

# comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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ALBA: AN COMANN CEILTEACH  
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CYMRU: YR UNDEB CELTAIDD  
ÉIRE: AN CONRADH CEILTEACH  
KERNOW: AN KESUNYANS KELTEK  
MANNIN: YN COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE 



### Cordadh na h-Aonachd 1707... Carson?

Tha a' bhliadhna 2007 seachad a-nis. Tri ciad bliadhna an dèidh Còrdadh na h-Aonachd 1707 eadar Alba is Sasann: nuair a chaidh sinn ar Pàrlamaid Albannach agus a chaidh sinn fo smachd na Pàrlamaid ann an Westminster fad tri ciad bliadhna. Ged a tha Pàrlamaid Albannach ann a-nis, chan eil mòran chumhachdan aice, bhon a tha a mhòr chuid leis a' Phàrlamaid ann an Westminster fhathast.

Thàinig leabhraichean a-mach mu dheidhinn an Aonaidh mar leabhraichean a sgrìobh Iain Rose, Daibhidh Daiches, Michael Fry, Paul Henderson agus, beagan bliadhnachan air ais Teàrlach Waddie. Ach, air a mhòr chuid; tha iad cinnteach dè a b'adhbhar gun do chaidh sinn ar Pàrlamaid gun strì sam bith.

Dè mu dheidhinn bagairt an aghaidh Sasainn, no a rèir feadhainn eile, bribeireachd/bribery? Ach cha tàinig an Arm aca gu Alba agus cha do cheannach iad an t-Aonad le mòran airgid ...thuirt feadhainn eile gun do chum mòran taic don Aonad a chionn 's gun do chaidh iad an t-airgead aca tron cholonaidh ann am Panama .....no air eagal 's gum biodh Alba a' toirt ionnsaigh air Sasann air son ar càirdeas don Fhraing... amaideas ...bho nach robh leanabh aig Banrigh Anna! No droch fhoghar/bhuain nuair nach bhiodh pailteas ann a dh'itheadh daoine.. Ròlaistean!

Dè bha cearr? Chaidh a' chùis air ais, còrr is ceud bliadhna ro 1707! Sa bhliadhna 1603, chaidh ar rìgh, Seumas VI a chrùnadh mar Rìgh Shasainn - Seumas I. Chaidh stiùireadh na h-Alba gu Lunnainn agus thagh Westminster na daoine a bhiodh dileas don Rìghaltas Sasannach ann an Lunnainn airson dreuchdan Albannach.

Mar eisimpleir, thuirt an Seansalair againn dom b'ainm Seafìeld nuair a ghoid an riaghaltas ann an Lunnainn ar Pàrlamaid, "Seo agaibh, crìoch air seann òran!" Agus mar sin cha robh Pàrlamaid againn fad tri ciad bliadhna! Cha robh e duilich idir!

#### Summary

*The year 1707 has passed, but many of us remember it was three hundred years in 1707 that we lost our Scots Parliament. Quite a clutch of books have come out recently discussing the Union on the anniversary but over the passed over the event itself the reason for the Union of the Parliaments should have taken place. Burns gave his belief that it was accomplished....."bought and sold for English gold...sic a parcel o rogues in a*



King James VI

*nation!" But that was not convincing, nor was the threat of invasion, nor the collapse of the Darien Scheme, nor that England wasted added security in case of a war with France nor that Queen was childless and as a result we might get our own succession nor bad harvests. The simple reason is that when our king James VI decided to become King of England as King James I of England, on the death of childless Queen Elizabeth, London took over an English king's duties including nominating high ranking personnel. Hence those that should have prevented the closure of our Scottish Parliament were the nominees of the administration in London chosen to do what they were told.*

Archy Macpherson /  
Gilleasbuig Mac a' Phearsain

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#### A charaid chòir.

Sgrìobh sibh thugam ag iarraidh ath-ùrachadh eile bho chionn goirid. An-dà, tha mi a' sgrìobhadh thugaibh air sgàth's gu bheil TV Licensing a' cur sìos na Gàidhlig. Tha an cead-coimhead TV agam a' paigheadh airson prògraman sa chànan seo, agus mar duine aig a bheil a' Ghàidhlig, tha mi ag iarraidh cead agus foirm sa Ghàidhlig. Gach turas a bhios mi a' lìonadh a-staigh an fhoirm agaibh leis an t-seòladh Ghàidhlig agam, bidh sibh a' cur Beurla air.

Tha mi a' cur fios thugaibh gun toir mi seo gu ìre phoilitigeach ma leanas sibh oirbh mar seo. Nuair a sgrìobh sibh thugam an uiridh, bha an suidheachadh car eadar-dhealaichte; cha robh Achd na Gàidhlig no Bòrd na Gàidhlig againn aig an àm sin. A bharrachd air sin, tha ur dòigh-smaoineachaidh calg-dhireach an aghaidh Cairt Eòrpach nam Mion Chànan leis an Aonadh Eòrpaich (European Charter of Lesser Used Languages).

Tha na litrichean a chuir sibh a-mach sgrìosail agus mì-mhodhail: chan eil còir aig neach sam bith sgrìobhadh air an dòigh seo, agus dùil aca air freagairt taitneach. Tha fhios gun do rinn sibh tuisleachadh turas neo dhà. Mar eisimpleir, nuair a bha sibh ann an Eilean Mhanainn gun chead-obrach (a' briseadh an lagh aca), agus nuair a chaidh sibh an aghaidh na Cuimrigh. Feumaidh sibh atharrachadh no bidh an Riaghaltas fhèin gur toirt fò smachd!

Cuir thugam foirm airson cead-coimhead TV ann an Gàidhlig, mas e bhur toil e!

Le meas,

Reamonn MacIlleNamhaoil (le taing do Steaphan MacRisnidh)

#### Summary

*This is the text of a short letter complaining to TV Licensing about their inability to produce a Gàidhlig TV licence.*

### Kremlin threat over Scotland

According to *The Scotsman*, Russia is so angry over the independence of Kosovo, that it has made threats to back any movements to independence by Abkhazia (from Western supported Georgia), the Basque Country and Scotland. Despite the differences between Yugoslavia and the USSR, Serbia and Russia are traditional allies. While we probably recognise that Russia is no respecter of the small nation (inside or outside its borders), Russian recognition of future Scottish independence may just be enough to force the UN to make the UN follow suite, particularly if Britain tries to isolate it.

## THE RETURN OF BERWICK?

Berwick is back in the news, and not before time. The issue of Berwick upon Tweed is a perennial one, always in the background, but some recent reports suggest that any desire by Berwick to return to Scotland is only because our healthcare is better than England's. But England's influence on Berwick is best summed up by what Alexander Eddington, wrote in 'Castles and Historic Homes of the Border' (1926): "Berwick, by the middle of the 13th century, was considered a second Alexandria, so extensive was its commerce; in 1296, Edward I killed thousands in Berwick, [and] the greatest merchant city in Scotland sank into a small seaport."

Berwick was a prosperous and important town when ruled by Scotland. It had its own mint, and was a major trading port with the Continent and the Hanseatic League. It was one of four Royal Burghs in Scotland, and made a quarter of all customs revenues received north of the border. Robert the Bruce held a number of parliaments in Berwick, and issued proclamations from it. Amongst the town's exports were wool, grain and salmon, while merchants from Germany and the Low Countries set up businesses in the town in order to trade. Under English rule, however, it was little more than a minor port and border garrison. The Continental merchants fled, and its wealth atrophied. However, unlike Carlisle, which was Scottish capital under David I, Berwick has never been completely comfortable in England and many Berwickers believe they would be better off back in Scotland. Polls held in early 2008, by the Berwick Advertiser and ITV Tonight suggest that 60-79% want to return.

This came shortly after Christine Grahame lodged a motion in the Scottish parliament for the return of Berwick saying, "Even the Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council leader, who is a Liberal Democrat, backs the idea and others see the merits of reunification with Scotland."

A more confused response came from MSP Jeremy Purvis of the Liberal Democrats. Mr Purvis was born and raised in Berwick, but wanted the border moved twenty miles south, saying that Christine Grahame's suggestion didn't go far enough. He said, "There's a strong feeling that Berwick should be in Scotland...I had a gran in Berwick and another in Kelso, and they could see that there were better public services in Scotland. Berwick as a borough council is going to be abolished and it would then be run from Morpeth, more than 30 miles away."

Purvis is confusing the town of Berwick, which is Scottish, with Berwick Borough Council, which dates only from 1974. Berwick Borough Council merged Berwick

proper with neighbouring English council areas, which include the likes of Alnwick and Lindisfarne. Scottish nationalists do not consider these areas to be part of Scotland, as they are on the south bank of the Tweed. Berwick may have also fused naturally with Tweedmouth and Spittal, rather in the same way various towns straddle the Welsh border, such as Chester, Hay-on-Wye or Chepstow. At the time Berwick Borough Council was set up, Berwickshire, in Scotland, was abolished. When Berwick was taken, Duns became its county town. Berwickshire was replaced by Border Region, but you can still see/hear the name frequently today. To the east of Edinburgh, there is also a town called North Berwick, so called because Berwick-upon-Tweed was "South Berwick". If you find this all confusing, that's because it is. In fact, the constitutional position of Berwick is so obscure, that few people know that Berwick only official-



ly became part of England in 1885, and even then this position was not fully enshrined in law.

Berwick became part of Scotland in the 11th century, and was known as "South Berwick" in distinction to North Berwick in East Lothian. Between 1147 and 1482, Berwick changed hands no less than 13 times. (Berwick has been besieged more times than Jerusalem.) However, in 1551, King Edward IV and Queen Mary signed a treaty which said that Berwick would be ruled by England, but would not become part of it. This ensured peace, but was not good for the town, for example, when a certain governor of Berwick begged the English parliament for help regenerating the town, he received the bizarre reply that "Berwick is in the realm but not of it", a position many Cornish historians may find strangely familiar.

In 1603, when James VI of Scots became King of England, he declared the town as belonging neither to England nor Scotland but part of the united Crown's domain. In 1639, during the Bishops' Wars, Charles I met General Leslie at Berwick, and negotiated a settlement whereby the King agreed that disputed questions should be referred to the Scottish Parliament. From thereon in,

Berwick's absorption was a slow one. In 1746, nearly 40 years after the Union of Scotland and England, the "Wales and Berwick Act" (since repealed) was passed, which deemed that whenever legislation referred to "England", it encompassed Berwick and Wales. However, Berwick still had a status as a county corporate, and returned two members of parliament. In 1885, the "Redistribution Act" was passed, which cut Berwick's representation to a single MP, and made it part of Northumberland. Berwick was now officially in England...

In 1974, Berwick Borough was merged with neighbouring English councils, resulting in the current set up. Now, the plan is to abolish Berwick Borough Council altogether and place both its Scots and English parts under Morpeth. The "Interpretation Act 1978" provides that in legislation passed between 1967 and 1974, "a reference to England includes Berwick upon Tweed and Monmouthshire" (While Monmouthshire has returned to Wales, Clun, Oswestry and Ludlow etc have not – maybe these are the "Berwicks of Wales") The English "Book of Common Prayer" also mentioned Berwick separately until the late 19th century saying: "This book shall be appointed to be used by all that officiate in all parish Churches and Chapels within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales and town of Berwick-upon-Tweed."

Berwick retains many anomalies, for example, the leader of the town uses the English title "mayor", not "provost", but like Scottish provosts, he wears a purple gown, not a red one, as English mayors do. Furthermore, the Mayor and Corporation of Berwick are supposed to take precedence over all those in England, except London and York. Berwick is also one of a handful of "unparished areas in England. The Tweed still falls properly under Scots Law, although this is only occasionally observed. The town has branches of the Church of England, and the Church of Scotland, the latter since John Knox himself preached there. The banks in the town are a mixture of the usual Scottish and English ones. In sporting terms, Berwick is Scottish. Berwick Rangers play football in the Second Division, although its ground is on the English side of the Tweed, and Berwick RFC plays rugby in the Third Division. Unlike the nearby towns in Scotland, Berwick is mainly a football town, and Berwick Rangers' greatest moment came in 1967, when they beat the mighty Glasgow Rangers 1-0.

From the recent press however, you would think that the Berwick issue was a new one. Not at all! Alan Hughes, a Yorkshire man who is Church of England vicar of Berwick reminded us back in an interview with The Scotsman in 2007 - "My first parish was in Edinburgh's Wester Hailes in the 1970s. There, I met Wendy Wood, the doughty Scottish Nationalist who used to stride into Berwick, ripping up any English signs and

# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PROGRESS

There really has been so much going on in Scotland that it is impossible to recount even a fraction of it. The SNP Government has done more than the previous Labour administrations combined, although it has passed less legislation so far.

As a minority government, it has faced a challenge over its historic first budget, but has finally managed to get it through after Alex Salmond threatened to resign. This is partly because Labour is in disarray with new leader Wendy Alexander having one corruption scandal after another. Their intellectual and moral weakness has made life relatively easy for the SNP so far, although Labour controls the Scottish Government's budget allocation, and will no doubt squeeze it as much as possible (as Joe Middleton wrote in the last issue of *Carn*). The Lib Dems also came under fire, when it was revealed that their councillors in Aberdeen had altered bypass plans (at great expense) to avoid the home of one of their major donors. Compared to these people, Salmond looks transparent!

Amongst other things, the SNP has

promised a "bonfire of the Quangos" (and a few vanities too?), and the teaching of Scottish history to be mandatory in Scottish schools.

The SNP has also abolished all tolls on Scottish bridges, a move likely to be popular with commuters (but not the Greens). Despite some opposition, the new government has won over many more, and converts to independence continue to crop up in unexpected quarters.

Attempts have been made to embroil the SNP in various scandals, but given the numerous dirty secrets of the Scottish Labour party, and even the Lib Dems, the party has come out relatively unscathed. One of these supposed scandals involved the negotiations between Alex Salmond and Donald Trump over a golf course in the north east. However, these were all completely open and above board. Another scandal concerned the supposed lack of healthcare given to Scottish soldiers, but this falls under London, not Edinburgh, as Ministry of Defence responsibility, not that of the Scottish Government.

## "Alba" Rugby Campaign Continues

Several league members wrote a letter which was handed over to Scottish rugby legend and broadcaster Gregor Townsend, when he gave a speech in Edinburgh. This concerned the ongoing campaign to get "Alba" on the Scotland top, as has been done on the football strip. It is improbable that Townsend will do much in this direction, but it represents a new approach.

The Scottish Rugby Union currently plays the song *Loch Lomond* by Runrig, which contains the line (added by them) "ho mo leannan, ho mo leannan bhòidheach". Considering the enthusiasm which the Murrayfield crowd was singing it during this year's Six Nations, it seems ironic that the SRU can blare Gaelic out of the national stadium's speakers, and pay for the rights to do so, but not put a simple four letter word on the national strip. The next step may be to contact the MacDonald brothers, who are the song writers for the group.

### The Return of Berwick

claiming Berwick back as Scotland's 'lost limb'"

Wendy also used to move the border signs into the middle of the Tweed bridge, and wrote about Berwick extensively in her autobiography 'Yours Sincerely for Scotland'. Well known nationalist poet and writer of the mid 20th century, Morris Blythman, used to write under the pseudonym "Thurso Berwick" - a name which combined the north and south of the country.

The moves to get Berwick back are not without criticism, for example, Scilla Cullen, Chairman of the "Campaign for an English Parliament" recently said of Christine Grahame's move: "The Scots are stirring up a hornets' nest of real trouble...the people of England will not put up with any more of it. Already Wales has been given the English county of Monmouthshire and even a part of the city of Chester...the Scots are ... sowing the seeds of real anger...If they try to grab Berwick, it... will reap the whirlwind"

The feeling in Berwick is still very mixed. Some consider themselves English, some Scottish, and some just Berwickers. However, more and more want to be back in Scotland, and there are good reasons for them to be so.

Ray Bell

## Mary Denovan, RIP

Mary (formerly of the Old Mission House, North Erradale, Gairloch) died on 5th March 2008.

She had been resident for several years in Isle View Nursing Home Aultbea. She retired to Gairloch with her husband Eric in the 1980s and became an SNP councillor for the ward from 1992 to 1996 on Ross and Cromarty District Council.

Mary took a keen interest in all things cultural and championed Gaelic and local history such as the award-winning Gairloch museum. She had trained as a primary school teacher and after raising her family she returned to teach in Douglas Primary, Dundee near where her husband was a GP.

Her forebears on her mother's side were from Swanibost in Lewis and she took great interest in all things to do with the islands and the west coast. She had a particular love of Gaelic song and also Scots folk



songs. Family and friends often visited her home at the Old Mission House, North Erradale and she encouraged the company of children and grandchildren to take in the local lore and landscape and to welcome her many friends who enjoyed the unfailing Denovan hospitality.

Following a visit to Brittany some forty years ago

Mary became active in the Celtic League to which she devoted many years as secretary of the Scottish Branch. Mary was a well-read proponent of this Celtic confederation who gathered an extensive library on this and related subjects over the years. It was all the more galling to see her fall victim to Alzheimer's disease. Mary is survived by her husband Eric, six children and several grandchildren. Her integrity and knowledge, kindness and candour will be missed by many.

Rob Gibson MSP



# Breizh



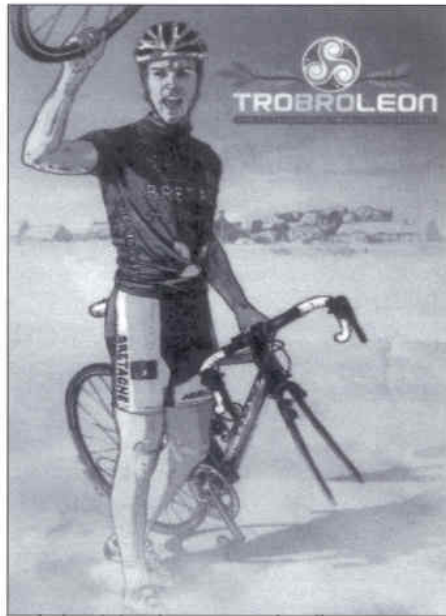
## TroBroLeon...evit an 25vet wech!!!

Tro Bro Leon, set'aze un abadenn avat ! Tro Bro Leon, eme lod, petra ar c'hast an dra-se. Ne ouezez ket petra eo Tro Bro Leon? Ma! Biskoazh kement-all ! Hemañ zo sotoc'h eget ul leue, ne oar ket dre be benn e kac'h ar vioc'h!

Tro Bro Leon evit lavaret mat, a zo bet savet e penn Jean-Pol Mellouet, ur paganad eus Kerlouan o chom e Lanniliz !

"ar paganad a grog gant e graban ; pa vez skuizh e ra gant e viz" a lavarer. Evit hemañ en deus bet kroget muioc'h gant e dreid hag e zivesker...war hentoù strizh ha straejoù moan ar vro...

Tro Bro Leon a zo kenkoulz ha Paris-Roubaix eme an dud. Koulz ? Kalz gwelloc'h eo. Ni n'hon eus ket ezhomm da vont da foetañ bro evit kaout poultrenn, pri, mein kalet, grasell pe grouan. Ha doa d'ar red adreuz ar maezioù, dre ar gwennojennoù, an hentoù karr, an hentoù troad, ar ribinoù! "Deomp da riboulat a



dreuz ar menez, deomp d'an traoñ ha deomp d'an nec'h, a gleiz hag a zehoù, me z'ao d'ar red en tu all d'ar bed !" En tu all d'ar bed ? D'an ifern kredapl !

Ha die'hastiñ ! Taol da vor ha taol da zouar war hentoù an Arvor pe straejoù ar maez dou. Ur c'hae pe ur c'hleuz bennak da c'houderiñ bep an amzer, ne chom ket kalz anezho e Bro Leon; ur wezenn bennak da zizheoliañ, n'int ket gwall stank ken ! Ha bec'h adarre...Pennad ! Amañ eo sec'h an traoù. Sec'h korn zoken, kras-kraoñ. Ur banne dour a rafé vad ! Ha dipadapa adarre ! Un tamm krec'h, ur sav, un diskenn, krec'h adarre...

Poan a zo paotred ! Merc'hed zo ivez ! An dra-mañ n'eo ket c'hoariellat eo !

lod a ya a-bioù, lod az a a-benn. Unan bennak a chom boud!...Mall e vefe echu. En em gavet eur e penn an erv. Oc'h ober an talaroù, emit'hu ? ket ! O vont da bakañ ar maout. Tro Bro Leon, set'aze un abadenn ! Poan zo bet... Plijadur ivez...

Er bloavezh a zeu en teuin adarre...

**Goulc'han Kervella**

### Summary :

*It is the 25th year of Tro Bro Leon (TBL). As cycling fans saw in issue 100 of "Procyling" last summer, the TBL race is special for its connection with Nature. Goulc'han KERVELLA writes here an amusing piece to show how interesting this cycling race is.*

## King Ubu...

Ar Roue Ubu ("King Ubu"), the new play being performed in Breton by Strollad ar Vro Bagan, directed by Goulc'han Kervella, is a lot of fun – quite the opposite of Fest ar Pemoc'h in 2007. The play, written by Alfred Jarry, who died a century ago, has a lot to do with ambitions and political power as seen all through the ages. Jarry, who studied in Breizh and then graduated in Paris, was fond of Shakespeare. King Ubu has all the flavour and intrigue of Macbeth ("the Scottish play").

Tad Ubu, "Papa Ubu" (Bob Simon), had been a good officer in all previous wars. If the big man looks laid back, his wife Mamm Ubu, "Mama Ubu", (Nikol ar Vourc'h) is very ambitious. With the help of puppets she demonstrates to her stupid husband how he can become the King of Poland. Although he is a bit slow to understand or to accept the goals of his wife, once she gets him on track he is ready and willing to use any number of bad tricks to become "King Ubu".

The plot of King Ubu with Captain Bordure (Didier Porchel) shows that the actual King of Poland was not very clever either. At the end of the day Ubu is not the courageous man needed for the job. Therefore, Bougrellas (Yann-Edern Jourdan), the son of the King, escapes and prepares his comeback to the kingdom.

Ubu, now the new King of Poland, decides to offer a few coins to his people in order to be welcomed by the Polish people. Mamm Ubu is

the brains behind her husband on the political field. In fact, the big fair organized by his wife is not accepted by King Ubu. King Ubu decides to kill the main noblemen, the lawyers, and the rich men of Poland. Then he turns to the poor farmers and asks for more taxes... needless to say he becomes unpopular quickly...

Meanwhile Bougrellas makes an alliance with tsar Alexis of Russia. King Ubu is defeated and has to run away through Ukraine. This new innovating production uses silhouettes backdrop on stage by the use of video to depict the recent flashbacks of the defeat.

This modern production makes full use of a

variety of different media which will delight the audience. One can imagine how the writer, who died a century ago, could have possibly foreseen the future of French political power in this century - the battle for a better judicial system (cf. Carn 139), the games seen on TV shows ...

Again, a modern play but not too dark for old fans... it is difficult to be totally successful with modern drama, but I feel you will enjoy, in Breizh, fun, farces, and frolics guaranteed to please all.

**Gi Keltik**



## Political Advertising for a United Brittany

For the first time, the Breton Democratic Union (Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh / Union Démocratique Bretonne / UDB), the Breton autonomist party, decided to use political advertising. Last November, the party displayed 150 big posters (13 ft x 10 ft) on hoardings in Nantes and Saint Nazaire conurbation. The aim of this advertising campaign was to counter the propaganda of the rulers of the artificial administrative region called « Pays de la Loire » (Loire Lands) situated near to the mouth of the Loire River.

The Duchy of Brittany appeared in the Middle Age, towards the end of the 10th century, when the Norsemen were expelled out of Brittany. The Duchy was linked to the Kingdom of France in 1532, when the daughter of the last duchess of Brittany, the famous Anne de Bretagne, gave Brittany to her husband, the King of France, Francis the 1st. In 1790, during the French Revolution, the old provinces were abolished and France was divided into « departments », Brittany was divided in five departments, inside of its historical boundaries, the only case in France.

In 1941, when France was ruled by a non-democratic government directed by Field-Marshal Pétain, who signed the armistice with Germany in 1940 and whose government collaborated with the Nazis occupying at first the North of France (and at the end of 1942 the whole of it), France was divided in administrative regions, in gathering the departments. The southern part of Brittany, the department of « Loire Inférieure » (now « Loire Atlantique »), with the historical capital of Nantes, was separated from the Region of Brittany and became part of the Region of « Pays de la Loire ». After the war, in the fifties, France was again divided into administrative regions with, in the case of the « Pays de la Loire », boundaries which were different to those in Pétain's time. The reshuffling of these administrative regions was fully implemented in the sixties, after the creation of the 5th Republic by General de Gaulle. From this time France has been divided into 22 administrative regions, some of them being very artificial like the « Pays de la Loire » region. Normandy, an old historical province, was divided in two weak regions. For many decades, the UDB and more generally the Breton activists have protested and demonstrated, asking for the re-unification of Brittany. But now the UDB and the Breton movement are proposing a solution for a re-unified Brittany and towards a new organisation of the West part of France: instead of 6 regions, create 4 regions, which will be bigger and stronger and which will be more consonant with



regional history, languages and cultures. It is this solution which was proposed to the people through the recent advertising campaign.

Most people living in the department of « Loire-Atlantique » think that it is a part of Brittany and agree with the idea of re-unification, even if they are not ready to demonstrate in big numbers. The UDB advertising campaign was not for nothing, because it cost about £15.000 and the Breton left party is not rich enough to do it every year. But the artificial region of « Pays de la

Loire » is spending 50 times more every year than the UDB did to persuade the people to accept the denial of the Breton history, a way of revisionism. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the UDB posters were seen by a large number of people, and were maybe more noticed than the official advertising materials, promoting the falsification of history. There is no doubt that this campaign was an important step towards an official recognition of Breton unity.

Yves Jardin

## Full steam ahead, Brittany-Scotland Association!

After the successful Ouessant's book festival 2007 dedicated to the authors and poets of the Scottish Isles, an event where Brittany-Scotland was the main partner and adviser (see Carn, winter 2007-08), the association is still going forwards and on the fore, passing other important milestones.

But before going farther on history of Brittany-Scotland links in the making, it might be good to recall the ambitious purposes of the association.

Indeed, Brittany-Scotland Association was created in 2000 to:

1. arrange meetings, symposiums, conferences, exhibitions and trips between Brittany and Scotland (and the reverse: Scotland and Brittany!) in the following areas:
  - cultural, artistic (music, visual arts, literature, etc.), audio-visual, sports,
  - economic (working of institutions and companies, promotion of good evoking or being part of the specific culture of Brittany or Scotland).
2. help creating twinning between towns, villages or associations in Brittany and Scotland.
3. help creating relations between the schools and universities in Brittany and Scotland, and try make possible the exchanges between students, whether as part of initial or in-house training.

4. establish contacts between the Breton and Scottish companies enjoying trade relationships with both countries and their industrial fabric, or companies on both sides willing to establish such relations, in view of cooperation and creation of networks (for example, the careers in shipping and fishing), of a sharing of techniques, especially within the framework of a common (Celtic) stamp, and of organising commercial or exploration weeks or events centred on general or particular themes.

Some of these issues have a little bit turned down: arranging twinning between towns of villages is not very easy and needs both time and energy on both sides.

But, as shown at Ouessant (an isle at the extreme western part of Brittany), and then at Bécherel, Brittany's booktown, close to Rennes, now in 2008 where a festival on Scotland at Easter, in connection with Wigtown, Scotland's booktown, Brittany-Scotland association is there really improving the two countries cultural acknowledgement of each other, not only restricted to music, but opened to all cultural fields within their diversities.

These new exchanges also revive the idea of work placement for Breton students in Scotland. At the creation of the association, training had been successful in the restaurant

## Jean-Pierre Pichard, Breton of the Year



Jean-Pierre Pichard  
(centre)

*Full steam ahead, Brittany-Scotland Association! continued*

and hotels area; but now, placement concerns other fields such as tourism or horticulture, especially in Dumfries and Galloway.

As Brittany-Scotland association develops its network in Scotland, these experiences should spread all over the country; but of course, Scottish students should also be welcomed in Brittany.

That is the reason why the association tries to improve its views on economics, by launching soon a great survey, quantitative first, qualitative then, close to Breton companies, whatever their activities or needs are, in connection with Scotland of course. This survey may begin soon, as the association has applied to Breton local and regional authorities for subsidies.

Following the same idea, exchanges could do things their own way towards products and craft exchanges, for instance in a weekly market project at Wigtown with the assistance of Wigtown district chamber of Commerce, or accompanying Thomas Laurie's project of reopening Glasgow old fruit market seven days a week for good Celtic quality or organic food, while in 2009, a Commercial presentation week of Scotland's products and skills could be arranged in Brittany.

Yes indeed, Brittany-Scotland association is still on the fore, and wants to keep busy, up to its ambitious programmes!

**Pierre Delignière,**

*President of Association Bretagne-Ecosse / Brittany-Scotland Association*

*72 bis rue de la Providence – F 29000 Quimper*

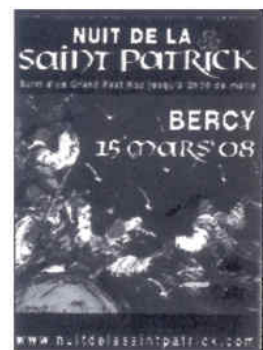
*Mail: [bretagne-ecosse@orange.fr](mailto:bretagne-ecosse@orange.fr)*

*Website: <http://perso.orange.fr/association.bretagne-ecosse>*

Jean-Pierre Pichard has just been awarded the title of "Breton of the year" by the monthly magazine *Armor*. A reward deserved for the director of the Interceltic Festival which, for years, has endeavoured to radiate the musical image of Brittany throughout the world. Jean-Pierre Pichard, with athletic build and an old sea wolf's beard, jacket of tweed which gives him a look of Peter Ustinov in the *Mauve Taxi* and member of the Association of Connoisseurs of Non-milk Products of Scottish Origin, is a rising figure in Brittany. An emblematic and charismatic figure - optimist, active and creative. After sixty years this lion of interceltism, has just been thanked by the editorial committee of *Armor Magazine* with the title of "Breton of the year", joining with the Pantheon of a 'bretonitude' moving and open to the world, international figures such as the musician Alan Stivell or the astronaut Christian Jean-Wolf. The galaxy of Jean-Pierre, a little more restricted than that of Jean-Wolf all the same, has pushed back the horizons, and the limits - one does not speak about "borders" for a country which is not autonomous and, even less, independent, of Breizh! Since the 19<sup>th</sup> romantic century, that started with Ossian and Chateaubriand and finished with Goffic and Braz which accepted the bardic nomination in the stone circle of Cardiff in 1899, Brittany has marked inclinations of 'celtitude', or to speak more clearly, of interceltism. This interceltic solidarity, or more precisely interbrittonic, was expressed in particular after the Second World War when the Welsh nationalist militants looked at the escape committee from the emsaverien persecuted by the French State, bound for newly independent Ireland. But it needed much for the general public to take part in the festival and to share this feeling of membership of a family, linked by the dreams and the languages, yet failing on the political level.

*"Several minorities together, one feels less a minority..."*

One would be tempted to say that it is a thing made since in 1971, Jean-Pierre Pichard took a part of the reins of a festival lorientais which was still called the 'Festival of Bagpipes' before the following year taking the name of the 'Interceltic Festival of Bagpipes', then to be called finally very simply the 'Interceltic Festival'. It has run while much water has passed under the bridges of Landerneau. The great family has found itself again in conviviality and good humour. And the stereotype of people backwardly fixed on their rocks of goémon is now in the rear view mirror. The image of these nations at the end of the world was even reversed to the point of success, the aspirations of many areas of Europe which forgot its roots and inheritance. Pichard, under his hat of artistic Director of the FIL, can affirm that with several "minorities" together, one senses oneself less of a minority. And that it is not in bemoaning, or while discoursing on, its minorisation that one advances things, but while creating, while inventing, while making. For this reason, it can certainly be the gathering of a beautiful harvest. Saint Patrick's Night in Paris, of the Villette in Bercy, while passing by the Stade de France, that's it. The large interceltic masses in Rennes, in Nantes, but also in Lille and Lyon while waiting for New York and Sydney, that's it. And Breizh Touch which last

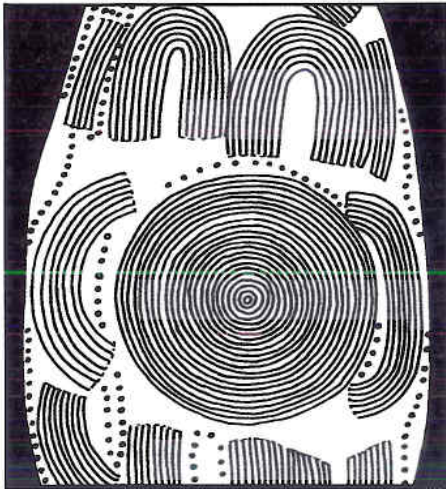


September ended with a sumptuous parade on the Parisian Champs Elysées, described by the French as "the most beautiful avenue of the world", that's it again. A rich prize for a sure decision maker and his choices, which tend just sometimes to express a little condescension with respect to the cultural Breton militant like policies. It should be recognized that in spite of a contempt posted in their connection, Paris never prohibited the Bretons to do what in the living rooms of "the capital" one calls folklore. A breach in which JP Pichard was engulfed, renewing the genre and instigating the whole of the Breton musical family!

Well done!

**Thierry Jigourel**

# Contemporary Celtic Art – Part Two

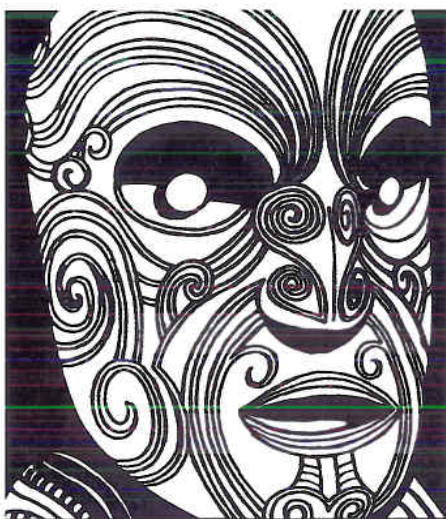


**Australia: "Chirunga" – sacred carved pebble of the Aborigine culture, representing the links with the ancestors in the dream state.**

## 4 Celtic expressions in contemporary visual arts:

Contemporary art is dominated by the concept, sometimes taken to excess, of the obligation of capturing what is natural but taken to excess. It is firstly strictly individualistic to the point where sometimes one does not know where in the world the artist is. Europeans or Westerners have drawn on other cultures, such as Picasso on African art or Matisse on Persian art, creating new styles, others literally copying the Primitive Arts. I am thinking particularly of a recognised artist who exploits a little too much the style of Papua (New Guinea). In spite of these borrowings of contemporary art it is fundamentally individualistic and generational and does not express the identity of the people, it remains a horizontal influence.

If we have good contemporary artists in our Celtic countries we regret the stereotypical aspect of numerous Celtic creations. Sometimes the works of foreign artists, such



**New Zealand: "Tiki" statuette of the Maori culture**

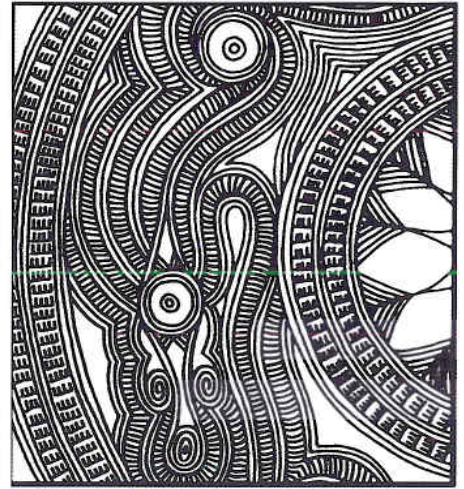
as the sculptures of Henry Moore, seem to us more in sympathy with the essence of our art. The works of sculpture are more easily identifiable by the preponderance of form and line. We can also reflect on this quotation of Alberto Giacometti, "black sculpture, or that of Melanesia or the Cyclades, is more realistic than a Roman bust". In painting it is more difficult to create one or more contemporary styles easily identifiable as Celtic without confining them to the decorative domain except by their frequent use of vibrant colours. We will probably have to take our inspiration from the whole of our culture, including literature and music, with our innate sense of aesthetics and line, of symbolism, mystery and the other-worldly. That can lead us to a new approach to the surreal and fantastic already explored by the Breton painter Yves Tanguy. Others would prefer a more liberal approach such as was suggested to me by the musician Alan Stivell, "if I were a painter I would only make splashes of colour". Engraving can also prove itself to be an interesting discipline. We cannot forget the new processes. In the first part of this article I was regretting the absence of Celtic art on CD covers. However the concept of certain covers attains a remarkable level of poetry thanks to the mix of images giving us the information. Here it is no longer through the motif but through the level of the spirit that we are made aware. (See the covers of the group "Altan")

## 5 Individual and collective expression:

So we are as though at the foot of an immense winding staircase with numerous open doors on every level. Which door we will collectively choose, we do not know, but it is important to climb the stairs. The important thing is that each can choose his own door or doors, being honest with himself, and not making something "Celtic" purely for the sake of having something "Celtic". One could choose a way and then change it. We can only be aware of the collection of Celtic countries and in each case be exclusive. We must be convinced that without a collective approach and without our compatriots having the will to do their own from our creations, we wouldn't consider them as a part of a contemporary Celtic art. And of course we must be open to the other cultures in the world.

## 6 Artistic creations, fight for our languages and political struggle:

Without its own creation a people cannot survive, without its language it will lose an essential part of its identity and its capacity to have its own life. Artistic creation is, therefore, a political door which gives witness to the existence and persistence of a people. We have to use our languages in our works and in our exhibitions.



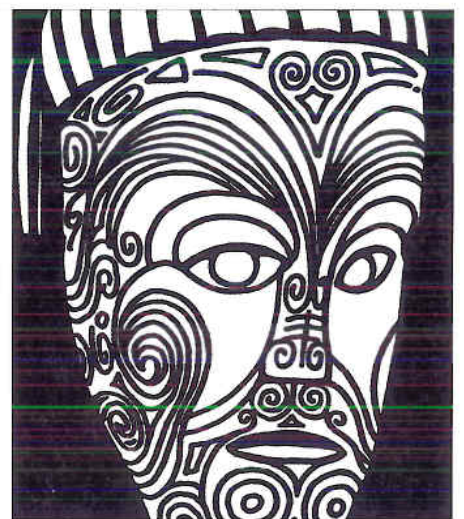
**Indonesia: bronze drum of the Đông Sơn culture whose origins are in the North of Vietnam. 7th to 2nd Century BC.**

## 7 Conclusion:

It is in the "Quarter", a place dedicated to contemporary arts in Kemper/Quimper that I found inscribed on a wall of a recent exhibition entitled "Armenography" dedicated to young Armenian artists facing the problem of their "diaspora".

Here it is – "What is at stake in Armenography is more than the simple description of the dispersed existence of a nation. **This quest is crucial, to find the models of identity and culture which reconcile these three inspirations: an active work on the past, and not the rumination of clichés; the development of collective structures, without which cultural production would not be durable; and the primacy of individual research on the values of the group.** These are the necessary conditions for a "transnation" to be the germ of a contemporary culture.

In Ireland, as in Brittany, the end of the XX Century has been marked by the linguistic struggles through research into contemporary



**Ireland, Co. Tipperary: wooden sculpture, 3rd to 4th Century AD.**



# IN HONOUR OF BRÍD HEUSAFF

Celtic art which has opposed a purist and very ethnocentric sanctification of a golden age, and a modernist tendency that our ancient art was only a Celtic version of a universal link to the civilisations of an era. The first tendency leads to an impasse, both artistic and political, the second, nearer to reality, does not take sufficient account of the uniqueness and the persistence of this art. The concept proposed by the young Armenian artists is an interesting response.

**JAKEZ DEROUET**  
(jakderouet@yahoo.fr)

A Breton proposition: In Brittany two artists associations have affirmed themselves as part of our cultural and identity struggles. One is called "**Poellgor an Tarv/ Académie du Taureau**" or "Bilingual Academy of Breton Artists" and the other "**Spered Kelt**" or "Celtic Spirit". In 2007 for the International Celtic Congress in Karaez/Carhaix they were understood to have organised a common exhibition under the name of "**Awen Breizh**" (Inspiration of Brittany).

**Poellgor an Tarv** is a group of Breton painters and artists, or those living in Brittany and profoundly attached to the land. Influenced by that and the Breton culture they created their works from the point of view of the subject of style. The peculiarity of this bilingual group is association of each work with a poem or simple text in Breton about their exhibits.

**Spered Kelt** is an almost similar association also organising bilingual exhibitions. The peculiarity of this group is in its having several artists making reference to Celtic art, and it is also its initial goal.

Numerous Breton artists do not know of or do not recognise themselves in these associations. They do not want to be identified as Breton artists, or belonging to an ethnic group, finding that limiting or for political reasons. It is a great loss that amongst are found excellent artists whose research and style makes one feel they are compatible with this article.

Since the General Assembly of the International Celtic Congress in 2007 the President of Spered Kelt, Mr. Serj Le Faucheur, has proposed the constituting of a section or association of Breton artists who would be members of the Congress. His goal would be to facilitate the creation of similar associations in all the Celtic countries to organise common exhibitions along the example of the Congress. Stalls or workshops in common would be envisaged.

## Contact

For the proposal of Serj Le Faucheur, e-mail: jaketzgaucher@hotmail.fr

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Having won an organised trip in 1964, I came to Ireland for the first time, but it wasn't until the following year that I really got to know the island and its people, and eventually Bríd and Alan. I met them at a memorable evening of singing that Róisín Ní Shé, that other marvellous woman, had organised especially for that occasion. That first meeting profoundly impressed me and three years later I stayed for two or three days with Bríd and Alan. I was immediately won over by the kindness and intelligence of Bríd. Militant Gaelic activist, republican and profoundly socialist, her idealism was tempered with a profound good sense and undeniable concern for objectivity. Married and with a child I returned with my wife in 1972 and then we met them in Nantes in 1974 and a little later in Basse-Bretagne, where we had settled. Each time it was the same kindness and the same simplicity. But it is not my intention to speak about myself, I was only one among tens of young Bretons passing through 9 Bothar Cnoc Sion! We were all touched by the warmth of their welcome

and especially the devotion of Bríd. She never failed to inform us what we must see in Dublin, or how to get the bus, and all sorts of little bits of useful information, and her table was always very tasty! Admittedly after several visits we young Bretons didn't always follow up this relationship as it was difficult for us to accept the involvement of the most radical Breton nationalists since the Second World War. However I think we all retain good memories of Alan and the extreme kindness of Bríd who had a very happy influence on her husband. Unfortunately I knew only very little of their children apart from Eoghan and his wife whom I had the chance to meet after the death of Alan. I hope they will all forgive that and accept my sincerest condolences, and through me that of numerous Bretons who spent a day with them in Dublin.

*Jakez Derouet, former secretary of the Breton Branch from 1970 to 1979 and 1995 to 2006.*

## Bretons beginning to win the war in language battle

When I first became the Canadian ICDBL representative back in 1997 although I didn't admit it I was somewhat pessimistic about the future of the Breton language and privately wondered if it really was possible to salvage the Breton language. At that time less than 1% of Breton school children were able to attend the new Diwan, Div Yezh and Dihun schools. Mother tongue transmission of Breton had virtually ceased in almost all Breton families and even though about 300,000 Breton speakers were still on the scene they were almost all above the age of 40. The obvious implication of this was bleak for the future. In addition when Marcel Texier and I travelled to Brittany in February of 2000 to carry out our survey of the Breton language (I feel this was the most important trip of my life by the way) we were received very cordially and graciously by the Bretons but I wondered if we would really succeed in communicating Joshua Fishman's RLS theories (greater family and community use of weakened languages) due to the language barrier, as most Bretons obviously have French as their first language.

Never the less I think we did have success because in October 2001 Ofis ar Brezhoneg launched the Ya d'ar Brezhoneg program to increase the use of Breton in the community.

The program also places great emphasis on day care and youth activities in Breton. Today in 2008 over 100 cantons and municipalities primarily in western Brittany have signed the charter with Ofis ar Brezhoneg where they commit to spending 1% of their budget on the Breton language and to appoint one municipal official whose sole task is coordinating Breton RLS efforts. What's more about 13,000 Breton school children are now enrolled in Breton medium schools. This translates to about 4% in western Brittany and 2.5 % in Brittany as a whole. Annual growth is about 10% to 12%. This means that we will soon see about 10% of children in western Brittany with Breton as their first language at school. In my opinion if Bretons can boost this figure to about 30% to 40% over the next several decades and if they can succeed in strengthening use of Breton in young families and the community than the Breton language will be saved just like the Welsh and the Basques have succeeded in saving their languages. Then at that point Bretons can also explore issues such as a Breton language university, a new Breton television service and a daily newspaper in Breton not to mention greater political autonomy.

**Diarmuid Ó Néill**

# Cymru

## Gaeleg yn Nova Scotia

Ym mis Ionawr cafodd Comhairle na Gàidhlig (mudiad dros yr iaith Aeleg yn Nova Scotia, Canada) grant o \$39,000 (tua 25,000 o ewros) er mwyn recordio lleisiau siaradwyr brodorol yn y dalaith honno o Ganada, lle mae'r Aeleg yn dal yn famiaith i gyfran o'r boblogaeth.

Mae'r grant hwn o Adran Dreftadaeth Canada ar ben grant cynharach o \$8100 (tua 5200 o ewros) a roddwyd gan Swyddfa Materion Gaeleg talaith Nova Scotia er mwyn cynhyrchu cyfres o gyfweiliadau gyda chynheiliaid y traddodiad Gaeleg yn y dalaith, wedi'u ffilmio'n broffesiynol. Bydd yn bosibl glywed y recordiadau hyn, gyda phethau eraill, ar wefan newydd sydd yn cael ei datblygu.

Ar ôl ei gwblhau bydd y prosiect yn rhoi i ddysgwyr yr Aeleg ac i'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol olygfa dda o'r Nova Scotia Aeleg drwy eiriau cynheiliaid modern y traddodiad yn eu mamiaith, a bydd ar gael drwy'r byd yn rhad ac am ddim.

Yn y cyfarfod diwethaf o'n Cyngor Cyffredinol pleidleisiodd yr Undeb Celtaidd yn unfrydol i ymateb yn gadarnhaol i wahoddiad oddi wrth Swyddog Gweinyddol Comhairle na Gàidhlig i ddod yn aelod. Mae'r cysylltiad rhwng yr Undeb a thalaith Nova Scotia felly wedi dod yn gryfach ers pasio'r cynnig yn y Cyfarfod Cyffredinol yng Nghaerdydd y llynedd, oedd yn dweud: "Cynigir bod yr Undeb Celtaidd yn adeiladu ar ei gysylltiadau gyda sefydliadau a mudiadau eraill drwy'r byd sydd yn gweithio er lles yr ieithoedd Celtaidd a diwylliant a hunaniaeth y Celtaid e.e. y Swyddfa Materion Gaeleg yn Nova Scotia."

**Rhisiart Tal-e-bot**

### Summary:

*The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia (Comhairle na Gàidhlig), to which the Celtic League affiliated at our last General Council meeting, is making recordings of Scottish-speaking tradition-bearers in the province, to be made available, along with other material, free of charge to all via a new website. The Department of Canadian Heritage and the Nova Scotia Office of Gaelic Affairs provided the funding.*

## Pennseythun 2007

Daeth tua 100 o bobl ynghyd ar gyfer y Pennseythun Gernewek neu Benwythnos Gernyweg flynyddol a drefnir gan Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek (Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gernyweg) ac a gynhaliwyd dros benwythnos y 15fed o Fawrth. Eleni

gwesty'r Sandy Lodge, Towan Blistra (Newquay) oedd y lleoliad. Cafwyd sgwrs ynghylch y safon newydd o sillafu'r iaith, y Ffurf Ysgrifenedig Safonol, sydd yn cael ei benderfynu gan bwyllgor arbennig o arbenigwyr, ac a fyddir gan yr awdurdodau er mwyn i'r iaith gael ei defnyddio fel iaith swyddogol, ac er mwyn dysgu un safon yn yr ysgolion. Mae'r safon newydd a gynigir ychydig yn nes at sillafiad y testunau traddodiadol nag ydi'r Kernewek Kemmyn a ddefnyddir gan fwyaf gan y Kowethas. Mynegwyd peth anniddigrwydd ynghylch y newidiadau a gyhoeddwyd, a bydd angen aros i weld a fydd y rhan fwyaf o'r rhai sydd yn weithgar dros yr iaith yn fodlon derbyn y system newydd.

*About 100 people attended the annual Pennseythun Gernewek, Cornish Language Week-end, held this year in Newquay in mid-March. Details of the new Standard Written Form for the language were revealed.*



## Welsh Government sabotage Y Byd No Welsh daily newspaper after all

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh language Society) have severely criticised the Welsh Assembly Government after Rhodri Glyn Thomas, the Heritage Minister, announced at the beginning of February that only £200,000 (about 260,000 euros) per annum will be made available to support the Welsh language press, despite a clear promise in the One Wales Agreement that the level of support would include specific subsidy sufficient to set up a daily Welsh language newspaper. The One Wales document, the basis of the current coalition between Labour and Plaid Cymru, contains the promise:

"We will expand the funding and support for Welsh-medium magazines and newspapers, including the establishment of a Welsh-language daily newspaper".

In a letter to Rhodri Glyn Thomas Cymdeithas yr Iaith accused the Coalition Government of breaching one of the One Wales promises. "The commitment to a daily newspaper in Welsh is clear in the

agreement" said Hywel Griffiths, chairman of Cymdeithas. "Many people in Wales supported the Labour/Plaid coalition based on the commitments made in the One Wales agreement. A few months later, both Plaid and Labour have broken their promise to the people of Wales".

Dyddiol Cyf, one of the possible contenders for funding to establish a daily newspaper and the only company to have researched the possibility of doing so, noted that between £600,000 and £1million (0.8 and 1.3 million euros) were needed in the first year to establish a daily Welsh language newspaper (which they were going to call Y Byd "The World"). The Assembly Government, in offering a quarter of this, is obviously not serious about supporting the Welsh language press. An independent review of the Welsh language print media, commissioned at Rhodri Glyn Thomas's request, noted clearly that a significant amount of money was needed to realise the plan of establishing a daily newspaper.

"Other European governments support a variety of newspapers in minority languages with many millions of pounds. For example the government of the Basque Country gives a grant of 1.3 million euros a year to Berria, the Basque daily newspaper. Both languages have a similar number of speakers", said Hedd Gwynfor, Cymdeithas's Vice-Chairman. "Under the European Charter for Minority and Regional Languages, the government has a duty towards the Welsh language print media." In 2004, the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts, which monitors the implementation of the Charter, noted of Welsh that "the availability of daily news in printed form is lacking...When compared with other regional and minority languages in Europe which are in a similar position to Welsh in Britain, this is anomalous".

"The Assembly Government keep telling us they want to create a bilingual Wales, but they are yet to back up this rhetoric", he said. "The government keep throwing millions of pounds to prop up projects that keep failing to stay within budget, as we have seen during the last few weeks, but the Welsh language press and the hope of a daily paper in our language is left to wither despite their promises. The Welsh are the biggest linguistic community in Europe that have no daily newspaper. A daily newspaper is vital for any thriving language in the twenty-first century How many more promises included in the One Wales document will not be implemented? A Welsh Federal College? A new Welsh Language Act?"

Following the announcement Dyddiol Cyf stated that they would be unable to proceed with the proposed paper under such terms, and they didn't think anyone else could either. The provisional editor of Y Byd decided to resign. The campaign for winning realistic funding for the project continues and details can be found on [www.ybyd.com](http://www.ybyd.com).

# Cumbria Welsh – Part One

## CUMBRIAN AND WELSH

Even today Cumbria, in the north of England, retains a distinctive character of its own. It abounds in tales of King Arthur and Merlin, has its own Cumbrian wrestling, similar to Breton, has Welsh sounding place-names, like Penrith, Blencarn, and Cumrew, and still boasts its own counting systems eg Yan, Tan, Tethera, Methera, Pimp compared to Welsh Un, Dau, Tri, Pedwar, Pump. Although it is part of England now, it was once a Celtic country in its own right. In fact, it was part of a much larger group of territories, stretching from the banks of the rivers Clyde and Forth in Scotland, to the Dee, on the border of Wales. These territories were the lands of the northern Welsh who, like the Welsh of Wales, had their own language, Cumbrian, a language which was very similar to Welsh of Wales.

Some years ago, I read in W B Lockwood's *Languages of the British Isles past and present*, that all that remained of the Cumbrian language that was spoken in this Wales of the North was three legal terms. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Not only are there surviving place-names and counting systems in the language, but there is ample evidence that not only were the oldest poems in the Welsh language, i.e. the epic *Gododdin* of Aneurin and Taliesin's praises of Urien of Rheged, 'Golden King of the North', transmitted from the North to Wales, but that they were transmitted in the language of the 'Old North'. The language we call Old Welsh.

Of the Brythonic languages it is recognised that Cornish and Breton are closer to each other than either is to Welsh. Cumbrian, on the other hand, the now extinct language of the Cumbri of northern England and southern Scotland was similarly closer to Cymraeg, the language of the southern Cymry. Perhaps even closer than were Cornish and Breton, both being dialects of the same Kymric language.

Cumbrian evolved from the Brythonic dialect of northern Britain, 'The Old North' (Yr Hen Ogledd) of Welsh literature. It was spoken in northern England and southern Scotland, and before the Battle of Chester, in 616 A.D., which cut off Wales from 'The Old North', it formed a continuous language area with the Welsh language of Wales, and was very similar to Old Welsh. This similarity had been reinforced in the 5th century, when a powerful Cumbrian warlord, Cunedda and his sons are recorded, in the early 9th century chronicles of Nennius, the monk, as having invaded north and west Wales and reintroduced their northern Welsh there.

## INVASION FROM THE NORTH.

Following the withdrawal of the Roman

legions from Britannia, the province had been invaded by Picts from the north, Saxons from the east and Irish from the west. In Wales the Irish had not only invaded but had also settled in the north and west of the country. There was also a large settlement of the Irish in Dyfed and there was a King of Irish descent, Brychan in Breconshire (Brycheiniog in Welsh), with the result that the only parts of Wales free of Irish rule were Glamorgan, Gwent, and Powys.

It was in response to this Irish invasion, probably on the direction of the then head of the ruling council of what was left of Roman Britannia, Vortigern, that the northern Welsh warlord, Cunedda, and his eight sons from the district known as Manaw Gododdin, in the Stirling/Edinburgh area, are recorded as leading a large force to re-conquer the north and west of Wales.

After driving out the Irish invaders, the victorious Cunedda, his sons, and their followers resettled these areas themselves, bringing their own northern dialect of the Welsh language with them i.e. the Welsh of the Gododdin. This may possibly explain the present differences between the Welsh of

right in the centre of them. Thus under Northern Welsh control, the Isle of Mann now became a safe haven for refugees from Gododdin and other areas that had been conquered by the Saxons, and a safe haven for the knowledge they carried. From Mann this knowledge would be transmitted to Wales by travelling bards.

This Northern Welsh or Cumbrian dynasty was still ruling Mann in the early 9th century, when the then ruler, Gwriad, married Eryll the daughter of the King of Anglesey. They had a son, Merfyn. However, although Merfyn's father was of 'Northern' origin, with an impeccable 'Northern' pedigree, his mother was of the house of Gwynedd. Consequently when his mother's brother, the King of Anglesey, died Merfyn succeeded him. Then, when the male line in Gwynedd failed, about 825 AD, he succeeded to the kingship there, and as King of Gwynedd was able to actively encourage the literary arts, giving prominence to the lore of the Old North. In fact, his court was one of the most literate and cultured in Europe, and he is known to have corresponded with Charles the Bald King of France.



south and north Wales, the Welsh of north Wales being in fact the direct descendent of the language of the 'Old North'.

## LATER LINKS

### *Merfyn Frych*

The next ruler to come from 'The Old North', although indirectly, was Merfyn Frych (frych = freckled). He came from the Isle of Mann, which was at this time under Welsh rule. Professor Bedwyr L. Jones believes this to have come about, when, following the Battle of Chester in 616, and subsequent Saxon expansion, a displaced northern Welsh (Cumbrian) dynasty colonised Mann.

A further consequence of these Saxon conquests was that overland communication between the North and Wales, through hostile territory, became impossible. Yet the sea routes remained open, with the Isle of Mann

### *Rhodri Mawr (Rhodri the Great)*

When in 844 Merfyn was succeeded by his son Rhodri the Great, Rhodri, like his father, also fostered the arts and it was because of his great foresight and his pride in his 'Northern' heritage and lineage that he organised the collection and writing down of the poetry and traditions of the 'Old North'. However, whilst it is quite possible that some of this material would have been written down in the Old North, most would have been passed on in oral form down the years, as poetry recited by bards who had learned by rote from those bards who preceded them.

### *Anarawd*

Events reported to have occurred during the reign of Merfyn's grandson, Anarawd, seem to indicate that, even in the late 9th century,

there was still little difference between the Welsh of Wales and that of the 'North'.

In the southern version of the 'Brut Y Tywosogion' (The Chronicle of the Princes), another monk, Caradoc of Llancarfan, writes that in 890, because Strathclyde (the Cumbrian kingdom centred on Dumbarton and Glasgow) had become subject to English control, a large group of refugees who would not accept their rule came south and asked King Anarawd of Gwynedd for land to settle. 'Anarawd gave them leave to inhabit the country taken from him by the Saxons, comprising Maelor, the Vale of Clwyd, Rhufoniog, and Tegeingl, if they could drive the Saxons out, which they did bravely. And the Saxons came, on that account, a second time against Anarawd, and fought the action of Cymryd, in which the Welsh conquered the Saxons, and drove them wholly out of the country; and so Gwynedd was liberated from the Saxons by the might of the Men of the North.'

Implicit in this record is the fact that the Men of the North speak the same language as the people of Gwynedd and are welcome to become subjects of King Anarawd.

#### Legal evidence for late Cumbrian

Although Strathclyde had become part of the kingdom of Scotland in the early 11th century, it was still considered a separate entity until at least the end of the 12th century with the Britons, i.e. the Welsh, there being officially called 'Walenses'.

W.J. Watson, in his 'Celtic Placenames of Scotland', believed that the code of laws, known as the 'Leges inter Brettos et Scottos' (i.e. laws to regulate Scottish-Welsh relations), drawn up in the reign of David I (1124-1153), clearly showed the language to be still alive at that time. Watson adds that, in 1305, when Edward I of England attempted to rule Scotland, he ordained "that the customs of the Scots and Brets be henceforth prohibited and disused".

#### Hywel ab Owain Gwynedd.

Poet Prince. Died 1170

Most of the records of Strathclyde have been lost. However, it is almost certain that there would have been some communication with Wales, at least up to 1018 AD, when Strathclyde became part of Scotland. However, some lines in the late 12th century poem of Hywel ab Owain Gwynedd have given rise to speculation about the continued communication at this time.

*Lord of Heaven and Earth, a hero of Gwynedd,*

*(how far is Ceri from Carlisle!)*

*I mounted a bay from Maelienydd -  
last came to Rheged, rode day and night.*

Rheged with its centre at Carlisle was one of the main Cumbrian kingdoms of the Old North. It had become part of Strathclyde in the 10th century. Apparently, according to the court poet Gwalchmai (3), Hywel's father, Owain Gwynedd, had sent him on a diplomatic mission to redeem a pledge from the northern Welsh, and this part of Hywel's poem refers to this.

This story raises the possibility that, although by now part of the kingdom of Scotland, Strathclyde still existed as a distinct political entity in the late 12th century, possibly as a principality within the kingdom of Scotland. It would also confirm Watson's belief that Cumbrian was still spoken there at that time and, from Hywel's poem, also in Carlisle which had been under Norman control since 1092. It would also indicate that it was still enough like Welsh to be understood by Hywel.

Colin Lewis

Parts 2 and 3 will be in subsequent issues.

## Plaid AC condemns desecration of memorial

Plaid Cymru AC (member of the Welsh National Assembly), Leanne Wood (South Central region), has spoken of her dismay at the damage caused to an ornamental cross which was erected in Cardiff last year to commemorate the genocide of Armenian people during the First World War. The Armenian genocide refers to the massacre of up to one and a half million Armenians by Turkey between 1915 and 1923. The genocide is recognised by Plaid Cymru but not by the English government (the New Labour government are allies of Turkey, because Turkey supported their attack on Iraq). Leanne Wood, a local AC, commented:



Leanne Wood AC

*"I was very shocked to hear that the cross had been vandalised ahead of the service of commemoration on Sunday. It is especially saddening that a symbol of remembrance - a small symbol in memory of all those killed - should be desecrated outside a building which itself is a symbol of peace.*

*"The nation of Wales has a well merited reputation for its work towards peace and reconciliation but this incident shows clearly that we must never rest in the struggle against hatred."*

Responsibility for the action has not been claimed, but it is not difficult to think of the direction from which it might have come.

## AN ENGLISH STAMP FOR OWAIN GLYNDŴR



The British Post Office has decided to feature Welsh national hero Owain Glyndŵr on one of their commemorative stamps this year. The stamp is one of a series entitled *The Houses of Lancaster and York*, two feuding families who governed England (with conquered Wales) in the 15th century. It is the first time for over 30 years that Prince Owain, under whose leadership Wales regained her independence for a few years in the first decade of that century, has been featured on an official stamp. The Post Office had refused to issue a commemorative stamp in 2000 for the 600th anniversary of the proclamation of Owain Glyndŵr as Tywysog (Prince) of Wales in 1400, though he had appeared on an official postage stamp in 1974 for a series about "medieval warriors".

The stamp was launched at a ceremony in Machynlleth, where Glyndŵr had held his parliament, but the clearest indication of that the rebellion eventually failed can be seen in that the denomination of the stamp, "1st" (for first class mail) is in English only. Welsh definitive stamps have the denomination bilingual, but all others are English only and the Post Office did not see it worthwhile making an exception even in this case.

Robat ap Tomos

## Parasite coffee house chain moves into Aberystwyth

Members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith (the Welsh Language Society) picketed the new Costa coffee house on Aberystwyth high street on the day of its opening, the 18th February, in protest against the company's total lack of respect for the Welsh language and the local community. Costa had ignored a letter from Aberystwyth Town Council requesting them to make use of bilingual signs and they disregarded Ceredigion County Council rules allowing only shops to open on the high street. Cymdeithas also drew attention to the fact that, unlike some local companies, Costa bring their products in from outside the area and take the profits elsewhere, and they are thus damaging the local economy.

The picket lasted all day from 9 am to 5 pm. Sioned Haf, Cymdeithas's National Campaigns Officer, said: "Costa have ignored a letter from Aberystwyth Town Council asking them to use bilingual signs, and thus shown complete disrespect for our language and culture. Several small businesses in the town that make only a fraction of the profits of Costa have put up bilingual signs. This case shows the need for a comprehensive Language Act to compel large companies to provide a bilingual service."



# Éire



## BRÍD HEUSSAFF, RIP

**“Bean láidir, neamhspleách.” “Duine lách, umhal, uasal.”**

Thug an iliomad duine cur síos dá shórt ar mo mháthair, Brid Heussaff, ó cailleadh í ar 2 Feabhra seo caite. D’inis daoine scéalta pearsanta dúinn faoin tionchar a d’imir sí orthu agus í á spreagadh chun muiníne ina gcuid Gaeilge; dúirt mná de mo ghlúin féin gur thug misneach agus diongbháilteacht Bhríd ionspráid dóibh, tráth nach mbíodh mná i gcoitinne gníomhach i gcúrsaí poiblí; agus chuimhnigh an-chuid daoine ar a cineáltas agus ar a féile le gach cuairteoir chun a tí.

Bhí prionsabail agus tuairimí láidre ag Bríd riamh. Arsa duine dá cairde ar lá a sochraide: ‘ní raibh mórcheist ar bith dár éirigh lena linn nár ghlac sí seasamh air.’ Bhíodh díospóireachtaí briomhaire i measc an teaghlaigh i gcónaí ar chúrsaí reatha agus ar conas an saol a chur ina cheart. Ach níor leor le mo mháthair a bheith ag caint, agus ní áireamh ar an obair a rinne sí i gcaitheamh a saoil agus í gníomhach ar choistí, in eagrais, i bhfeachtais, in agóidí agus in imeachtaí cultúrtha is polaitiúla.

Bhí an Conradh Ceilteach agus Conradh na Gaeilge lárnach ina saol, ar ndóigh mar atá minithe ag Cathal Ó Luain in alt eile anseo. Eagrais eile ar chaith sí na blianta leis ná na Teaghlaigh Ghaelacha, a thacaigh le daoine ar fud na tír a bhí ag tógáil clainne le Gaeilge. Bunchloch thodhchaí na teanga, dar léir, ná páistí a thógáil le Gaeilge. Bhí neartú phobail na Gaeltachta an-tábhachtach dí ar an gcúis chéanna, agus ghlac sí páirt in agóidí Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta nuair a thosaigh siad sna 1960dí.

Bhí sí an-tógtha le feachtais eile ar son cearta daonna agus náisiúnta; ina measc, an ghluaiseacht Anti-Apartheid, an Irish Sovereignty Movement, CND agus sna blianta déanacha, sna máirseálacha in aghaidh an chogaidh san Iaráic.

Ní gan stró a chaitear saol chomh gnóthach, áfach. Ba bhreá le Bríd a bheith i measc daoine, ach ba dhuine cúthaileach agus príobháideach í freisin, agus bhíodh amhras uirthi faoina cuid cumas féin. Chuireadh droch-chodladh isteach isteach uirthi i gcaitheamh a saoil. Ach ghlac sí leis go raibh ar gach duine cur suas le dua an tsaoil agus nárbh aon bhac é sin ar ghníomh ná ar mhisneach.

Bhíodh deifir agus mífhoighne uirthi go minic, rud nárbh ionadh. Chaith sí cúig bliana is fiche ag tógáil seisear clainne; agus lena chois sin, d’fhill sí ar a gairm mar mhúinteoir colaíochta go páirtaimseartha

sna 1970dí. Bhíodh obair de chineál eile uirthi mar thoradh ar ról m’athar Alan sa Chonradh Ceilteach: gach samhradh, thagadh cuairteoirí ag triall ar an teach ón mBriotáin, ón mBreatain Bheag, ó na Stáit Aontaithe is ó áiteanna eile, agus chuirtí fáilte fhial rompu uile. Mar pháistí, bhímís ag campáil amuigh sa chúlghairdín amanta chun leaba a chur ar fáil do na cuairteoirí úd! Ní amháin sin, ach ba shárhócaire í mo mháthair, a sholáthraíodh béilí níos fearr ná mar a bhíodh le fáil i bhformhór na mbialann in Éirinn.

Chomh maith le crosfhocal ‘Crosaire’ an Irish Times a dhéanamh go críochnúil gach aon lá, d’éirigh léi an t-am a fháil freisin chun cuid mhór de na leabhair Ghaeilge a foilsíodh lena linn a léamh, mar aon le riar measartha as Béarla freisin, agus corrléabhar sna teangacha eile a d’fhoghlaim sí. D’fhreastalaíodh sí go minic ar ócáidí seolta leabhar Gaeilge, agus thaobhaíodh sí leis an tuairim nár scríbhneoirí ba mhó a bhí de dhíth as Gaeilge, ach léitheoirí. ‘Is mise léitheoir na Gaeilge!’, a deireadh sí go leathmhagúil.

Tógadh mo mháthair ar leithinis Fhánaid, i dtuaisceart Thír Chonaill, agus ba bhreá léi riamh dul ag siúl cois trá. Sna 1980dí, ba mhinic a deis chuige sin nuair a d’aistrigh sí féin agus m’athair ó Bhaile Átha Cliath go dtí an Spidéal i gConamara. B’iontach na garraíodóirí iad beirt agus shaothraigh siad fáschoill flúirseach bláfar san áit a mbíodh leathacra lom móintiúil roimhe sin. Bhí an-áthas orthu lonnú i bpobal láidir Gaeltachta, agus ghlac mo mháthair go háirithe an-pháirt in imeachtaí áitiúla. Cailleadh m’athair sa bhliain 1999, agus nuair a d’fhill Bríd ar Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 2007, ba mhór an cumha a bhí uirthi i ndiaidh a cuid comharsan lácha fáiltiúla i Seanadh Gharráin agus i gCois Fharraige ar fad.

Ní raibh sí san ospidéal ach coicíos go leith, agus trioblóid boilg á iniúchadh, nuair a cailleadh í ar 2 Feabhra. Cé go raibh a sláinte ag dul i léig ar feadh tréimhse roimhe sin, lean sí lena saol gnóthach, gníomhach go dtí sin. Ba Mhamó grámhar í i gcónaí lena deichniúr garpháistí agus sna blianta deireanacha, bhíodh deis aici cúram a dhéanamh go háirithe do Chiarán, mac mo dheirfear Éadaoin, a bhí in aontíos léi.

Rinne Bríd cion triúir i gcaitheamh a saoil, agus ba rímhaith a thuill sí sos agus suaimhneas síoraí dá hanam.

**Anna Heussaff**

*The personal tribute was written by her daughter Anna for Brid Heussaff whose death occurred on 2nd. Feb at the age of 82. Brid was a long time Irish language activist, supporter of human rights and of the Celtic League. She was the widow of Alan Heussaff (who died in 1999), one of the founder members of the League and its first General Secretary for almost a quarter of a century. She was buried alongside him in the graveyard just west of An Spidéal, Conamara, on Wed 6th Feb., following a mass at which some of her favourite traditional music and songs were aired. Brid was from Donegal, she and Alan met when they were studying at University College, Galway and later set up house in Dublin, where they reared an Irish speaking family of six.*



**Brid Heussaff, Nollaig 2006**

*Brid was very active in Na Teaghlaigh Ghaelacha (Irish Speaking Families) and in Conradh na Gaeilge, partaking in many campaigns on behalf of the Irish language. She engaged in a number of actions in the fight for an Irish language TV channel and was arrested twice. One of those occasions was when, with a number of others, she chained herself across the entrance to the GPO ( the HQ of the rebels during the 1916 Rising) on Dublin’s O’Connell St. to draw attention to the lack of Irish on television. She served on the Executive of An Conradh for many years helping in a variety of campaigns in support of the language and was also on the committee of its Irish Language festival, An tOireachtas (as a delegate from the Irish Branch of the Celtic League). She served as a fraternal delegate from the Oireachtas to the Manx festival Yn Chruinnaght numerous times, a function she enjoyed immensely.*

*Brid played an prominent role in the work and activities of the Irish Branch of the Celtic League, also writing many Irish language articles for the Irish section of the League’s magazine, Carn. She visited all the Celtic countries, some many times, particularly Breizh of course. She learnt Breton and Welsh and also studied Gàidhlig. Her lifelong support and assistance enabled Alan in no*

## Féile Chóilín Sheáin Dharach: Bíonn Níos Mó ná an Damhsa Traidisiúnta ar Siúl ag an bhFéile Gheimhridh Ghaeltachta Seo

Is léir go mbíonn béim ar an damhsa sean-nóis ag Féile Chóilín Sheáin Dharach i Ros Muc le linn an deiridh seachtaine dheireanaigh i mí Eanáir gach bliain. Leagtar béim go háirithe ar an damhsa sean-nóis aonair agus ar an “jig” dúbailte – an damhsa ab fhearr le Cóilín Seoige, an fear ar bunaíodh an fhéile ina ómós. Bíonn scoil lae “jig” agus comórtas ar siúl ar an Satharn agus ar an Domhnach gach bliain – agus bíonn ar na hiomaitheoirí damhsa “jig” dúbailte a dhéanamh. Ar ndóigh, bíonn go leor deiseanna ann ríleanna agus damhsaí cornphíopa agus seit a dhéanamh chomh maith. Dá bhri sin, bíonn imeachtaí idir struchtúrtha agus neamhfhoirmiúla ann ar feadh an deiridh seachtaine le daoine a mhealladh chun damhsa. Bíonn an damhsa ar an leathdhoras nó ar an mbairille ar bhuaiceanna an deiridh seachtaine. Is imeacht neamhiomaíoch é sin a mheallann a lán damhsóirí gach uile bhliain. Ní raibh ann mar imeachtaí i gcéad bhliain na féile ach comórtas in ómós Chóilín Seoige ar an Satharn agus seisiún amhránaíochta sean-nóis ar an Domhnach, agus Josie Sheáin Jeaic Mac Donnchadha, a raibh Corn Uí Riada buaite aige, mar fhear an tí ar an seisiún sin. Is gearr, áfach, gur fhás an fhéile go dtí go raibh 11 imeacht éagsúla inti – imeachtaí a mheallann cuairteoirí a thagann d’aon ghnó chun freastal ar imeacht áirithe – go háirithe ar na himeachtaí nach mbaineann leis an damhsa. Tarlaíonn siad siúd ar an Domhnach, agus, mar gheall ar an



Liam Scanlon, Co Mhaigh Eo.

gelár lán imeachtaí, bíonn ar na cuairteoirí rogha a dhéanamh ar na imeachtaí iomadúla, mar is minic a bhíonn cúpla imeacht ar siúl ag an am céanna.

Bíonn amhránaíocht liotúirgeach den scoth le cloisteáil ar an Aifreann Domhnaigh, agus bíonn amhránaithe sean-nóis Chonamara ag canadh agus ceoltóirí áitiúla ag seinm ann. Is gnách an tAifreann sin a chraoladh ar Raidió na Gaeltachta, faoi mar a rinneadh i mbliana. Bíonn díospóireacht ann tar éis an Aifrinn, chun ómós a thabhairt do dhuine éigin de chuid an phobail áitiúil a bhain cáil amach in Éirinn nó sa domhan mór. Mar shampla, pléadh saol SheanPhádraic Uí Chonaire, Phádraic Óig Uí Chonaire and Sheáin Chóilín Uí Chonaire cheana. Tugadh aird i mbliana ar Chaitlín Maude, agus ba chumasach an léiriú a rinne an ban-aisteoir Caitriona Ní Chonaola agus í ag aithris filíocht agus amhránaíocht Chaitlín Maude.

Tá Caitriona ag obair faoi láthair ar sheó aonair faoi Chaitlín Maude.

Tharla imeacht eile ar an Domhnach sin a bhí thar a bheith suimiúil – blaiseadh fuisce agus na daoine a bhí páirteach ag moladh an fuisce i nGaeilge na hAlban. Mar a tharla, tagann Gaeilgeoirí – idir cheoltóirí, amhránaithe agus dhamhsóirí – as Albain gach bliain ar cuairt chuig Gaeltachtaí in Éirinn faoi choimirce Iomairt Cholm Cille, na heagraíochta comhair idir Éire agus Albain. Ar ndóigh, glacann na cuairteoirí seo páirt sna himeachtaí eile, ach ina theannta sin, tagann siad le chéile ar an Domhnach chun labhairt le chéile i nGaeilge na hAlban i measc cainteoirí Gaeilge Éireannacha, agus chun deiseanna a thabhairt do chainteoirí Gáidhlig in Éirinn cleachtadh a bhaint as Gaeilge na hAlban. Chuige sin, togtar téama agus cuirtear bileoga colais ar fáil i nGaeilge na hAlban chun an t-imeacht a threorú. Ar ndóigh, bíonn daoine ann i gcónaí chun aistriúchán a dhéanamh go Gaeilge na hÉireann más gá.

Rinne na cuairteoirí agus a gcairde Éireannacha – is é sin, *Coinneamh Luchd-Labhairt na Gáidhlig* – tástáil i mbliana ar mheascáin fuisce as Albain agus as Éirinn, ar thrí bhraich shingil éagsúla, agus ar bhraon den “chréatúr” a rinneadh – ar ndóigh – i gConamara.

Beidh an chéad fhéile eile d’Fhéile Chóilín Sheáin Dharach ar siúl ón 23 go dtí an 25 Eanáir sa bhliain 2009.

**Ristéard Mac Aodha**

This traditional dance festival will be held next year from 23rd to 25th January in Rosmuc, Conamara, info from [damhsoir@circom.net](mailto:damhsoir@circom.net) or 087 272 9290.

continued from *Brid Heussaff* page 13.

*small measure to devote his efforts to the League and the Breton language. The family home was a beacon for Celts (especially Bretons) who were welcomed with open arms even if the children had to sleep in tents in the garden!*

*On Alan's retirement over twenty years ago they moved to the Conamara Gaeltacht near An Spidéal where Brid could be said to have found her spiritual home. She was an independent minded lady, an excellent gardener, an avid reader (particularly in the Irish language), outgoing, generous and hospitable, she will be sorely missed. I have so many nice personal memories of Brid having working alongside her for years in the Irish Language movement and the Celtic League (including many AGMs in all Celtic Countries) and of her hospitality and great social occasions in her house – Sonas Sioraí dá hAnam Uasal. Our sympathies are extended to her children, Niamh, Kintilla, Anna, Eoghan, Éadaoin and Diarmaid and their families. Her funeral was attended by representatives of the League and wreaths were laid on behalf of the League and the Irish Branch*

Cathal Ó Luain

## Irish Immersion Education Battle – Update

In a letter (received after almost four months) responding to CL General Secretary, Rhisiart Talebot's, representations against the decision of the Irish Minister for Education to ban early Irish language immersion in Irish medium schools ( see *Carn* 139, p14) the Minister's private secretary, Ronnie Ryan, has defended his Minister's decision unrepentantly. However he has conceded that the circular implementing it is effectively in abeyance now due to the High Court action instituted by two schools and An Foras Patrúnachta.

*"Circular 0044/2007 is the subject of a legal challenge in the High Court, therefore the Department is prohibited from taking steps pursuant to implementation of the Circular until the judicial review has been heard and a final verdict has been given."*

At the annual conference of the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO), the primary schoolteacher's body, at the end of March the outgoing President, Angela Dunne, speaking to *Foinse*, said the INTO supported Irish immersion education and called on the Minister to withdraw the circular and carry out proper research on the efficacy of Irish

immersion programmes in Ireland. This approach mirrors that of *Gael'scoileanna*. She further went on to say that immersion programmes were needed for teachers also in the light of reports that many teachers their Irish is not of good enough standard to teach the language properly, teachers in training should have a least a month or two of immersion training in a Gaeltacht area.

However despite the above reply it seems the Minister is moving to attempt to undermine one of the main arguments of the High Court case. This is that all Dept of Education circulars issued since the Education Act of 1998 are illegal as no Minister ever moved the required regulations through the Dáil. This she has given notice on and moreover has stitched her ban on early Irish immersion education into this retrospective measure. Intense lobbying has begun against this measure and it will also be directed, no doubt, against new Taoiseach-to-be Brian Cowen, who has previously come out in favour of Irish immersion education and who spoke in favour of the Irish language on becoming leader of Fianna Fáil.

## Fight for Irish Language in North heats up

In the St Andrew's agreement which was signed by the Irish and British governments when the Northern executive and assembly was in abeyance a commitment was given to implement an Irish Language Act in the North. Although the first consultation process showed a huge majority in favour the British dragged their heels and a second consultation process was ordered. No Act emerged from Westminster before the Northern Executive and Assembly were reconstituted and the issue of an Irish Language Act passed to the devolved executive. The second consultation process also showed a large (though somewhat reduced from the first) majority, 65% of submissions, in favour of an Act.

Nevertheless the Northern Minister for Culture and Arts, Edwin Poots (DUP) stated he would not be bringing forward an Act "I remain unpersuaded that there is a compelling case for bringing forward Irish language legislation at this time". He has also cut the funding for Irish Language broadcasting (at a time when it was revealed that the BBC NI expenditure on taxis and



**Ariel Killick from the street theatre group Fomhoraigh beats out the message at the POBAL march is support of Irish in Belfast city centre**

refreshments was greater than on Irish language programming, which was about 5 hrs in a whole year in 2004/5!). Then both he and some DUP MLAs trumpeted this action as the saving of the unionist population from the Irish language and from the granting of equality to Irish.

The UUP not be left behind had already

attempted to introduce a ban on the use of Irish in the Local Assembly. This failed by 46 to 44 votes when the Alliance Party voted with Sinn Féin and the SDLP but would have failed anyway as Sinn Féin had initiated a motion requiring cross community support. Not to be outdone UUP Minister for Health, Michael McGimpsey, put an end to his departments advertising in the Irish language.

When Minister Poots attended his first Irish Language event, the annual conference of POBAL the umbrella group for Irish language bodies in the North, he attempted to be provocative citing the reported founding of an Irish language association named after an IRA man. However he did state that that he was in favour of implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority languages and that he recognised the importance of input from NGOs such as POBAL. Towards the end of February POBAL organised a march, a carnival type parade with street theatre etc. in support of the Irish Language and diversity in Belfast which was attended by thousands. It seems with politics in place of war in the Local Assembly that the cultural war is only beginning and is starting to heat up!

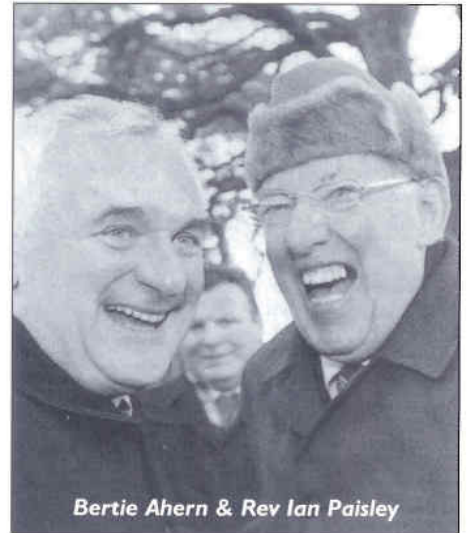
## Pobal Scoil Chorca Dhuibhne Vindicated.

Pobal Scoil Chorca Dhuibhne is located in An Daingean, the largely anglicised town on the edge of the West Kerry Gaeltacht of Corca Dhuibhne. It was formed from the amalgamation of two second level schools and as the only source of second level education within the Gaeltacht the management board took an unanimous decision that the Pobal Scoil would be an Irish medium one. In the middle of last year a small group of parents and pupils saw fit to challenge that and some students demonstrated against the decision at the beginning of the school year. Minister for Education, Mary Hanafin in stark contrast to her rejection of advice on comprehensive research in the case early Irish immersion education commissioned a survey. Tuismitheoiri na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Parents) who support the Irish medium language policy called for a boycott of this.

The results emerged in March. Only 94 parents and 122 pupils (out of 475) responded. Only 10 pupils and 11 parents out of those who responded called for education through English. This of course copperfastened the school policy of Irish medium education and Hanafin had no option but to grudgingly accept it but tried to cloud the issue by calling for flexibility in its implementation. It is clear from these cases that Hanafin will give a small group of dissenters a better hearing than those who have worked for years to promote Irish medium education and she avoided a clear answer to the question, is she or is she not supportive of a policy of Irish medium education in all Gaeltacht schools?

## Exit Paisley and Ahern

It is indeed an irony that the Taoiseach of the Republic, Bertie Ahern and the First Minister of the Northern Assembly, Rev Ian Paisley, who both said they would serve their full terms, are now to depart within a short period of each other in May and that in both cases allegations of corruption were involved. In Paisley's case it was not himself but his son Ian Paisley Jr, who was the catalyst, having resigned his junior minister's post amidst allegations of improper lobbying for a business associate regarding a proposed development of an interpretative centre at the Giant's Causeway (nevertheless his father appointed him to the Policing Board). In Ahern's case it was the expanding labyrinth of his personal finances in the nineties and his convoluted attempted explanations of them during successive appearance at the Mahon Tribunal which finally led to his going. This tribunal was set up to investigate allegations of corrupt payments to politicians for key rezonings and although it may well appear (we await the Tribunal report, it has been running for 8 years!) that Ahern was clear in that respect he had such a maze of accounts, cash holdings, payments in and out and mix of personal, constituency and party monies that the matter became risible. Both men of course denied that there was any link with these matters in their leavings but claimed that they were going so that the focus would return to proper government! They were amply praised, in Ahern's case particularly for his involvement in the Good



**Bertie Ahern & Rev Ian Paisley**

Friday agreement and as with Paisley in achieving a return of the Local Assembly and Executive. Recent weeks saw a spate of articles and reminiscences about the Good Friday Agreement from most involved. Significantly Paisley's successor to be, Peter Robinson, in his article derided it and claimed (not much justified) that the DUP had achieved significant alterations to it before going into Government with Sinn Féin. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister, Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness, were dubbed the 'Chuckle Brothers' by the media here, it may be that with changes on the way we will now have the 'Brothers Grim'!

## Lisbon Referendum –Ensure a NO victory!

The only Dáil political party campaigning for a NO vote in the forthcoming referendum is Sinn Féin. The Green party copped out, not taking a stance as a party and leaving it up to members to take their own positions. (The European Greens are urging the Irish to vote yes!) . The broad coalition of small parties and groups on the left, the Campaign Against the EU Constitution (CAEUC), - their slogan is *For a Democratic, Social and Demilitarised Europe* - kicked off their campaign with a public meeting in Dublin in early March at which PANA's Roger Cole, Patricia McKenna (ex Green MEP) and a representative from the French Socialist party, Racquel Garrido, spoke among others. On the right there is Libertas, a group formed by businessman Declan Ganley. They initiated a poster campaign targeting political leaders and the benefit to them as against the debit to Ireland. Needless to say the establishment was not impressed used as they are to have the shoe on the other foot when it comes to personal attacks.

The detrimental effects for Ireland of this revamped Constitution have been outlined in previous issues of CARN, 139 and 138 and much detail is available on the web, see particularly Danish MEP Jens-Peter Bonde, *New Name, Same Content; The Lisbon Treaty—Is it also an EU Constitution?* which may be downloaded from [www.bonde.com](http://www.bonde.com). Mr Bonde addressing a meeting of the Forum on Europe in Dublin in early March said the Treaty would remove power from the smaller nations to the larger nations and he called the decision of the European Council to forbid publication of a consolidated text as *'dishonest and against the principals of transparency and democracy'*. He called upon the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, to use the European summit later in the month to have protocols dealing with Irish interests inserted in the Treaty, a call which, needless to say, was totally ignored. One of the most disturbing aspects of the revamping of the Constitution into the Lisbon Treaty is the contempt in which the leaders of the EU regard its citizens as they openly admit that the Treaty was crafted in such a way as to obscure issues not clarify them and to hide the fact that it contained major constitutional change as evidenced by **"Public opinion will be led to adopt, without knowing it, the proposals that we dare not present to them directly.. All the earlier proposals will be in the new text, but will be hidden and disguised in some way."** (Former French President V. Giscard D'Estaing, who helped to draw up the EU Constitution)

The two sentences below from the proposed 28th Amendment of the Constitution Bill are the central provisions of what the Irish people will be asked to vote on in the Lisbon Treaty referendum mid June:-

*"The State may ratify the Treaty of Lisbon signed at Lisbon on the 13th day of December 2007, and may be a member of the European Union established by virtue of that Treaty.*

**"NO PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION invalidates laws enacted, acts done or measures adopted by the State that are necessitated by membership of the European Union, or prevents laws enacted, acts done or measures adopted by the said European Union or by institutions thereof, or by bodies competent under the treaties referred to in this section, from having the force of law in the State"**

It is clear that the effect of this would be to

- END IRELAND'S STATUS AS AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN STATE AND MAKE IT A PROVINCIAL STATE WITHIN AN EU FEDERATION
- TAKE AWAY FROM THE IRISH PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO MAKE OUR OWN LAWS
- MAKE THE EU CONSTITUTION SUPERIOR TO THE IRISH CONSTITUTION



**Roger Cole of the Peace and Neutrality Alliance at the meeting of the Campaign Against the EU Constitution.**

Irish Europe Minister Dick Roche has stated that if we vote No to Lisbon, we will not be asked to vote again on the same Treaty, as happened when people voted No to the Treaty of Nice. Nor can we be ostracised or thrown out of the EU - anymore than that happened to the French and Dutch when they rejected the EU Constitution, of which Lisbon is a revamped version. We need to send Lisbon back to the EU Prime Ministers and Presidents and tell them that we want a better deal - **for Ireland's sake and Europe's sake.** We want a more democratic, not a less democratic EU. Ireland can do it, on our own behalf and on behalf of all the peoples of Europe, if we have confidence in ourselves and resist the misrepresentations of what Lisbon is really about, and all the bullying and threats. A Vote No is a Yes to something better!

## Cigarette Health Warning must be Bilingual.

At the beginning of the year a primary school teacher, Caitriona Uí Riain was successful in her High Court action to have health warnings on cigarette packets printed in Irish as well as in English. The proceedings were brought against the Minister for Health and Children and the State agreed to a mandatory order requiring it to amend the relevant law by October to provide that health and other information on cigarette packets be printed in the same size in Irish and English. The law must also be amended to comply with a European directive, 2001/37/EC, in regard to health warnings and to ensure that the two languages are treated equally in accordance with the provisions of that directive.

## Lá Nua Reorganises

The daily Irish language newspaper, Lá Nua, announced in early Feb that it intended to publish the paper only on the internet [www.nuacht.com](http://www.nuacht.com). The paper claims 30,000 hits a month and that about a 1000 copies of the PDF version are downloaded each day. Financial difficulties lay largely behind the decision and these were exacerbated by the refusal of departments in the North to continue with Irish language advertising. However it was pointed out by Foras na Gaeilge that this would be a breach of the contract they had been awarded for a printed version. By the end of the month Lá Nua had announced a rescue package which consisted of a slimmed down staff, a slight price increase (from €1 to €1.10), investigation (reluctantly) of charging for the internet service, the founding of a support group *Cairde Lá Nua*, investment from shareholders with commensurate amount from the publishing company *Grúpa Meán Bhéal Feirste* and plans to tackle the advertising issue and garner more support. These measures will enable the paper to continue to the end of the contract period (Dec08) and strengthen it for the future. The new editor is Dónall Mac Giolla Chóill.

While on Irish media matters the demise of the Irish monthly magazine *Comhar* should be noted. Foras na Gaeilge decided to stop grant support for it from the end of 2007. The magazine was founded in 1942 and covered current affairs, literature and literary criticism. Many later well know Irish writers appeared on its pages and it had a tradition of outspoken independence.





## Hwel Krofti Nowydh

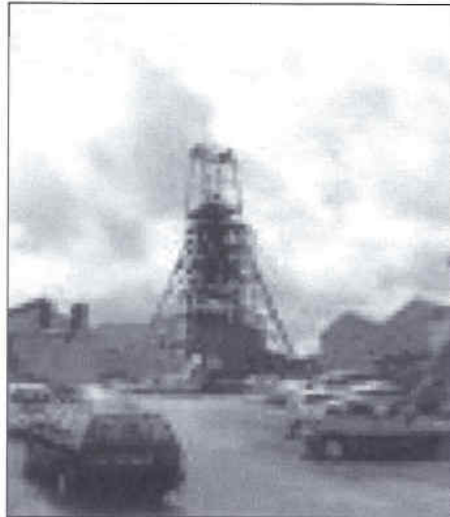
Krofti Dheghow a dhegeas nans yw deg blydhen gans derivadoryon ow leverel hy bos an diwettha bal sten yn Ewrop ha diwedh a dri mil blydhen a istori Kernewek. Degea a wrug gans keskerdhow dhiworth Rysrudh ha Kammbronn ow kesvetya yn park tu arall an fordh a Grofti hy honan. Yth esa bagasow brass ow seni ha kanow hirethek a'n dydhyow pan wre Kernowyon gwaynya gober meur dre balas sten ha kober. Heb mar, unn gwel a wra bywa bys vykken y'm kov yw an lavar peyntys war fos an bal, yn-dann an penn-dafar: "Cornish lads are fishermen, and Cornish lads are miners too, but when the fish and tin are gone, what are they Cornish boys to do?"

Misyow eth ha nys esa sin a ober dhe Grofti. Hag ena y teuth bora fug yn-dann hanow Wilf Hughes. An Kembro ma a brenas an bal gans meur a dros. Byttegyns, termyn a nijas dhe-ves ha Mr Hughes eth keffrys. Wortiwedh y teuth ken den gans hwans a selwel Krofti druan. Kevin Williams o y hanow.

Kevin Williams a's teva istori hir a oberi yn balyow, y'ga mysk Hwel Geevor. Ev a dheuth yn unn leverel bos possybyl dasigeri Krofti. Ober a dhallathas yn kosel yn-dann an dor. Mes nys o an fordh es drefenn bos edhomm dhe'n kowethas dasdisplegya a usya an kethsem tir. CPR Regeneration a vynnas usya an hwelva rag gul kresenn sport ha park nowydh, gans chio, gwerthjiow ha fordhow. Lemmyn y teuth Baseresult rewlys gans Kevin Williams erbynn CPR.

Derivys veu y'n paperyow nowodhow yn fenowgh a-dro dhe'n kas laghyl gans godros a brenans herdhys. Hag ena orth diwedh a 2007, ni a glywas bos negysyow treusvysyek gans arghans meur ow kesoberi gans Baseresult. An kowethas nowydh veu gelwys Western United Mines, ha moy es hanter kans milvil peuns a-dryv dhodho.

An govynn bras o: fatell yll W.U.M pompya 'mes an dowr ha dalleth gwaynya sten arta? An gorthyb sempel o: ny vynn W.U.M pompya 'mes an bal koth.



Byttegyns, y fydh ow sedhi shaftys nowydh yn tir nowydh, hag yn-gwir, gul bal nowydh. Ny vydh gonisyow Krofti nowydh ow tochya mann an gonisyow koth, hag awos henna, nys eus edhomm a bompya. Ha pandra hwer dhe'n atall? Y fydh an atall gorrys war woeles hwel Dorkoth.

Dell hevel, yma hemma ow hwarvos lemmyn awos bos pris ughel dhe gober ha sten, ha'n marghasyow a lever bos an pris owth yskynna blydhen ha blydhen. Ha pana termyn a welyn ni an kynsa moen-sten nowydh? Wel, i re'n kavas seulabrys.

**gans Matthew Clarke**

### Summary

*South Crofty closed ten years ago with at least one false dawn of a revival. Now it seems the mine is about to start producing tin and copper again because of high metals prices on the world markets. Crofty is going to make mining possible again because the owners (Western United Mines) will not be exploring the old workings, but in effect sinking new shafts into virgin ground. This means there is no need to pump millions of gallons out of the flooded old mine.*

### New Class Takes Off

The newest addition to the list of Cornish classes taking place around Cornwall is the Marhamchurch class, near Bude.

Reports from the first few lessons have been very positive and there has been a good level of interest and take up from people in the local area.

For further information about the class, contact Alan Murphy on 01566 86764 or [alandenismurphy@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alandenismurphy@tiscali.co.uk).

Jenefer Lowe

Email: [jlowe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:jlowe@cornwall.gov.uk)

Website: [www.magakernow.org.uk](http://www.magakernow.org.uk)

## AN DIWETTHA TORN

– *kunyans dhe'n Ostell Ponsmeur*

Deg warn ugens blydhen orth an Ostell Ponsmeur

Tus re guntellas ha donsya Rosveur  
Ilow veu senys ha korev yn dorn

Trist yw bos omma an diwettha torn

An diwettha torn - an diwettha torn

Trist yw bos omma an diwettha torn

Deg warn ugens blydhen gans kovyow pur grev

Pobell a wre minhverthin gans kan y'ga lev

Tonyow veu senys ha pastiw y'n forn

Trist yw bos ...

Skant ny allav krysi bos skwattyes dhe-ves  
An Ostell Ponsmeur a vydh ostell dhiswrys  
Lowender drehevys gans brykk, prenn ha horn

Trist yw bos...

### English Translation:

Thirty years at Ponsmere Hotel

People have gathered and danced Rosvur

Music was played and beer in hand

It is sad that it is here for the last time.

*Chorus.*

*The last time, the last time, It is sad that it is here the last time.*

Thirty years with very strong memories

People used to smile with a song in their voice

Tunes were played while pasties were in the oven

It is sad that it is here for the last time

*Chorus.*

I can hardly believe it is to be knocked down  
The Ponsmere Hotel will be a hotel destroyed

A festival built with brick, wood and iron

It is sad that it is here for the last time

*Chorus.*

**Matthew Clarke**

## A New Age For Lowender Peran

As well as marking the 30th Anniversary of the festival, very sadly, 2008 will also be the last Lowender Peran to take place in the Ponsmere Hotel. Hotel Director, Pete Batchelor, is retiring, and the site is being sold for redevelopment. Though this is clearly sad news in one sense, with change comes opportunity and we can look with fresh eyes at how we can continue to make Lowender Peran a success for the next 30 years.

Lowender Peran website with all details at: [www.lowenderperan.com/](http://www.lowenderperan.com/)

# Modernising the Magna Carta?

## Why not start in the bottom left hand corner?

### *No new Cornish constitutional accommodation without consultation.*

Jack Straw gave a speech at the George Washington University about the UK's and USA's constitutional heritage and what a British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities might look like. The talk was entitled "Modernising the Magna Carta".

The Independent has also produced an article on the United Kingdoms constitution called: Why doesn't the UK have a written constitution, and does it matter? In the article Nigel Morris writes "Britain's constitution has developed in haphazard fashion, building on common law, case law, historical documents, Acts of Parliament and European legislation". Haphazard seems just a little euphemistic to me but anyway what would this constitutional arrangement look like to the people of Cornwall if written down and how would our Cornish Duchy figure in it?

If written, it would include:- The Duke of Cornwall shall be the heir apparent. He shall have Cornwall as a Duchy and the right to control or intervene in proceedings affecting his rights, property or profits. Within Cornwall, He shall have the right to the King's Writ and Summons of Exchequer, intestate estates, bona vacantia, foreshore, treasure trove, the stannaries, gold and silver and Tintagel Castle (amongst other properties). The Duke and the Duchy of Cornwall shall have the right to a Trial at Bar, crown immunity from prosecution and exemption from the Land Registration, planning and Freedom of Information Acts. H.M. Treasury shall regulate as required by the Duchy of Cornwall Management Acts 1863-1982.

Doesn't much look like the constitution of a modern and egalitarian democracy does it? The situation, as it stands today, has this feudal relic giving the heir to the throne unaccountable and undemocratic powers to the prejudice of the indigenous people of Cornwall.

Does the government, does anyone, simply suggest codifying that which exists into a written constitution? Would anybody actually accept a constitution which flies in the face of such internationally recognised human rights standards as a guarantee of equality before the law? Why indeed do we put up with this situation now?

A new constitution will have to tackle the 'national' question in an equitable manner for all the constituent peoples of the UK as well as its crown dependencies and protectorates, but it would, of course, not be the first time that this question has been treated in the constitutional construction of the English and later UK state.

One previous settlement, whilst providing the heir to the English throne with an income thus relieving the English tax payer of the burden, recognised Cornwall's distinct position in the emerging state. The Duchy is still with us today and is one of the 'haphazard' developments that governs us in a much less than transparent way.

Some have suggested that the process of writing a British constitution would be cathartic if conducted in a genuinely inclusive fashion. I totally agree and would add that the Cornish public should be active participants in deciding the future of the Duchy, Cornwall and its constitutional position within any future state.

Following Cornwall's popular call for devolution and the growing celebration of its identity surely removing its last vestiges of



**Tintagel Castle**

constitutional recognition without public consultation would be as unjust as maintaining that which exists.

A just and modern accommodation of Cornwall demands an open and inclusive discussion with the Cornish people, something that, to date, we have been denied. Simply trying to force this round British territorial peg into a square English county hole is never going to work and so it shouldn't.

**Phil Hosking**

## Cornwall - 'cool' or just cold?

I first met Julie\* at a little coffee group in our nearby Cornish seaside village. The group had been set up by local volunteers to help those who had suffered with mental health problems and allowed for valuable social inter-action over a coffee. As with so many other activities in the Duchy, the group exists despite the statutory agencies and not because of them.

The village itself is like so many along the Cornish coast, full of tourist shops selling the usual brightly coloured bric-a-brac, mainly imported from China and cafes and pubs dispensing a wide variety of fast food and 'proper Cornish' ales. It is busy in the summer with a vibrant and prosperous air about it but in the winter, its true face can be seen, revealing poverty and social problems which would be more commonly associated with an urban environment.

Julie had been a medical professional until a 'nervous breakdown' which she had suffered in her late forties. It was then a downward spiral into poverty and disorder bringing about a decline in her physical health. She was a gifted and sensitive soul and had enjoyed writing short stories and poetry. However, her living conditions were truly appalling. She was in receipt of unemployment benefit and had secured the use of a garage adjoining a local house situated in a local housing estate. In this garage with her mattress on the floor, no working toilet and terrible damp problems so common in Cornwall, she led a simple existence, dressing as best as she could and constantly battling with asthma. Having lost the will to stand up for herself in dealing

with a bureaucratic system, she was not even in receipt of proper medical care or her full allowances.

Her problems had been flagged to the local church and other well intentioned volunteers but had been brushed to one side as being too great to resolve.

I could not even compare Julie and her plight with the Cornwall projected by the local authorities, those in the tourist industry and even some politicians. The gulf between the shiny and publicly funded Eden Project, the Tate Modern at St. Ives and £1 million homes and celebrity chefs and poor Julie might as well be as broad as the Atlantic Ocean.

Her landlord, if he could be called as much, was in the business of taking as much money as possible from her and his accommodation was neither registered nor recognised, as if it ever could be! I should not be overly critical of him though; he needed every penny and is certainly not alone in supplying sub-standard services to the vulnerable in our communities in the absence of properly resourced public services which had been partially or fully privatised during the Thatcher years - damn that woman!

My wife and I were outraged at a society which could proclaim wealth and prosperity in our homeland but allow the likes of Julie's plight and between us all, we agreed to do our very best to assist her in every way possible. After many weeks of confidence building, we properly registered her at the local Doctor's Surgery. Following a suggestion we made, Julie managed to secure a letter from her doctor stating that

her poor health was as a direct result of her living conditions. I then contacted the Housing Office in Truro and eventually, a Housing Officer visited Julie's 'home'. Of course, he immediately condemned it but carefully explained that there was absolutely no other accommodation available anywhere and that this was likely to remain the case for at least the next 18 months. With her health declining further, I eventually persuaded Julie to accompany me into Truro making it clear that she must trust me to be her advocate. We called at the Housing Department of the local authority and following the erection of the usual administrative barricades, informed the staff there that we would not leave their office until a resolution had been found. Eventually, a set of forms appeared and we were asked to leave. I refused and the forms were filled out in the reception of the office and a copy of the Doctor's letter attached. I also wrote on the forms that we would take the matter to our local M.P. and to the press.

About two weeks later, Julie was offered accommodation in a local guest house and her friends arranged to store her possessions until more permanent arrangements could be made. For the first time, Julie was well enough to sign forms to claim her proper allowances and was soon moved to a refuge for battered women, this being the only viable alternative to an expensive guest house.

A month or so later, a local authority one bed roomed flatlet became available and we were all extremely pleased to see Julie regain her pride and to start building a little home for herself. Her health improving, she is able to lead a more normal life and started to creatively write once more.

I wish I could say Julie is a lone case in Cornwall. I cannot. There are many, many more just like her, often further complicated with alcohol and drug abuse. People sleep rough on the streets of our towns and villages, often turning to crime as a means to exist. Meanwhile, those in authority continue to pin their hopes on the Tourist Industry with its poorly paid and transient jobs and glossy images whilst doffing their caps to a distant and uncaring Westminster Government. Superficial solutions are applied to deep-seated problems and little attempt made to address to underlying issues.

It is my belief and I know that I am not alone, that cases such as Julie's will continue until their problems are seen by those who can act in an executive fashion to right them, by those who hold real power and not just answer to those who wield real authority 300 miles distant.

Until that time, Cornwall cannot be 'cool' but just downright cold.

**Michael John Chappell**

## Cornish Unitary Authority is defective



The MP for the West Cornwall constituency of St Ives, Andrew George, told the Government's Local Government Minister, Rt. Hon John Healey MP, that the Parliamentary order to create a Single Unitary Authority for Cornwall was "technically, legally and politically defective" and that he would do as he had long promised and vote against the order at the first opportunity.

Mr George was speaking in a Committee debate held in the Commons on the 7th February, 2008.

He told the Minister that he would have to do more to ensure that Cornwall could realise its ambitions to gain more power from Central Government and unelected quangos in the Government zone of the South West.

Mr George criticised the order for being legally defective - not having the power to cancel elections in Penwith this year, nor for other plans - technically defective, in that it failed to abolish Cornwall County Council along with District Council's as previously promised - and politically defective - for failing to provide the structures to devolve powers to Cornwall, nor the internal structures to give local communities the ability to run their own affairs.

Mr George, who had voted against the Government's Local Government Act - which creates the framework for unitary local government - at every stage last year, accused the Minister of producing a

'minimalist' regulation which failed to meet the ambitions of the people of Cornwall.

Mr George also poured scorn on the Conservative MP, Mark Prisk, from Hertford, who he accused of engaging in petty opportunism and putting Party tribalism above the interests of Cornwall.

Although the Minister indicated that he was prepared to back down on his plans to postpone Parish Council elections until 2013, Mr George did not feel that the Minister had gone far enough and that he would stick to his long held commitments, as he reiterated throughout the process, and vote against the order when he has an opportunity in Parliament in two weeks time.

The Cornish Branch of the Celtic League has been in frequent communication with the Duchy's Members of the Westminster Parliament - all of them Liberal Democrat, about the ill case felt by many Cornish people concerning the methods used to obtain public opinion and the legality of the Unitary Authority which would have completely inadequate powers. Members of Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall (MK) have also spoken out against the Unitary Authority. Indeed, MK has been the only political party which has actively and consistently opposed Cornwall County Council's plans for a single unitary authority from the start, while maintaining the fight for a proper democratic settlement for Cornwall.

## Cornish in the National Media

The last week in January ended up being one where Cornish made the national media on couple of occasions.



**Jason Donovan**

The Cornish Language Partnership was contacted by the BBC's One Show and asked to provide some urgent translations of Aussie phrases in Cornish. The guest on the Monday edition of the show was Jason Donovan, star of the latest TV drama to be set in Cornwall, *Echo Beach*, and the idea was for him to say some phrases such as "G'day mate" and "Did you see that kangaroo?" in Cornish. As it turned out, it was the show's presenter, Adrian Chiles, who said the phrases, but it was good to hear Cornish spoken on national TV.

A discussion about Cornish followed, in which one of the presenters, Lucy Siegle, said she had Cornish ancestry and was interested in learning Cornish.



**Davyth Hicks**

Then on Tuesday, EuroLang's editor-in-chief, Cornishman Davyth Hicks, took part in a debate about minority languages on Radio Five Live. The panel discussed the importance of linguistic diversity worldwide, linking it to the loss of biodiversity and the huge impact on mankind when any language is lost. Davyth Hicks related this to examples of minority British languages. He took the stance that humankind is strengthened by its diversity and stated that monolingualism is being seen increasingly as a handicap, whilst having many languages enables us to adapt.

**Jenefer Lowe**

## CORNISH LANGUAGE PRESENTATION IN CARDIFF

The Cornish Language Today was the subject of a talk given by Jenefer Lowe at a dayschool in Cardiff recently.

The day, run by the Cymdeithas Carnhuanawc, was devoted to talks on aspects of the Celtic Languages and included a look at developments within Gaelic in Scotland, an account of early exchanges between Wales and Brittany and examination of the effect on Irish in Northern Ireland of language learning within the internment camps during the Troubles.

It was a very interesting day and we were delighted to have been asked to take part. The Cymdeithas visited Cornwall on a study tour in 2006, when they met with Rod Lyon, who talked with them about the history and development of Cornish.

**Jenefer Lowe**

*Cornish Language Partnership - MAGA*



## New Plans for Camborne-Redruth (Kernow)

'In visiting the locality, it seemed to us that there would be some merit in searching for a suitable location to provide an urban extension to Camborne/Pool/Redruth.'

So said the members of the Panel, appointed by the Government to look at the comments aired at the Regional Spatial Strategy Examination in Public last year. A small select group who are neither accountable to the Cornish electorate nor can they be called to account by the people in the locality. In addition to the 6000 dwellings proposed in the original Regional Spatial Strategy an extension would mean an additional 5100 dwellings over a 20-year period, a total of 11,100! The number of dwellings in Camborne-Redruth would increase by 60%, or in other words building a town twice the size of Redruth! The land, which would be developed, would be between 470 and 600 hectares, (60% to 75% of the current urban area), the size of 5 to 6 Carn Brea's! or 660 to 840 rugby pitches!

No doubt it would be badged as sustainable, it would be asserted that it would help the economy, in the best interests of the community and of course it would help to solve the affordable housing problem.

Yet in reality, none of these statements would be credible or true. Expanding Camborne-Redruth by 60% cannot be sustainable either in a local or global context. Cornwall already consumes more resources than it should surviving by exploiting the rest of the world. Basing economic growth on simply building more houses is neither

sustainable nor sensible. Short-termism at its worst. Such a development would obliterate the local communities, emasculating what is left of two of Cornwall's historic urban areas and surrounding mix of field, moor and hamlet. As for affordable housing, well the housing is not to meet local needs but to facilitate the Government's obsession to expand the population of the UK and the desire of people to move to Cornwall regardless of environmental, social or community impact. Indeed by building more houses, which will be marketed in the more affluent South East, more people will think lets move. Promoting Cornwall as a wonderful environment, a great place to live, will encourage more moves. Factors which the Panel with all their wisdom did not appreciate. Apparently, there are no limits to how many people can live in Cornwall, a strange position to take when sustainability is about limits.

Fundamentally what is crucial here is why should the communities in Camborne-Redruth have their future mapped out for them by a body totally unaccountable to them? It seems to us that there would be great deal of merit in allowing communities in Camborne-Redruth to determine their own future, one that meets their aspirations and needs, not one that is imposed. A future, which allowed for the development of existing communities, not for induced population growth. A future vision which offers hope instead of despair.

**Cornish Social & Economic Research Group (CoSERG)**

<http://www.cornwallcoserg.org.uk/>



# Mannin



## Mannin as Nalbin

Oddagh Mannin jannoo kianglaghyn lajer marish ny ashooneyryn t'ayns pooar ayns Ard-whaiyl Nalbin nish. Shen barel Loayreyder y Chiare as Feed, Steve Rodan, erreish da Linda Fabiani v'er chur shilley er Mannin er y gherrid. She ish Shirveishagh yn Oarpey, Cooishyn Mooie as Cultoor ayns reiltys Nalbin. V'ee er ny h-oltaghey ec reiltys Vannin, as va'n turrys eck gys Mannin soilshit dy mooar. Ta Mnr Rodan gra dy vel Mannin chebbal fys feer anaasagh da Partee Ashoonagh Nalbin (yn SNP), as oddagh y daa ashoon gynsaghey ram veih my cheilley. Ta reddyng feer scanshoil er daghyrt ayns Nalbin er y gherrid. Ayns y toshiaght, hooar yn SNP greim faase er pooar ayns Nalbin. Myr v'eh rieau, va'n ym-ysseraght ayns Lunnin lhiggey er nagh row veg taghyrt ayns Nerin, ny v'ad craiddey mysh yn SNP as gra dy beagh y Partee Obbraghys cosney pooar erash roish foddey. Agh cha ren shen taghyrt. Ren scammyltyng assee da'n Phartee Obbraghys ayns Nalbin, as, liorish leeideilys aghtal Alex Salmond, ta greim yn SNP er pooar ayns Nalbin er jeet dy ve ny stroshey. Ghow lught yn SNP toshiaght dy loayrt mychione 'Reiltys Nalbin' ayns ynyd 'Ard-whaiyl Nalbin', as ghow ad polaseeyn ayns laue nagh vel ry akin ayns Sostyn. As hug paart dy leih ayns balley beg yn M25 geill ennagh da ny barbaree twoaie. Shoh kuse jeh polaseeyn yn SNP haink dy ve brecoil y chied laa Mee Averil 2008: giarrey sheese taillaghyn son oardrailyn stoo-lheihys (ny taillaghyn shoh dy ve giarrit magh dy bollagh ayns 2011), riojey keeshyn-coonceil, cooney lesh studeyrn er aghtyn argidoil, cooney lesh dellalyn beggey, as tooilley argid da shenn sleih ayns thieyn-kiarail. Cha noddagh oo gra dy vel yn SNP ny phartee soshiallagh, agh cha nel eh liklee dy jinnagh Obbraghys Noa cur bree da lheid ny polaseeyn shen. Son y chooid smoo, neayr's y vlein 1997 ta Obbraghys Noa er chur ooashley da sleih berchagh.

Ta Linda Fabiani jeeaghyn dy ve nane jeh'n sleih brecoil syn SNP ta caghlaa Nalbin ec y traa t'ayn. Shynyn t'er ve gobbraghey son ny chengaghyn Gaelgagh rish bleecantyn, cha row shin shicky mennick dy liooar row yn SNP gobbraghey son ny noi'n Ghaelg Albinagh. Agh nish t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel yn SNP jannoo ooilley ny sheecanyng kiart bentyn rish y chengey, ga ny noddagh ad jannoo tooilley. Tra v'ee ayns Mannin, hug Linda Fabiani shilley er y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh ec Balley Keeill Eoin – va



Linda Fabiani MSP

casllys-soilshey mie jee marish ny paitchyn ayns pabyr-naight Manninagh. T'eh jeeaghyn dy hoig ec scansh y scoill shoh. Ta Lina Fabiani ny h-Albinagh-Iddaalagh as foddee dy jean shoh cooney lhee dy hoiggal y scansh jeh chengaghyn.

Va'n Vunscoil Ghaelgagh currit er bun liorish yn obbyr chreoi va jeant ec Phil Gawne as Manninee elley. As cha nhegin dooin jarrood Steve Rodan, Albinagh, Loayreyder y Chiare as Feed as fer scanshoil bentyn rish Fabiani cheet gys Mannin. Roish my row yn Vunscoil Ghaelgagh currit er bun, she'n Shirveishagh-ynsee va Steve Rodan. Bentyn rish cur y Vunscoil er bun, va sleih ennagh foostyre mygeayrt. Fy yerrey, dooyrt Steve Rodan red ennagh goll rish: 'She yn chengey euish hene t'ayn: gow-shiu er oi!' Ad hie ad er oi. Cooish vie elley: va kione-bleeaney ennagh ayn bentyn rish lught-thie reeoi Hostyn. Er lhiam dy row kiannoort Vannin ayns foayr jeh taghyrt 'reeoil' ennagh dy yannoo ardeailley jeh'n laa gloyroil. Agh va faau share ec Steve Rodan myr y Shirveishagh-ynsee: cur brattagh Manninagh as croan da gagh scoill Vanninagh. Shen ny va jeant as va Manninee dy liooar booisal son red jeant ec Albinagh.

Veagh eh trimshagh dy beagh yn eab shoh d'obbraghey marish Nalbin fioghey ersooyl. Shimmey red ayns Mannin ta croghey er un pheiaigh. My aagys y peiaigh shen, ta'n red hene goll magh ass. Cha lhisagh ny Manninee (as ny h-Albinee) lhiggey da'n chaa shoh skirrey ersooyl. Rish ymmodee bleecantyn, ta ny Manninee (erskyn ooilley Manninee as paart dy phooar oc) er chroghey er Sostyn. Cha nyrrys noadyr, my t'ou jeeaghyn shecar er y chennaghys ain. Ec un

cheayrt sy chennaghys Manninagh, s'cosoylagh nagh row rieau ny shlee na 20,000 dy Vanninee er mayrn. Cha dod ad shassoo noi armecyn dy yoarreeyn va cheet veih'n cheumooie. Ansherbee, myr sleih resoonagh, va ny Manninee laccal seihll sheeoil. Agh nish cha nel feme er Manninee dy ve croymmey sheese car y traa. Shegin dooin feddyn caarjyn ayns cheeraghyn er lhimmey jeh Sostyn chammah as ayns Sostyn. Agh foastagh, ta'n chooid smoo jeh'n reiltys ain jeeaghyn dy ve lhiggey er nagh vel Nalbin, Nerin as Bretyn ayn er chor erbee. Cha nyrrys reesht, er yn oyr dy vel Mannin ny smoo goll rish sheeyney dy Lunnin nish, kyndagh rish y cherroo-argidys. Cur oltaghey creoi da sleih goll rish Linda Fabiani, t'eh feer foaysagh da Mannin – as da Nalbin. Ta shin er ve lieh-phlooghait ec Lunnin rish keeadyn dy vleeantyn nish. T'eh grait dy vel Mannin cloie er ardane downagh nish as by chiart dooin scapail veih rumblyl Voir Sostyn tra vees mayd abyly shen y yannoo.

C'red ta ny Manninee coontey jeh Nalbin, as c'red ta ny h-Albinee coontey jeh Mannin? Foddee dy vel Manninee dy liooar smooinghyn er stereoplaityng va crooit ayns Sostyn tra t'ad smooinghyn mychione ny h-Albinee – quoi ec ta fys? Son shickyrys, ta bunnys dy chooilley Vanninagh jeeaghyn er claareyn-chellveeish as lhaih pabyryn-naight nagh vel dellal rish red erbee ta goll er ayns Nalbin. Foddee dy dynsee Manninee ennagh red ennagh mychione aym dy Nalbin liorish chellveeish Border, agh shen ooilley. Cha nyrrys dy vel eh myr shen, er y fa dy row Mannin lesh chiarnyn-thalloom Sostnagh rish keeadyn dy vleeantyn. As er yn oyr dy row (as dy vel) ooilley ny kianglaghyn-marrey lesh Sostyn. Ec y traa t'ayn, ass ooilley cummaltee Vannin, va shiaght-jeig as feed sy cheead jeh ruggit ayns Sostyn, as mysh tree sy cheead ruggit ayns Nalbin. Agh cha nel shen ny leshtal dyn kianglaghyn share y yannoo lesh Nalbin. Ta caa mie ayn dy vow Nalbin tooilley seyrnsys as foddee ny h-Albinee cooney lesh ny Manninee er aghtyn dy liooar – lesh y Ghaelg, myr toshiaght. As foddee ny Manninee cooney lesh ny h-Albinee.

C'red ta ny h-Albinee coontey jeh Mannin? Foddey er dy henney, va fys mie ec keeadyn dy leih voish Glaschu er Mannin – haink ad dys shoh er laghyn seyrey. Agh ta ny laghyn shen foddey ersooyl. Albinagh ny ghaa ta mish er veeteil rish, my ta fys erbee oc er Mannin, t'ad smooinghyn dy vel ee aym jeh Sostyn. Agh ta Albinee dy liooar ayn as fys ennagh oc er Mannin. Red quaagh ta mish er chur my ner bentyn rish Albinee ta mie ynsit ayns cooishyn as shennaghys Gaelgagh, cha nel fys oc dy row Reeriaght Vannin as ny h-Ellanyn ayn. Ta fys oc dy row reeriaght ennagh ayn, agh cha nel fys erbee oc dy nee Mannin va'n aym smoo scanshoil jeh'n reeriaght shen. As blein ny ghaa er dy henney haink skimnee-chellveeish veih Nalbin dy yannoo meer ayns

## Gaelg ayns Ellan Vannin: Manx Gaelic in the Isle of Man

It is perhaps all too easy to be depressed and negative about the state of the Celtic languages; certainly, a sense of despair about the future of Manx Gaelic has often been the default position for supporters of the language. However, the last ten years have seen a remarkable change in the fortunes of Manx; indeed, we can now say that the position of the language has probably not been as strong for over a hundred years.

Clearly, not all is rosy in the Gaelic garden but much has been achieved of recent and those involved in this renaissance have much to be proud of. In later articles, I will address some of the challenges and problems that those of us involved in the language movement face but for the time being (and how un-Gaelic is this) let's look at the good news.

There now exists a Manx Gaelic Primary school, Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, based in the centre of the Island opposite Tynwald Hill. As of present there are 53 children at the school who receive instruction in all subjects through Manx Gaelic. The first group of students have now moved on to Secondary School in Peel and are receiving a certain amount of their education through Manx, in what is otherwise an English Medium school. The education of all these students has been boosted by the recent extension for another two years of the position of Gaelic writer supported



Bunscoil Ghaelgagh

financially by the Manx Heritage Foundation – [www.manxheritage.org](http://www.manxheritage.org) – and the Department of Education. This position enables original and translated material to be produced to support the education of all these children.

Behind all these developments has been the fantastic work carried out with pre-school children by Mooijer Veggey, the Manx Playgroup organisation. The work of Mooijer Veggey, who run a network of playgroups and nurseries, has been fundamental in the revival of the language and the success of the Bunscoil.

Manx is an option for all children at Primary schools and the language is now properly timetabled in two of the five Secondary Schools on the Island. Unnid Gaelgagh, the Department of Education's Manx Gaelic team have often faced many difficulties in expanding access for children to the language but this is a battle they are slowly winning. Refreshingly there are now a growing number of extremely talented Manx speakers at secondary level.

In conjunction with this has been the 'Manxification', in particular at Primary level, of the curriculum. No longer is the default position the UK or England for subjects such as History. The recent support by the Manx Heritage Foundation for the Hop tu Naa festival on the Island, and the support this received from schools, illustrates that children have now a much greater access to the history and traditions of the Island. In conjunction with this, is the fantastic work of the Foundation's Music officers in supporting traditional music both in schools and in the wider community.

The role of the Manx Heritage Foundation has been fundamental in providing financial support for many projects linked to the language. As the Manx Language Officer for the Foundation I am involved in supporting both private and public involvement with the language. Indeed, many private sector companies see supporting the language as something that has real benefit for them. Recent support, in particular, from Manx Telecom / Chellinsh Vannin is extremely encouraging and demonstrates that there is the possibility for a genuine dynamic between business and culture on the Island. But it isn't just Manx Telecom. The incidental use of the language on Manx Radio; the light-hearted

Gaelic videos with the Isle of Man Newspapers; financial support from businesses for the Cooish and the high profile the language received with the recent branding initiative on the island all illustrates that the language has a much higher profile than it has of recent.

The weak link in the recent revival is probably support for adults who are learning the language; however, there are now a number of projects underway to develop this area. The newly created website [www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com) is the first part of what will hopefully be a well-organised and professionally run network for adult learners. There is much to be done here but the resources are available and the demand there to see some really positive developments on the adult language front.

All those involved in the language movement are aware of the legacy we owe to those who fought for the language in a previously less friendly political climate. Without their hard work we wouldn't be where we are today and it is a great shame that the likes of Jack Gell, Mona Douglas and Doolish y Karagher aren't here to witness all these developments. Many of us are frustrated by many developments in the Island, but whereas the language is concerned, we have much to be both grateful for and proud of.

**Adrian Cain**  
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[www.mooijerveggey.org.im](http://www.mooijerveggey.org.im)  
[www.bunscoil.iofm.net](http://www.bunscoil.iofm.net)

### Mannin as Nalbin contunued

Gäidhlig mychione seyrey thieyn-lhionney Vannin veih reillyn. Hoilshee Manninee magh da'n skimme Albinagh dy dod ny Manninee shen y yannoo er y fa nagh vel Mannin sy Reeriaght Unnaneyisit. Deaisht ny h-Albinee, ren ad y claare beg mychione thieyn-lhionney Vannin as yeeagh shin er. Sy chlaare, dooyrt y traghteyr mysh tree keayrtyn stoo goll rish 'Mannin, myr aynryn elley jeh'n Reeriaght Unnaneyisit...' Raip shin magh y folt ain. As mish gaccan reesht, kuse dy vleeantyn er dy henney, dooyrt Albinagh va stiurey Feailley-fillym ny Celtiee nagh row Mannin lowit goaill ayn sy feailley er yn oyr nagh row Mannin ny cheer Cheltiagh. Agh shen gaccan dy liooar. Lhig dooin cur booise mooar dy vel caaghyn noa ayn nish son Mannin as Nalbin d'ob-braghey ry cheilley: hoooin roin.

### Summary

Recently, Linda Fabiani, the Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture in the Scottish Government, visited the Isle of Man as a guest of the Manx Government. She had useful discussions and visited the Manx Gaelic medium primary school. Steve Rodan, Speaker of the House of Keys, stressed the importance of the interchange of ideas between Scotland and the Isle of Man.

**Brian Stowell**

## Chronicles of Mann Campaign Gains New Ally

The campaign to bring home the Manx Chronicles could have another ally – after moves to repatriate the Lewis chessmen ended in stalemate.

There has been widespread support for our campaign for the return of the Chronicles – described as the Island's most important medieval manuscript.

Last year Tynwald voted unanimously to begin urgent negotiations with the British Library to allow the document to be put on permanent display at the Manx Museum.

Now in a move that echoes that of the Chronicles, the Scottish Culture Minister Linda Fabiani has called for the ancient Lewis chessmen to be similarly repatriated from the British Museum.

The Celtic League, which has campaigned for years for the return of the Chronicles, has called on the British-Irish Council to recover these artefacts which they claim have been 'plundered'.

The Lewis chessmen, consisting of 93 pieces carved from walrus ivory probably some time in the 12th century, were discovered in 1830 under a sand bank on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis in the Scottish Outer Hebrides.

## MI5 plan to use Belfast bunker in emergency

## Children's Oath to Queen Proposed

Schoolchildren are to be encouraged to swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen and promise to obey the law in ceremonies similar to those for new immigrants. A review of citizenship by Lord Goldsmith, the former attorney-general, will say this procedure could strengthen children's understanding of what it means to be British.

One idea is for immigrants' citizenship ceremonies to be held in schools where children could also take part. Alternatively the event could be included in citizenship studies, which are part of the national curriculum.

Sources close to the review, which was commissioned by Gordon Brown, say the plan is designed to help immigrants and citizens develop a "shared sense of belonging". It mirrors the pledge by American schoolchildren to the flag, which is made while standing at attention with the right hand over the heart. The pledge is not compulsory but it is common practice in American schools.

Goldsmith's report also proposes that citizenship ceremonies for immigrants ought to be held in other public places, such as art galleries, as well as schools. It recommends immigrants should have "mentors" to teach them British customs and traditions and offer help. The review says they ought to be able



Lynne Featherstone

to obtain free English lessons.

Critics questioned the value of British-born children swearing allegiance. Lynne Featherstone, the Liberal Democrat youth and equality spokeswoman, said: "I don't think pledging allegiance to the Queen is the answer to young people's problems."

I wonder if it shall sound anything like this...

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the *United Kingdom*, and to the *union* for which it stands: one Nation under God, indivisible, With Liberty and Justice for all."

The security service, MI5, has drawn up plans to decamp to a state-of-the-art emergency headquarters in Northern Ireland if its base in London falls victim to a terrorist attack. The £20m building on the shores of Belfast Lough can house up to 400 staff and has a reserve computer system capable of co-ordinating all security operations.

Opened without fanfare in December, the centre is one of eight regional MI5 hubs that feed in information about suspected terrorist activities. But writing in the new edition of *Monitor*, the journal of the Royal United Services Institute think-tank, Margaret Gilmore, a fellow of the institute, says the building has been given a remit that stretches far wider than combating terrorism in Northern Ireland.

The base already houses linguists, IT experts and interpreters. But intelligence sources have told Gilmore that if there was a national emergency and the service's main headquarters at Thames House could not be used, operations would be switched to the Belfast centre. But the opening of the base is in danger of widening rifts in the North. Nationalists view the security service with suspicion and accuse it of turning a blind eye to loyalist activities. Sinn Féin's policing and justice spokesman, Alex Maskey, told *Monitor*: "I treat anything MI5 does with suspicion and our aim is to get it out of here."

Charles McLaughlin



Showing the flag of Cornwall during the Dewi San celebration.

## Dewi San St David's Day

Dewi San attracted people from all the Celtic Nations - brothers and sisters all. Celtic languages that many dismiss as dead were to be heard quite openly.

In Cardiff, in excess of 7,000 people attended 'Dewi San' - a mixture of Celts from the Celtic Nations.

In Kernow, commercial radio in the form of Pirate FM had wall to wall patriotic coverage of the events in the Duchy although the publicly funded BBC radio station felt ill at ease in its coverage of such matters and referred to Kernow as a 'County' rather than by its correct form 'Duchy' drawing scorn from many people towards the so called 'public information channel'.

Throughout, much solidarity was shown towards the Cornish who have suffered at the hands of the authorities in Kernow.

# COMPETITION

## COMPETITION

Kernow Secretary, Mike Chappell, has donated four books which a lucky Carn reader could win! The first competition prize is 'Our Future is History'.

Readers should answer the following question – answer can be found in this issue!

### What is Yves Tanguy known for?

**Our Future is History** by John Angarrack

ISBN ISBN 0952931346 Published by Independent Academic Press and available from most good bookstores but in particular from Cornish Heritage

#### Review

This is the book the police in Kernow always seize when raiding the homes of Cornish Activists. A radical and different view of Cornwall and the Cornish question.

Identity, Law and the Cornish Question by John Angarrack, 342 pages, 1st edition 2002;

The passion and the critique of sacred cows in this book makes a refreshing change from the cloying romanticism that pervades so much writing in Cornwall" (Dr. Bernard Deacon, Institute for Cornish Studies).

Answers should be posted or emailed to the Editor (address shown on this page). Closing date June 1st when a draw will take place. Results will be announced in the next issue of Carn.



## Membership and Subscriptions

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All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership/subscription rates (including *Carn*) are: € 24.00, Sterling £14.50, Europe (airmail) £20.00, Outside Europe £22.00. 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.

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