ta clouit syn art shoh, foddym toiggal nagh vel eh coontey monney jeh'n eie dy vel Gaelg Albinagh myr chengey ny mayrey Nalbin. Agh cha nel mee smooinghyn dy vel eh cho almoragh as dy vel eh credjal dy daink y chengey gys Nalbin sy chiaghtoo eash jeig – ta shen ny shlee na thousane blein ro anmagh. Veih'n chiarroo ny'n wheigoo eash, heeyn Shenn Yernish magh harrish ooilley Nalbin, bunnys. Haink y Chenn Yernish dy ve Gaelg Albinagh, chengey ghloyroil ren surranse fo tranlaase agglagh. Goll rish ny sliennooyen ayns 'Mac', bunnys ooilley ny cowraghyn elley jeh ashoonys Albinagh t'ayn nish, haink ad veih'n eiraght Ghaelgagh.

Ta feoh noi'n Ghaelg Albinagh ry akin feiy'n art – feoh gyn undin as noi resoon. As ta'n feoh soilshaghey yn doilleid t'ec ny Gaeil Albinagh: ta noidyn keoi oc ta foast cummal ayns sorch dy hie-baanrit. Noidyn ta arryltagh dy ghra nagh ren shennaghys taghyrt. Booise da Jee nagh vel noidyn myr shen ain ayns Mannin. T'ou abyl dy ghra dy

*continued on page 17*



vel yn art shoh lane dy chynneaghys – red nagh vel goan sy Sunday Times. Agh y sleih screeu yn art shoh, foddee dy vel ad cho corree er yn oyr dy vel cooishyn Gaelgagh sharaghey ayns Nalbin. Gyn ourys, shegin da ny Gaeil caggey dy chosney gagh oarlagh, agh ta reddyn cheet lhieu ny veggan as ny veggan.

**Summary**

*Things are improving for Manx Gaelic, but there is a great need for better opportunities to use the language, particularly for young people. The British Government has promised an Irish Language Act for Northern Ireland. The Irish edition of The Sunday Times recently published a ridiculously biased article which demonstrated visceral dislike for Scottish Gaelic. Was this article prompted by the advances the language is making?*

**Brian Stowell**

# Death Knell officially sounds for Manx Agriculture

In the early 1970s, Mec Vannin calculated that the Island could support a population of 70,000 in terms of food produce. Since that time, the potential productivity has been drastically reduced as farming land has been developed and fisheries depleted by exploitation primarily by the UK. In parallel, the population has risen from 60,000 to well over 80,000. Any country that cannot support its own population in terms of food is living beyond its means in a most frightening fashion.

The meat industry, under the current trading relationship with Europe, is effectively doomed as of 2010. Despite this, Minister Phil Gawne said in August,

“We have great products, world class farmers and a meat marketing organisation which is now making tremendous strides forwards. I am confident that we can evolve a thriving, market focused food chain which harnesses our unique Island branding opportunity. If we are successful, it will be good news for everybody involved, including the Manx consumer.”

However, in September, a review of the structure of government in the Island recommended, amongst other things, that certain departments be redefined and various functions transferred. Prominent amongst these is what is currently the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

## ROBERT THOMSON † (1924-2006)

Jeheiney yn trass laa jeig Jerrey Fouyir hooar Robert Thomson baase lurg chingys liauyr, as eshyn kiare feed as daa vlein d’eash.

Rish ymmodee bleantyn - dy jarroo, ny smoo na lieh cheead-blein - v’eh er ve yn scoillar syrjey as smoo ynsit bentyn rish y Ghaelg Vanninagh, as s’liklee nagh row rieau scoillar elley ayn as tushtey smoo echey jeh chengey ny mayrey Elian Vannin.

Ghow eh toshiaght y chengey ‘ynsaghey tra nagh row eh agh ny ghooinee aeg, as dynsee eh ee er agh feer neuchadjin: cha ren eh studeyras jeh lioar ghrammeydys ny lessoonyn er chor erbee, ‘naght ta studeyras elley cliaghtey jannoo; she liorish jannoo cosoylley eddyr y Vible Vanninagh as Bibleyn elley, gynsaghey focklyn as raaghyn Gaelgagh as goaill tastey jeh dy chooilley nhee va neuchasley ayns Bible ny Manninee, chroo eh e reillyn grammeydag hene rere ny v’eh cronnaghey. Myr shen ren eh shaghney ynsaghey ny marranyn jeant ec Goodwin, Kneen as fir elley - marranyn va ynseydee elley ny Gaelgey gynsaghey as cliaghtey gagh laa. Cha voddagh peiagh elley gynsaghey yn Ghaelg er lheid yn agh.

Ta ram reddyn quaagh ‘sy Ghaelg Vanninagh nagh vod eer ny loayrtee share soilshaghey er yn oyr nagh vod mayd ronsaghey shenn teksyn; cha row yn chengey scruiit sheese (choud’s ta fys ain) roish y vlein 1610. Agh va Robert feer vie ynsit ayns Ladjin, Greagish, Shenn Yernish, Yernish Veanagh, Gaelg ny Halbey, Bretnish, Shenn Vaarle, Shenn

Loghlynnish as chengaghyn elley neesht, as er y fa shen oddagh eh feaysley folliaghtyn ny Gaelgey Vanninagh liorish jannoo cosoylley rish ny glaraghyn shinney shen. Shimmy keayrt v’eh abyl ansooryn y chur da ny ynseydee echey nagh voddagh ad feddyn ayns lioar erbee. Shen yn oyr v’eh ny ghooinee gyn cormid ny mast’ain.

Ta kuse vooar jeh tushtey Robert er ve scruiit sheese, booise da Jee: ec y toshiaght ren eh studeyras jeh Lioar-Phadger Phillips (1610) as hug eh magh fockleyr beg jeh ny focklyn v’aynjee; chooin eh lesh A S B Davies skeealyn y screeu ayns Gaelg ghlen yndyssagh (Juan Doo Shialteyr as Skeealyn Cheeill-Chiollee); ren eh lhiasaghey lioar Edmund Goodwin, Lessoonyn ayns Chengey ny Mayrey Elian Vannin, as screeu Lessoonyn Sodjey ‘sy Ghaelg Vanninagh feed blein ny lurg shen, va cur da studeyras tushtey s’diuney jeh’n agh va Gaelg y Vible er ny ymydey. Ren eh reaghey shenn teksyn lesh imraaghyn myrgeddin: sharmaneyn, Yn Fer-raauee Crestee, as Pargys Cailiit, as screeu eh shiartanse dy artyn as traghtysyn giare son earishlioar yn er-lheh mychione caghlaa dy chooishyn follit as anaasagh ‘sy Ghaelg.

Va Robert ny hirveishagh ayns Keeill Andreays, Doolish, rish jeh bleeaney, as v’eh ny ghooinee kiune, kenjal, surransagh as rieau gennal; cha bee e lheid ayn reesht ny mast’ain. Sollys Yee er e annym ooaale.

**Adrian Pilgrim**



The proposal is to reform the Department into a form of heritage department, as follows:

**“Recommendation 35**

“The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry should be renamed the Department of Countryside, Heritage and Leisure and its role should be extended to include coastline management, transferred from the Department of Transport, and leisure and heritage transport transferred from the Department of Tourism and Leisure.

**“Recommendation 36**

“The Department of Countryside, Heritage and Leisure should have a sponsoring responsibility for Manx National Heritage and any other cultural, heritage or leisure bodies supported by Government.”

It is abundantly clear the it is the intention of the government to abandon agriculture and fishing to its fate while retaining some quaint working museum type farms. Neither Mr. Gawne or the department has made any statement on the matter.

# Provisional figures confirm drop in voter participation.

Carn 135 pp 20 carried an article revealing increasing voter apathy in Mannin prior to the General Election. Early figures in the wake of that election, which took place two days before this article was written, confirm this.

Although a slightly larger number of votes (a few hundred) were actually cast than in 2001, there were also two more constituencies being contested so when the figures are adjusted to make them compare in a "like for like" fashion, a continued decline in participation becomes apparent. Three new members were guaranteed due to retirements and three sitting members lost their place, giving six new faces amongst 24. One of those to go was the DLGE minister John Rimington. Ministers are frequent casualties in Manx elections. Andrew Douglas, who enjoyed the rural vote in Malew and Santon was replaced by Tony Cregeen who has the support of Ballasalla residents. Hazel Hannan, who has represented Peel since 1986 was replaced by Peel Commissioner Tim Crookall at his second attempt.



**Bill Malarkey, MHK, Liberal Vannin.**

Issue 135 also mentioned the British National Party's unwelcome incursion into our country. Although the BNP did not attempt to field candidates, a certain Geoffrey Boot stood against David Anderson in Glenfaba. When in the Isle of Man, Mr. Boot claims to have been resident for over ten years. When in Kent, where he has served as an County Councillor, he claims to be resident in Kent. His policies clearly put him in the "little Englander" category with his calls for immigration controls being aimed squarely at non-English types. It is essentially difficult to see any fundamental difference between his and the BNP's stance in regard to Mannin.

Predictably, Peter Karran (Liberal Vannin, Onchan) proved to be the most popular candidate in both absolute and percentage terms. The new party fielded seven



**Peter Karran, MHK, Liberal Vannin.**

candidates with only one other, second time contender Bill Malarkey, being successful. This doesn't necessarily mean that Mannin isn't ready for party politics but the individual candidates are very important and Mr. Karran's name alone certainly isn't enough to carry other candidates. The Positive Action Group made no headway. Overall, the election doesn't represent any change for Mannin or the Manx people.

## Mec Vannin Notes

In order to prove that the so-called independent members of Tynwald effectively form a single-party state system, Tynwald has ratified Chief Minister Tony Brown's choice of Government members. Out of 32 individuals, the only two not to enjoy any form of governmental responsibility are Peter Karran (Onchan) and Bill Malarkey (West Douglas). Both are the only members of Mr Karran's newly formed Liberal Vannin Party. Mr Karran has greatest public support of any MHK and, while Mr. Malarkey is new to the House, the five other new MHKs all got at least one governmental responsibility. Mec Vannin kept away from a system now so utterly corrupt as to be beneath contempt. None of the MHKs and former MHKs who have used Mec Vannin as a stepping stone for their personal ambitions have done anything about this undemocratic system. In fact, they have fully endorsed it. So much for "changing things from the inside".

## DERRY INDEED!

To most Irish people the city on the Foyle is Derry - which derived from the original Irish name, Doire, meaning oak grove. In 1613 however, with Ireland conquered if not subdued, the English King James 1 gave the city a royal charter naming it Londonderry, apparently as he had granted lands in the area to the Companies of the City of London. This is the term used by Unionists/Protestants with the stress on London i.e. pronounced as London'dry, effectively obliterating Derry. For many years under Unionist rule this staunchly Nationalist city had a Unionist City Council - achieved by a gerrymander of local authority boundaries which amalgamated the city with unionist rural areas. With reform of the boundaries in the eighties the actual political reality of a large nationalist majority in the city was finally reflected in the City Council. They promptly changed the name to DERRY in 1984 and have used it since in all official business. The Dept of the Environment (DOE) in the North however refused to accept this change, claiming that such a change would require a petition to the Queen. In the Council's view this was unnecessary as even royal charters are subject to the provisions of local government legislation which enabled the council to implement the name change in 1984. Derry City Council took an action in the High Court seeking a declaration requiring the DOE to accept the name Derry. This judicial review was heard in Belfast in early Dec. but the decision was reserved. The outcome is awaited with interest but it seems the council has another string to its bow in the event of an unfavourable ruling.

## FOCAL.IE

Dublin City University (Fiontar, Dr. Caoilfhionn Nic Pháidin, Project Director) and The University of Wales in Lampeter are sharing their expertise developing on-line dictionaries for Irish and Welsh. The terminology website, focal.ie. now recording over 60,000 searches per month was launched in September. It is one of the largest terminology databases in the world, combining over a quarter of a million Irish and English terms in one accessible site.

The project commenced in 2004, with €1.6 million in funding from Interreg and Foras na Gaeilge. This new website is aimed at home users as well as professionals and it is anticipated that it will be widely used by people at home, in school and at work. Work commenced on Irish terminology in 1922 and has continued since. The results of all that work have now been combined on one website, achieving a high-technology image for Irish.





# Kernow



## An Deghow-Barth Howlsedhes

An governans, wosa mothow y dowlennow rag digreshehans yn 'Pow Sows', a dowlas dhe ves fasow a wovernans dre levow an bobel. Ny dhaskorras byttegyns an mynnas a sevel governans 'rannidrek.

Kyn nag eus ol vyth bos hwans dhe'n bobel a-ji dhe'n *rannidryow* meur-na an nerth ha'n galloesow a veu desedhys war neb kor.

Lemmyon ymons ow skoelya milyow a beunsow war dowl gravya honaneth fals. Argemmynow a veu pareusys may hwra kowethasow diwisysans diskwedhes, yn sowsnek, sur lowr, 'Proud to serve the South West of England'!

Yn kettermyn mona gwir, degow a vilvilyow, a vydh res dhe valyow sten marow a-barth touristieth, arghans a veu neghys pan o edhomm a weres dhe Krofti Deghow, an diwetha bal sten yn fyw.

Ha nyns yw henna oll; moy hwath a vydh spenys yn unn brena an bal rag hy degeal!

### Translation

The total fiasco of Government plans for devolution to the English regions did not make them stop to rethink. Instead they went ahead with their plans for giant super-regions with no support from the populations involved.

Powers were still designated to supra-regional authorities but, against a background of public hostility or at least apathy, they decided to remove democratic scrutiny from the arrangements.

The only nod to public opinion was to spend a small fortune trying to create a sense of identity to the ersatz 'region'. Latest is a scheme where local companies are encouraged to proclaim their love for the sham creation with the slogan:

'Proud to serve the SouthWest of England'.

At the same time, tens of millions of pounds of real development money is being spent on turning dead tin-mines into tourist attractions – money denied when the last working mine, South Crofty was in desperate straits.

To cap it all they are now going to spend many thousands of pounds on a compulsory purchase designed to ensure it can never work again!

Julyan Holmes

## Niverans an Bobel

Prov-wovynnek an nessa Niverans a veu diskwedhys dhyn. Yntra lies niver nowydh, yth en ni parys dhe weles nebes re adro dhe Gernow ha'n taves kernewek. Mes pan wrugevy hwilas pandr'a ve kevys orth an geryow: 'Kernow' po 'Kernewek', nyns esa travyth!

Meur a dra yn kever Kembrek ha pals adro dhe edhommow pobel nowydh devedhys dhe Enys Vreten saw ger vyth-oll rag an re-na vynno omdheskrifa 'Kernewek' ha govynn vyth adro dhe fordhow dhe wonis an re-na a gews kernewek, qwos oll hy bos aswonmys yn soedhek avel yeth Vreten. Nyns yw agan mestrissy usyes dhe wul vri a Gernow ha'y fobel. Hogen, henna a wra chanjya; mynnons kyn na vynnons, i a dal profya skoedhyans hag ewnhynseth hwath dhe Gernow.

## CORNISH LANGUAGE SPREADS

In the recent Christmas 2006 edition of 'Insight' magazine which is published and distributed mainly to the ex-pat British population of the Costa Blanca in the Valencia Autonomous Region of Spain, readers may have been surprised to see 'Nadelek Lowen' appear in an article concerning Christmas greetings in the many languages of the world. All of the languages which appeared were modern ones and older tongues such as Latin were not included.

Cornish Celtic League member, Mike Chappell, who was in Valencia at the time immediately e-mailed congratulations to the magazine together with the news that Kernewek is now officially recognised and in receipt of small funding.

## Mystery Explosion

An explosion caused damage to houses in north Kernow around the Bude area in October last year, but investigators are still unsure as to its cause. The explosion occurred between 1130 and 1200 GMT. The Ministry of Defence, the RAF and the Civil Aviation Authority all claim that none of their aircraft were flying over the area at the time. The West Cornwall Astronomical Society claims that the explosion was caused by a meteorite.

## 2011 Census

Calls for the Cornish to have their own national identity tick box in the 2011 census are being made in Kernow, following the Welsh lead. It appears that the Office of National Statistics (ONS) will produce a form which includes an explicit option for Welsh in the census of 2011. Campaigners are urged to write to the ONS, Commission for Racial Equality, their councillors and MP's demanding that the Cornish also be included.

Office for National Statistics, Customer Contact Centre, Room 1.015, Cardiff Road,

Newport, NP10 8XG. Email: - [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk)

## Coastal Accommodation: unrestricted use

52 luxury apartments are due to be built on Newquay's coastline, around Fistral bay, starting in January 2007. The apartments are earmarked for non-restrictive use, meaning that they can be used as holiday or residential dwellings. House prices have reportedly risen by at least 50,000 pounds in Newquay since the opening of a celebrity chef's new restaurant in the town.

## Ghost village haunts Westminster

The Cornish villagers of Lanreath protested on Islington Green in London last October over proposals to close their primary school. The residents set up their own village on the Green and conducted their daily lives as normal, including a school lesson with pupils from the school and tending their farm animals. The village has been without a bus stop, shop and post office for almost two years - a sign perhaps that second homes and spiralling house prices are really killing off Cornish rural life!

# South Croft – a lost cause or a cause celebre?

For almost a decade – and some would argue for an even longer time than that – South Croft tin mine in Pool, between Redruth and Camborne, has stood as a symbol of Cornwall. To many Crofty represents Cornwall's industrial tin mining heritage, once prolific in the nation where many would argue was where the industrial revolution began. To others it now stands as a symbol of Cornish resistance against faceless and unaccountable quangos – the South West regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and the Redruth, Pool and Camborne Urban Regeneration Company (RPCURC) – and an artificial South West region that increases its threats, on a yearly basis, to swallow up the second smallest Celtic land. But are those people who support the reopening of Crofty merely looking to a past that no longer exists in an area of Cornwall that badly needs economic development?

When Cornwall's elected Council approved the reopening of Cornwall's last working tin mine in September 2006, its decision was overturned the following month by the South West Regional Development Agency (RDA).

Solidarity slowly retreated back into the quiet depth of the flooded mine shafts from where it was conceived.

The fate of Crofty was nevertheless still untold when in 2001 the site was bought by Baseresult Holdings Ltd. who claimed that they would restore the mine and extract tin once again with the creation of 200 jobs. Since then the future of the mine has remained uncertain. Welshman, Kevin Williams of Baseresult Holdings Ltd., has claimed over the years to have been held up in his endeavour to get the mine operating again by various agencies and businesses, including the much despised RPCURC. It is claimed that the RPCURC has deliberately held up the reopening of the mine, because it has its own designs on the site.

In June of this year, Baseresult seemed to be making one last ditched attempt to get the approval it said it had been waiting for and distributed thousands of leaflets around the homes of people living in the Camborne, Pool and Redruth area blaming the local authorities for delaying the reopening of the mine. The public relations campaign paid off. In September 2006 Cornwall Council finally gave the go-ahead for the mine to

become a cause celebre to be talked about for many years afterwards; a story perhaps for future generations to explain how the Cornish people finally got their way.

This feeling of success however was to be short lived. In October 2006 the remote landlord and Bully Boy, in the form of the SWRDA and the RPCURC, told Baseresult Ltd that it would compulsory purchase 147 acres at Pool, including the mine.

Ironically one of the champions of Cornish Solidarity (and at one point its President) and ex South Crofty mine worker, Mark Kaczmarek, had by this time become a Councillor and sat on the Board of the RPCURC.

Mark Kaczmarek, now one of the unelected representatives on the Board of the RPCURC, to all intents and purposes a private agency, commented:

"We have to grasp this opportunity to move this area forward."

Some people have now renamed the RPCURC the DeGeneration Company. In an open letter to Kaczmarek, Graham Hart, a local campaigner writes:

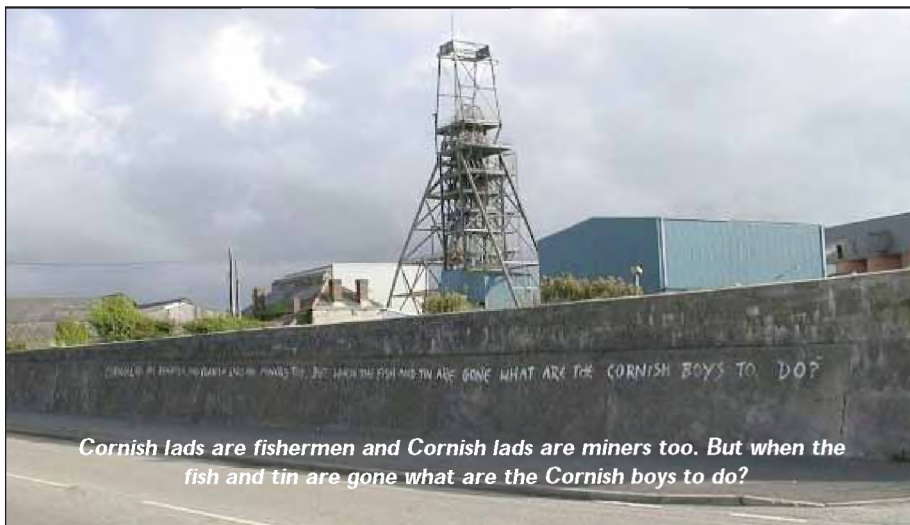
"As long as you are connected in any way to this bunch of thieves in suits [RPCURC], everything you say will be hollow. Everything you do will be open to question. Everything!

Bring back the Mark Kaczmarek who staged a magnificent defiance at South Crofty's closure. A man that I looked up to. Go back to the reason why you went into local politics in the first place. To fight for the people.

Your reputation is tarnished, though it could easily shine again if you quit this shower of shysters and then did your utmost by doing your bit to shut the CPR down. You know as well as I do what this company is about. It's about pinching our land and building houses for fat profits and nothing else.

As long as you stay with them Mark, I like many, many others will have no faith or trust in you. Everything you say will be hollow. Everything you do will be open to question. ....everything."

In Cornwall and especially in the Camborne, Pool and Redruth areas - the biggest area of conurbation in the country – feelings about Crofty run high. Many thousands of people have embodied their own feelings of worth into the mine for almost a decade. South Crofty isn't so much a mine anymore as a national symbol. For someone to say that it is a lost cause and its closure is a "positive step for the future" has missed the point of Cornishness completely. Today the tin mine is not the matter of contention here. It goes far beyond metal and rock - these are the mere bones of the Cornish people. South Crofty has come to



In 1998 Crofty was closed down as a commercial enterprise, bringing a 3 000 year old tin mining tradition to an abrupt end. In the years that followed Cornish Solidarity, a grassroots movement born out of the desperation felt by many in Cornwall by the closing of South Crofty tin mine, grew into a massive popular force of thousands. For a while Cornish Solidarity looked like it was destined to become a metaphorical Cornish Chough, the embodiment of King Arthur returned to Cornwall to help lead the Cornish people to freedom. However after a number of exciting campaigns, where they were able to call on its supporters by the coach load to take part in demonstrations against the encroachment of Anglo assimilation, Cornish

reopen stating that the environmental conditions had been met, which Williams commented was one of the main reasons why the reopening had been delayed.

South Crofty really seemed to be the embodiment of the tenacious fighting spirit of the Cornish people.

It actually looked like Cornwall's tin mining legacy would finally be returned. It was tempting to think that the gargantuan efforts made by the people of Cornwall to recover a part of their proud heritage, was finally having an effect. Despite many setbacks and against staggering odds, it appeared that with patience and passion (two almost contrary characteristics that easily describe the Cornish people), Crofty would



## London Exports

I have just read a newspaper report that some London boroughs are offering their tenants sums of money amounting to several hundreds of pounds if they agree to 'go west'.

That is 'migrate' to the 'westcountry', not 'die' (though that might be, for them, are equally acceptable solution)!

The problem is that the local authorities cannot afford to provide housing in London. Never mind the chronic shortage of affordable housing that already exists here. If we had representative regional government they would look askance at this threat to local peoples' life opportunities - but not a squeak! The real problem will never be addressed by those who benefit from it: The grotesque overpayments and subsequent inflation starts in the 'Home Counties' but inflicts terrible damage to low wage areas such as Cornwall.

*continued from page 20*

represent the spirit of Cornish defiance. Even if South Crofty is removed its ghost will remain and with it the memory of unrelinquished. On battlefields of the past, leaders would shout a name or give a speech to rouse their soldiers. In the future, it could well be that the name of South Crofty will no doubt reverberate in the minds of thousands of Cornish people. It will not be remembered as a lost cause, but as the inspiration behind thousands of years of Cornish culture.

The Compulsory Purchase Order has still not materialised from the RPCURC. It may be that by the time you read this article, Crofty will be closed for good. For the moment some hope remains that Baseresult Ltd will appeal the decision or the Cornish people will join together to have the last say. Whatever the final result, Crofty has made its mark and the fact remains that history cannot be changed - but it shapes us. It's how we live now and in the future that makes the difference.

**Rhisiart Tal-e-bot**

### LACE continues:

LACE, the London Association for Celtic Education, a London-based educational body founded by the Celtic League, is still continuing its good work.

Most of the members are active in teaching and are of course 100% in support of Celtic Education and the survival of our unique identities. Contact Maighread Baczkiewicz on 020 8996 9015 for more details. Meetings are usually on a Wednesday evening at London Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, London NW1. Talks are open to non members - all welcome.

# MY ST. PIRAN'S FLAG STILL FLIES!

Following the publication by The Department for Communities and Local Government of draft Control of Advertisement Regulations early in 2006, it became apparent that thousands of Cornish households flying the flag of St. Piran of the Tinnerns of Cornwall may have faced enforcement action by local district councils.

However, those who chose to fly the Union flag, the flag of St. George or any other national flag could do so with the full consent of law.

The matter received much press coverage and resulted in protest across Cornwall.

One such protester was Mike Chappell, a retired police officer from Goonhavern who flies the well known black flag with its distinctive white cross from a flag pole in his garden. On hearing of this latest edict from a distant Westminster Government, Mike wrote to the Department for Communities and Local Government informing them that he would continue to fly the flag of St. Piran whatever their chosen course of action would be.

He later received a very comprehensive set of forms from the Planning Department of Carrick District Council together with a bill for £75 informing him that he was required to apply for the required permissions. Mike wrote a very polite letter back to Carrick Council letting them know that he would not be seeking planning permission to fly what has become Cornwall's flag, that he would continue to fly it and that the Council must take what action they saw fit.

Mike's stand became public knowledge and he received literally hundreds of letters and e-mails of support from the Cornish and Celtic diasporas around the globe.

He then referred the matter to his local Member of Parliament, Matthew Taylor, who wrote on his constituent's behalf to Yvette Cooper, the Minister responsible for such matters. In a reply received back from Meg Munn M.P. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, the following was explained: 'flags come within the definition of advertisement and as such are controlled by the Town and Country (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992. Currently, any national flag may be flown from a vertical flag pole without



requiring the express consent of the local planning authority, provided nothing is added to the design on the flag or the flagpole. We are currently consulting on new draft regulations and one of the proposals is to allow any country's national flag, the European Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations flags; however they are flown, without having to apply for express consent.'

Meg Munn continued, 'It is therefore a matter for the relevant local planning authority in the first instance to interpret the regulations and to use their discretion when deciding whether the flag of St. Piran should be permitted and whether they consider it necessary to take enforcement action, in the light of local circumstances.'

Your concerns have been noted and will be considered as part of the consultation.'

Matthew Taylor noted in his letter to Mike Chappell that many Cornish Councils have indicated that they would not be taking enforcement action and that he hoped to see the flags flying freely.

Mike, who traces his family back to West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly over many generations has said, 'Hopefully this will now lay this matter to rest for good. I am a Cornish man and will fly what I recognise as the Cornish flag from my home despite any threat of legal action or otherwise. My patriotism stands firm unlike the thousands of sullied and foreign St. George's flags we have seen flying in support of overpaid and sub standard sports teams from neighbouring England, which have caused insult to my family and many of my friends and colleagues. I am Cornish and not English and Cornwall is my homeland.'



# Celtica



## HISTORY OF BRITTANY

### *“The Breton point of view”*

By Jean-Pierre Le Mat.

Price: €7 / £4.50,

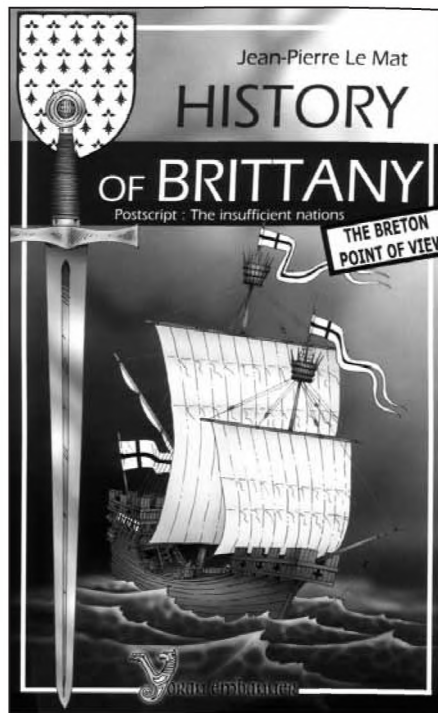
Publishers: Yoran Embanner.

Email: yoran.embanner@gmail.com

As far as I know this is the first English edition of a book on the history of Brittany. It has been added to the collection of the young publishing house “Yoran Embanner”, well-known for its Breton mini-dictionaries. At first glance it is a history in the pocket-book format, presented in a modern style and extremely easy to read and very patriotic, which begins with the Palaeolithic and ends in 2005! Unfortunately it does not have any illustrations, probably for reasons of cost, just 15 small maps on 5 pages explaining the different stages of the formation of the Breton nation and the French state from the late Middle Ages. This 250 page history reads like a novel, and is divided into 13 quite brief chapters. Each one begins with an explanatory title and a very brief synopsis of the principal contemporary events in other Celtic countries, in Europe and in the world. Understanding that the conquerors do not hesitate to impose their own view of facts on the conquered, and seeing how they make certain proofs disappear and falsify the facts that are not favourable to them, Jean-Pierre le Mat does not hesitate to take the opposing view of the truths transmitted by the official French history from generation to generation, the *École de la République* having all the rights to the name of the Rights of Man. Jean-Pierre le Mat does not pretend to objectivity, and the sub-title “a Breton point of view” should be read as “nationalist and independent”. However I am not of the persuasion “all for the people without him” and I do not think that the end, however laudable, justifies such a partisan lecture on our national history. I cannot allow myself to recommend this history to the English-speaking public without giving a critique of three passages treated in an overly simplistic fashion of the present situation in Brittany.

#### **1. The Breton-Franks relationship.**

From its inception the French state was based on an alliance of the Frankish military power and the Gallo-Roman senior clergy. It is perhaps a little treasonous that the Bretons came to defend the Gallo-Romans against the Germanic invaders ... the political power was in the hand of the Franks but the



population, especially in the west of Gaul remained essentially Celtic, at the same time the extreme East and South-East of Brittany was Celtic but little “Bretonised” and remained Gallo-Roman. Against a France which will remain Gallo-Roman our situation is not the same as those Celtic Peoples on the other side of the Channel. These came face to face with the Anglo-Saxon invaders who imposed their laws, their language and completely absorbed the Celtic substrate, thus creating a more confrontational opposition. That said, without going into detail, the historical unity of Brittany is completely justifiable, so that the national rights of the Breton people must be accepted as a reality.

#### **2. The French Revolution and Brittany.**

There was in Brittany a real will to end the regime of the nobility. Unfortunately the link between the heirs of the previous great popular revolts and the patriotic Breton nobles does not fit the times. The breath of the French Revolution swept away everything: the official and juridical existence of Brittany and its parliament. The renunciation of this was conceded, *in extremis*, to Paris by the representatives of the Breton Third-Estate, forced to end the nobility régime and its fundamental injustices, but also under the relentless pressure of the French revolutionaries. In spite of the presence of courageous and

patriotic Breton nobles the Breton parliament did not always respond to the demands of the people as it ought to have done. Thus faced with a demand to lift taxes it gave the rights to the Baron of Pont l’Abbé who was demanding them but not from itinerant fishermen. The King of France took pleasure in giving them reason to disregard the Breton parliament. It was no surprise if Bretons of modest class, even in the heart of Breton Cornouaille, should be enthusiastic for the enormous advance in civil rights for themselves strived for them by the newborn Republic, during which other Bretons rejoined the Chouannerie, defying the bourgeoisie of the towns and especially not accepting the excesses of the anti-religious nor the obligatory conscription of the Treaty of Union. The role of the Breton nobility engaged in the Chouannerie was not always without ambiguity. The Breton republicans were themselves too naïve compared to the French Revolutionaries who invented the concept (the dogma) of the single and indivisible nation state which was supreme to the intermediary bodies in order to replace the “divine will” of the kings and benediction of the Catholic clerical hierarchy. In the republic there was only the state and the citizen. The Basques and the Bretons no longer existed with respect to the law, worse the Basques spoke fanatically and the Bretons of federalism!

#### **3. Emsav (Breton movement) and the Second World War**

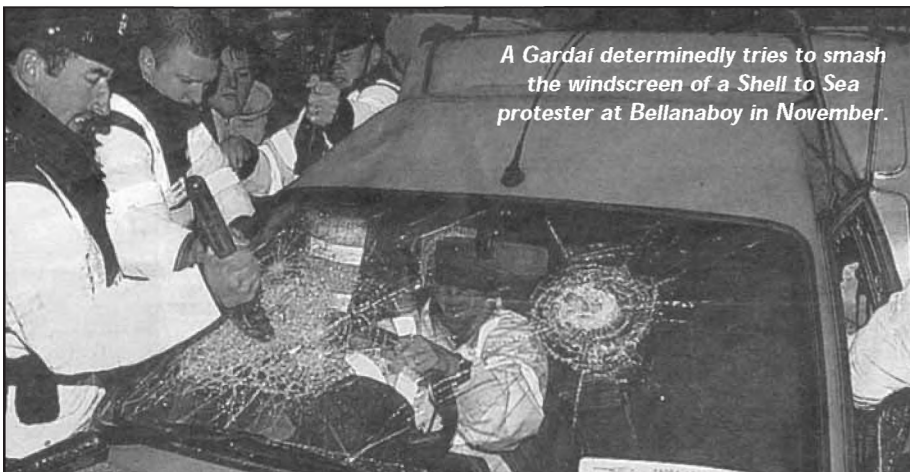
Reducing all the Bretons engaged in the French Resistance, to the people who struggle for the unity of France, under the understanding of “against Brittany”, is to operate a simplistic shortcut. I have already expressed myself on the subject in *Carn*. I shall content myself to recall that certain Bretons were very conscious of the dangers of Nazism. We must not forget that the STO (Obligatory Works Service) became very quick to hunt a man and a service to deport ... such that Emsav struggled against emigration towards the French industrial zones. Nazi Germany needed work hands. It recruited first the single men, then the married, then the married with children etc ... those who refused became outlaws and could only join the Resistance. For my part I totally refuse to judge the Resistance as nationalists.

I am not discounting the violence of assimilation committed firstly under royalty and then under the Republic but I hope that some lines will suffice to correct the excess of this history book to allow an English-speaking public to form its own opinion of the political conscience of the Breton people and better understand our present situation.

**Jakez Derouet**



## Shell to Sea Campaign continues with launch of book on Rossport 5



A Gardaí determinedly tries to smash the windscreen of a Shell to Sea protester at Bellanaboy in November.

The campaign of opposition to the on shore gas processing facility at Bellanaboy continued throughout the months of Oct to Dec. as work commenced on the site. Local people mounted substantial protests at the entrance almost every day but a Garda force of up to 200 eventually enforced roadblocks and established corridors to allow contractors onto the site. John Monaghan a campaigner and son-in-law of one of the Rossport Five said the huge garda presence was not deterring protesters. "We are modifying our protests, which will include changing location, numbers and actions taken."

Nationwide protests were held in early Oct. Up to 50 people gathered outside Shell's offices on Leeson Street in Dublin, displaying their objections to passing city centre motorists and later in the month a roof top protest was held. In Cork, another 25 Shell to Sea campaigners held banners outside the Munster Garda headquarters, at Anglesea Street objecting to the transfer of members of the force for the security operation in Mayo. Protesters also occupied a Shell garage in Donnybrook Dublin. In Bellanaboy demonstrators complained about the increasing strong arm tactics of the Gardaí which culminated in a baton charge

when a national day of action was held in early Nov. On this occasion when locals were supported by about 100 protesters from all around the country the riot squad was brought into action and protesters battered off the roads with many people injured. Reports indicated that the Cabinet had sanctioned such a violent approach with Justice Minister McDowell to the fore using the scare tactic of outside influence. Calls by Shell to Sea for mediation were rejected by the Government with Bertie Ahern refusing to meet them.

Last year five men spent over 90 days in jail for refusing to give an undertaking that they would not interfere with the work on the high pressure pipeline route which they regarded as dangerously close to their homes. They were Willie Corduff, Brendan Philbin, Micheal O Seighin and Philip and Vincent McGrath. At year end they launched a book outlining their experiences to keep the company off the lands, and their later imprisonment for 94 days in Mountjoy Prison. The book, which has been described as 'an oral history, in that it lets the men tell their own story, also traces the wave of national and the international attention the case received. It has been compiled and edited by Dr Mark Garavan of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, a spokesperson for the Shell to Sea campaign. *Our Story - The Rossport Five* is published by Small World Media and is now available. Orders can be made to [irelandfrombelow@yahoo.ie](mailto:irelandfrombelow@yahoo.ie).

## BRITISH COLLUSION IN LOYALIST ATTACKS WIDESPREAD

In a reinforcement of the findings of Justice Henry Barron's report into nine loyalist terrorist attacks in the 1970s a sub-committee of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice which has held hearings on that report concluded in own their report (published at the end of November) that widespread collusion between British security forces and Loyalists terrorists lay behind many, if not all, those atrocities.

The subcommittee of the Committee on Justice said it was 'horrified' that people employed by the British administration to preserve peace and to protect people were 'engaged in the creation of violence and the butchering of innocent victims'.

The subcommittee which considered Mr Justice Henry Barron's report into nine terrorist attacks, including the bombing of Kay's Tavern in Dundalk, Co Louth, the Three Star Inn in Castleblaney, Co Monaghan, and the attack on the Miami Showband near Newry, Co Antrim, said it believed that unless the full truth about collusion is established, and unless those



Justice Henry Barron.

involved admit to or are fixed with responsibility, there cannot be closure for the families.

In its report the subcommittee said these were acts of 'international terrorism' that were colluded in by the British security forces. 'The British government cannot legitimately refuse to co-operate with investigations and attempts to get to the truth,' it said. The committee found that the British cabinet was aware of the level to

which the security forces had been infiltrated by terrorists and said there was an inadequate response to this.

Collusion was widespread and endemic, but rather than a public inquiry, which had been called for by relatives the subcommittee asked for a full Dáil debate and said that it was up to the British to co-operate fully in any further investigations. It also found that at the time of the atrocities the authorities in the Republic at all levels could have been more vigorous in their attempts to bring to justice the perpetrators.

### celtic league press releases

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[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic\\_league](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league)

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Readers might like to know that the ONS (Office of National Statistics) has recently published its proposals for the 2007 Test Census. This is used as a dry run for the full Census in 2011. The questionnaire for England includes two for which Plaid Cymru's London Branch (as well as others including Cymry a'r Byd) have been campaigning for since 1981. The first question on ethnicity includes a National Identity question with provision for Welsh people to tick a box. The second question which will be of interest is a question on language ability. This includes a question which asks people about their ability in English and Welsh and to state whether they have ability in another language. Can I thank the number of Welsh organisations and individuals in England that supported our post card campaign last year for their contribution. It cleared added to the call for recognition.

The questionnaire for Wales has a similar question on National Identity which caused so much of furore in 2001 when Welsh people in Wales could not even identify themselves as Welsh, while the Irish could. Clearly in Wales we look forward to the day that the Assembly takes over responsibility for the Census in Wales.

Obviously as it is a dry run, we in England must keep an eye on its progress and ensure that proposals for similar questions are included in the legislation for the 2011 Census. More details on the questionnaires and the sites for the test in 2007 can be found on the ONS website ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) typing 2011 Census in the search box and following the guide to the 2007 Test.

*Yn gywir*

*Huw Jackson*

*Ysgrifennydd Plaid Cymru Cangen*

*Llundain*

[huwcaint@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:huwcaint@hotmail.co.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,

In an interview former foreign secretary Jack Straw made some revealing remarks about the British union.

Straw is quoted on the BBC website as saying: "Historically, England called the shots to achieve a union because the union was seen as a way, among others things, of amplifying England's power worldwide. And the reverse would certainly be true. A broken-up United Kingdom would not be in the interests of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, but especially not England.

Our [England's] voting power in the European Union would diminish. We'd slip down in the world league GDP tables. Our case for staying in the G8 would diminish and there could easily be an assault on our permanent seat in the UN." [Security Council]

We should be grateful to Straw for his honesty. What he is effectively saying is that countries like Scotland and Wales and other potential independent states such as Cornwall or the Isle of Mann are expected to give up their unique voices in the international community so England can enjoy 'amplified' ie undeserved international status.

The case for union then is simple if, like Gordon Brown, you support England's interests over every other country then as Straw says there is an excellent case for retention of the union because it was designed to amplify England's voice and it still does today.

If however you support Scotland, Wales, Mann and Cornwall's right to have our unique voices heard then the only logical choice is to vote for independence at the next opportunity.

If the 'cost' of that decision is the loss of Britain's (as Straw points out effectively England's anyway) seat in the UN security council, which the Blair government currently uses to back George Bush's lunatic foreign policy, then I'm sure that is a price well worth paying for any internationally minded person.

*Yours faithfully,  
Joe Middleton*

Full interview is available here:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/question\\_time/5388078.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/question_time/5388078.stm)

## 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: €23.00, Sterling £13.50, Europe (airmail) £17.00. Outside Europe £20.00. US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank).

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Articles for *Carn* should be 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 February 2007. 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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