

# CAWPN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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**ALBA:** COMUNN  
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KELTEK • **CYMRU:** UNDEB  
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



# ALBA

## Dan Duthcha - de tha san dan? le Niall Gordan

Baile nan raon air a dhruideadh gu dluth  
le leudachd nam binnean 's srulaig 'nan surd  
cnuiccean 'nan cro' s iad ri combharran caomh,  
is linnean ro-chiune dhan duraginn suil

Is iad sin faclan fìlhidh a tha air a dhùthachd  
thein ath-lorg tu dhuilchach nach robh iad  
soilleir dha fad ioma bliadhna d' a bheatha -  
Niall Gordan, no Niall Iosaiph  
a' Pheanair, a tha a' fuireach anns a' Bhlair  
Dhubh, baile beag eadar Inbhir Nis agus  
Inbhir Pheofharain ann a Siorramachd  
Rois. S gann na tha air fhagail an diugh  
dhen seann chaint sa cheamhaidh ach chan  
e sin e do na h-uidhir a dh'ainmeanann-aite  
a tha a' dearbhadh gu robhar a' bruidhinn na  
Gàidhlig anseo uaireigin. Gu dearbh, tha  
iomradh againn air 'Coisiche Siorramachd  
Rois', sin Fearchar Mac Illinnein, no  
'Fearchar a' Ghunna', a bha beo san linn  
mu dheireadh, agus b' i Ghàidhlig a  
chaint-sa; dh'fhag e 'Urnaigh na  
Creibhaig' againn mar dhùthach, rud a tha  
uamhasach cudthromach 'mar latha-ne a  
thaobh na h-arainneachd, oir anns an  
urnaigh aige, bheir e iomradh air gach mhor  
gach na a chitheadh e mun cuairt air, eadar  
na h-eòin is na craobhan 's mar sin air  
adhart. Nise, tha seo cudthromach ann an  
da dhoigh: tha 'gleidhticheas' ga  
dheanamh air cumadh na duthcha aig an  
am uir, ach nas domhainne buileach dhan  
theadhain a tha ag ionnsachadh na  
Gàidhlig an seo an diugh, tha e a' toirt  
creideas dhan bheachd gu robh Am Blar  
Dubh a cheart cho gaidhealach ri aite sam  
bith eile ann an Alba - rud nach eil cuid  
a' gabhail ris fhathast! Agus is e seo  
cruaidh-cheist an thrì-ionnsachadh: chan  
eilear ach a' deanamh tair air gach oidhirp  
sa bhaile agus a' Ghàidhlig ath-  
steidheachadh. Bidh cuid de na seann  
tidsearan ris an son duan 's a bh' aca riann,  
se sin nach eile math sam bith sa Ghàidhlig  
- gur e a b' fhearr. Laidheann, no canan  
eorpach sam bith eile. Tha sinn cleachdte  
gu-leor air a bh' a' cluinntin nam barallean  
amealach sin. Ach de ghabhas deannamh?

Uill, tha Niall Gordan airson, ann an  
doigh, eisimpleir Fhearchair a' Ghunna  
leantail, se sin, dileas fhagail aig daoina a  
tha a' thoirt 'beothalnas' Gàidhlig dhan sgrì

luchd-cainnidh na Gàidhlig - ach de tha san  
dan? Tha Niall dhen a' bheachd nach eilear  
a' deanamh gu-leor ameasg nan  
coimhearsnachd: tha e ghe mthath a bh' a' cur  
Gàidhlig air chois do luchd-turais, ach de  
tarraingeach? Duilchach? Bardach?  
Seinneadh na h-orain - ach de mu na baird?  
Tha cus 'ga dheanamh airson 's nach teid  
aite dligeach a thoirt dhan a' Ghàidhlig, 's  
gun cumar sios i. Ach a's a' mhionaid a tha  
duine airson tuilleadh a dheanamh, canar, o,  
is toil leam a' Ghàidhlig 's na h-orain, ach...  
Feumaidh aithneachadh a bh' aice air  
feadh na Gaidhealtachd mar chanan na  
Gaidhealtachd - cuimhich de thachair ann  
an Ceap Bhreatain uaireigin a thaobh ar  
canain - gu leor 'ga dheanamh do luchd-  
turais, agus sgoiltean a' call amach.

**Summary**  
Niall Gordan, working as a 'poet without  
honour' in an area which refuses to endorse  
its Gaelic Heritage, describes his feelings  
and relationship with the local landscape,  
finding safety and new Gaelic life in it, and  
he exhorts his neighbours to find themselves  
in their culture rather than be concerned  
with petty affairs like lotteries and drugs.  
He castigates teachers for their attitude to  
Gaelic, and reminds people that once in  
Cape Breton the money was all set aside for  
promoting Gaelic as a tourist attraction  
while schools were losing out.

aige - le sin san amhar, tha e air dan a chur  
an ceill a dh'innseas sgeul maise na sgrì  
sin ann an dusan rannan, ach cuideachd a  
tha a' soilleireachadh na cus dha a thaobh  
feallsanachd is creideamh a bheatha fhein.  
Theid an dan air fad fhollaiseachadh ann an  
'Gairm' a dh'athghearr, ach nach  
seallamaid air corra rann an seo an  
ceartuair. Sa chiald dol-s-mach, se maise na  
sgrì is sabhalteachd nam beann a tha  
fianear dha bharrd...

Arainn tha cuisleach gur fad thu 's  
mall-charach...  
...Se bu chaomh leam o'm oige bhi 'n  
roid fad ri'm beann  
siod aite mo throifar far nach tig na tha  
teann...

Agus an uairsin, tha Niall a' toirt  
tarrainn air seann teachdaireachd nam bard  
Gàidhlig, a tha cudthromach dha...

Ceart-shiòl nam fonn-sa le 'n sgeulachd  
dhan t-saoghail  
siod a' chiall bu neo-ghorach don greoid  
san ur-thiom-s'...

Tha Niall dhen a' bheachd gu bheil eair  
a' bhruidhinn cus air gorachais an la an  
diugh, leithid crannchar (lottery) agus  
e ag innse dhaoina gun a bh' a' gabhail  
gnòthach thlachd ann an rudan a tha a' cur  
dhaoina ann an Alba air leth. Chi e na  
beanntan ann an solas ur, mar gum biodh o  
chionn's gur e na h-ainmeanann Gàidhlig a  
tharraing dha na beanntan sin e...

...Beanntachan chlaonadh no  
cheuma le gair  
nuair a thogadh an sgallean bho  
m' shuilean 's mi'n lathair.

Tha soilleireachd a dhualchais nise air a  
dhùthachd do Niall, agus ni e sogan ris an  
fhàrachdhan sin a tha cho domhainn 'na  
cridhe, ach a tha doirbh a mhinneachadh do

## GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION UNDER THREAT

I hope you can publish most of the  
following in **Carn**. If this school closure is  
allowed to go ahead it would be a grave  
set-back for Gaelic Medium Education in  
Alba (and possibly other Celtic countries  
under British control).

On 25/4/96 the Liberal/Democrat  
controlled Aberdeenshire Council decided  
to close the Gaelic Medium Unit at  
Peterhead with effect from the end of June  
1996. They were opposed by the SNP  
councillors but supported by the so-called  
local 'independent' councillors.

The excuse was that it was part of a  
cost-cutting package (to save a mere  
£8,000) throughout the Education Budget,  
but the savings will be minimal, because  
the teacher will have to find another  
post in the 'mainstream sector' elsewhere  
in Aberdeenshire. Is it not strange that they  
should discriminate against the GM  
sector considering that local education  
authorities only have to pay 25% of the  
cost anyway! (75% funding comes from the  
Scottish Office).

This decision shows the hypocrisy of  
the Unionist Parties. Two days after the  
Peterhead decision Paddy Ashdown was  
still claiming in a P.P. broadcast on TV that  
the Lib/Dems wanted to improve education  
and were still prepared to put up on Income  
Tax to do this. Obviously, the situation in  
the real world, where the Lib/Dems have  
a little power proves them to be an anti-  
Scottish party.

The 3 pupils and parents of the  
Peterhead GMU would have no alternative  
school to continue their Gaelic  
education. The callous and indifferent  
councillors actually suggested the children  
could make the 66ml. round trip to the  
GMU in Aberdeen, unsupervised on  
Public Transport!

If this goes ahead the children's  
education will be ruined and it could have a  
deep psychological effect on them. One  
child has been receiving his education in  
Gàidhlig for 5 years now, although the  
Peterhead GMU has only been open for  
2 years. It's well known, the units increase  
their intake dramatically once they become

established. The statistics from across Alba  
support this. The GM Units have been a  
great success since the first one opened in  
Inverness over 11 years ago. There are now  
about 50 units in Scottish schools teaching  
almost 1,500 children through the medium  
of Gàidhlig!

The latest opened in Forfar, Angus in  
8/95.

There has never been a closure of a  
Gàidhlig medium unit in Alba (except for one  
case where a replacement teacher  
couldn't be found). Don't let the Unionist  
Lib/Dems start the thin edge of the wedge.

Letters of condemnation of the decision  
and support for GM education should be  
sent to Lib/Dem MPs, especially MP for  
Gordon - Malcolm Bruce and Paddy  
Ashdown, and to the Director of Education

- Michael White, Aberdeenshire Council,  
Woodhill House, Westburn Road,  
Aberdeen, AB16 6GB, Alba. Also to Alan  
Campbell Chief Executive of  
Aberdeenshire Council, address as above.

**PS.** The parents at the Peterhead GMU are  
prepared to keep their children from  
schools where the new term starts in August  
1996. Let us hope that we can overturn the  
decision before it comes to this.

Les Mac an Ultaigh

## Who Owns Scotland Now? Chains and Slavery

The high profile taken by the land issue  
in Scotland today stems from the waste of  
resources which categorise so much of our  
history in the Union with England.  
Consequently its abuse is the symbol of  
powerlessness and lack of sustainability  
which the nation feels instinctively.

Two major books measure the present  
mood. 'Who Owns Scotland Now?' by  
Austan Cramb opts for a review of 10 huge  
estates, their management and owners'  
outlook. This focus highlights the gross  
concentration of power of a social,  
economic and political nature in such few  
hands. It surveys the manmade wilderness  
over which these few wealthy owners  
preside. Cramb's style of environmental  
journalism probes the good, the bad and the  
plain ugly in terms of the sport versus trees  
issue; the access for recreation over  
exclusive pursuits by the heatherocracy;  
comparing hereditary lairds like Cameron  
of Lochiel and rich incomers like Van  
Vlietingen of the Netherlands and of  
corporate conservation buyers, like the  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
with Alcan, the aluminium giants, amongst  
others. They respectively own well over  
80,000 acres (32,000 hectares) each and are  
in the top twenty biggest owners.

The author sets out to chronicle the  
present outlook of this exclusive club and  
was drawn to radical conclusions about  
what he surveyed. This is far from  
surprising considering the festering sores of  
decay and delay in meeting the needs of  
resident communities on the island of Eigg,  
which is owned by an absentee German  
artist Maruma and Knoydart, on the  
adjacent western mainland, whose string of  
recent owners have tried to asset strip the  
huge peninsula and left the 50 or so  
residents seeking powerful corporate allies  
like the residents of Eigg, to attempt a  
community buyout to end the stalemate.

Our hills are riddled with gross over-  
population of red deer, twice the numbers  
earlier this century. As befits this Tory  
government we see a Bill going through the  
London parliament to tackle the problem to  
soothe the landed interest but ensure a cull  
of a daring one third of their numbers,  
when two thirds culled - let trees and  
grasses regenerate. Meanwhile the quixotic  
Thatcherite, Secretary of State for  
Scotland, Michael Forsyth has offered state  
owned crofting estates to their resident  
tenants in the form ofcroft trusts based on  
the model pioneered in the private North  
Assynt estate, as chronicled in Carn in  
1993.

Mr Forsyth has also offered the Laggan  
Forest, in central Inverness-shire to the  
local community trust to manage or buy  
against the Tory Treasury policy to grab

cash from highest bidders for mature  
forests to build a nest egg for the tax cuts  
expected by a SE England electorate before  
the coming general election. So  
competition by the Tory for scarce rural  
votes is an echo of early this century when  
Tory and Liberal governments did much to  
intervene in the free land market in a way  
which no Labour government in the UK  
has ever dared.

Opinion surveys by leading Scottish  
papers show mounting opposition to  
foreign or absentee owners of big estates  
and a demand for a sensible access law to  
be enacted to replace the voluntary  
concordat reached by landowners led by  
the Dutchman, Van Vlietingen in uneasy  
partnership with the Scottish Land Owners  
Federation, the Ramblers Association and  
mountain-keeping council.

Taking the temperature of all shades of  
opinion on land tenure and land use issues  
this year is the Scottish Land Commission,  
set up by the SNP but independently staffed  
and chaired by Prof. Allan MacInnes,  
Aberdeen University. It will report later this  
summer after taking copious written and  
aural evidence around Scotland and publish  
a report for all interested parties.

Intertwined with this upheav activity is  
the demand for solutions. Just how radical  
would a Scottish parliament need to be to  
settle a new land tenure pattern after nine  
centuries of feudalism? Perhaps it is no  
surprise in the age of Tony Blair that  
Labour's spokespersons response is  
'muted' according to The Herald  
(Glasgow). The pitch for middle English  
votes mustn't question the 'sacred rights of  
property', must they? (contd.)

(Who owns... contd.)

Cramb's book reaches surprisingly radical conclusions couched in the environmental imperative to end the gross exploitation inherent in a free-market, status driven ownership system.

Andy Wightman updates the pioneering work of late John McEwen of the 1970s to catalogue as far as can be discerned from a far from comprehensive land register, *Who Owns Scotland?* \*\* Published in May this year he also analyses what happens in exclusive land owning circles and proposes detailed solutions to the problems.

The fascinating lists of estates and the limited information about their real owners goes hand in hand with clear maps of all Scottish counties and in the process puts to shame a modern government machine which has so far failed to place such a land register in every local government service point. As a tool to lever changes, Andy Wightman's work is a must for all interested in the debate about power and resources in modern society.

Wightman, like Auslan Cramb, points to the far more sophisticated and resident friendly systems in Norway, Denmark and Holland. They both see the need for a Land Commission to oversee the transfer of land to a much wider spectrum of land holders and for the planning of ecologically and economically sustainable uses.

Since the tide of opinion is towards a Scottish solution decided in Scotland, much hope is pinned on a Scottish parliament taking land as a prime policy target. The debate has left the Westminster solution adrift, hence the Tories belated attempts to join the bidding, but the crunch is how radical such a parliament has to be to tackle the roots of the unique feudal property system under which Scotland grows.

Andy Wightman concludes that Scotland 'needs a parliament with full control over land law, tenure, occupancy and use in both the private and public sectors. It needs to have a direct role in European affairs which are critical to agriculture, fisheries, rural development and environmental policies, and in taxation matters which, as highlighted by inheritance tax provisions, are an important tool in wealth redistribution.'

Seems to me the prescription for Independence in Europe, which all the Celtic countries aspire to.

\* Who Owns Scotland Now? - the use and abuse of private land, by Auslan Cramb. Published by Mainstream Publishing, Edinburgh and London £14.99 hardback ISBN 1 85158 728 4.

\*\* Who Owns Scotland? by Andy Wightman. Published by Canongate Books, Edinburgh, £14.00 paperback ISBN 0 86241 585 3.

Rob Gibson

4 Cam

# Waverley

Some might find surprising to read such an article in *Cam*, although the book I want to speak of is exceptional in many ways. I am speaking of Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley*, perhaps the most beautiful book ever written about the Scottish Highlands. It was first published in 1814, that is sixty years after Culloden (Caill Lodhar), after the end of the last true Celtic society in Europe (feudalism was very weak, even in those days, in the Gàidhealtachd). After this event, the English language was allowed to penetrate our green hills and our misty islands, to imitate Scott's romantic tone. After MacPherson's poetry, this novel was like another attempt to restore people's consideration for the Gaels. By retelling the story of Culloden, seen with the eyes of an Englishman, Scott shows that the Scots were not the Barbarians everyone thought they were! Today, however, *Waverley* remains extremely important, both for the Scots and the Celts throughout the world, for it would make everyone proud to be a Gael; everyone should (re-)read the chapter "A Highland feast": the pleasure of being together, the pleasure of listening to the Bard... The ancient way of life may not have been perfect, but the way Scott depicts it makes it really attractive, and it is so sad to see how, even in Perthshire, everyone spoke in Gaelic; sentences containing "The Gaelic Language..." are recurrent and suddenly, the true face of Scotland appears, how it was, how it should be, perhaps, a true nation, living for itself and not only for tourism - there is nothing more frustrating than seeing in magazines, especially French ones, advertisements

reading: "Go and study English in the Highlands of Scotland, Beautiful scenery etc..." In fact it is noticeable that Gaelic is the only language that fits the Highland environment. The chapter about Scottish poetry is even more beautiful, not only for the description of the scenery, but also because it shows the equality of Gaelic poetry with the greatest poetical traditions in the world; it also shows how important minstrelsy has always been for the Scots in particular and the Celts in general. I should advise everyone to read this beautifully entertaining and easy-to-read novel, and it is to hope that the advice given by Flora in these verses found in the novel will soon be followed:

There is mist on the mountain, and night on the vale,  
But more dark is the sleep of the sons of the Gael.  
A stranger commanded - it sunk on the land,  
It has frozen each heart, and benumb'd every hand!  
(...)  
Awake on your hills, on your islands awake,  
Brave sons of the mountain, the frith, and the lake!  
'Tis the bugle - but not for the chase is the call;  
'Tis the pibroch's shrill summons - but not to the hall.

Ref: Sir Walter Scott, *Waverley* or 'Tis sixty years since, 1814, Penguin Popular Classics, 1 pound.

Séamas Ó Loingsigh

exchanging places as might the dancers in a set-dance, or the patterns in a kaleidoscope.

These stories also function on an allegorical level, and it seemed appropriate in this case to let the music 'speak' for itself, without additional lyrics."

Máire, it may be mentioned, is a long standing member of the Irish Branch of the Celtic League and was the Irish Branch Secretary for a number of years in the eighties.

Máire Breatnach is a musician of exceptional calibre in a number of music-related disciplines. She has performed and recorded with a wide variety of artists and has worked extensively in film and television.

As a solo performer she has now recorded and produced four albums, *Celtic Moon*, *Angels Candles*, *Branohm: The Voyage of Bran* and the latest *Celtic Lovers*.

For further information contact: Loads Cop Productions, 6 Dartmouth Place, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

# Celtic Lovers

Máire Breatnach, one of Ireland's leading contemporary composers/producers, launched her new album *Celtic Lovers* in April.

For this album, the successor to *Branohm - The Voyage of Bran* Máire has chosen six of the most well-known couples in Irish mythology, outlining their stories and the diversity of experience to be found within them. Beginning with the Celtic sea-god, Manannan Mac Lir, and his partner, Fand, we then encounter Cuchulainn and Emer, Derdriu and Naoise, Medbh and Ailill, Diarmuid and Gráinne finally competing the circle with Niamh Cuan Orr (Manannan's daughter) and Oisín.

One of the earliest surprises was that few of these couples fitted a western 20th century image of 'idealised romance', all, whether of this or of the Otherworld, tend to mingle and overlap, sometimes

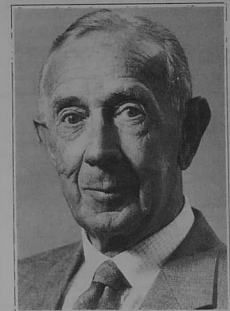


## Tomás de Bhaldráithe

amañ: evit termenoù a vez graet ganto alies e kavan gwel gerioù nevez a orin keltiek ma vez tu d'ober anezho eeun hag aes da zistagañ. Met anzav a ran ez eo pouezusoc'h ober gant doareoù reizh ar

Tomás de Bhaldráithe\* a oa unan eus yezhonourien iwerzhonat brudetañ ar mare-mañ. D'ar 24 Ebrel e varvas a-dol-turun hag en o kemer perzh en un emvod da vruañ ul levr nevez-embanet. Oadet e oa a 79 bloaz.

Anavezet e oa dreist-holl en abeg d'e c'heriador saozneg-iwerzhoneg, embanet e 1959. Gant an oberenn-se e reas kalz evit diazezañ da vat doare-skrivañ peurunvan iwerzhoneg. Gant diskar ar sevenadur gouezet c'hoarvezet da heul an drouziwezh e Clonn (Súile) (1601) e oa bet kemeret ar pleg gant ar skrivagnerien da skrivañ pep hini un tamm mat hervez distagadur e rannezh ha pa veze savet ar Stad e 1921 ar gemennerien skol-veur ne voent ket gouest d'en em gleveit evit aozañ ur skrivadur a c'halljed implijout en holl skolioù hag a oa bremañ o c'herfidi kelenn iwerzhoneg. Ret e voe d'an "tevezeg" (kentañ ministri E. de Valera reñ urzh da gardigi (hag a oa barrek a-walc'h) da brientiñ ar "peurunvan" hag a voe degemeret neuze a-berzh Stad en deskadurezh, er skridoù kefridiel, h.a. War ziazezh braslinennoù an doare-skrivañ-se eo e savas De Bhaldráithe e c'heriador. Evel just e voe kavei stioù ennañ, met kalz eunoc'h e oa eget ar re a oa araok. Pezh a oa talvoudus avat eo e oa anezhañ ur benveg mat evit ezteuler ezhommoù ar vubez arnevez. A dra sur e kaved enañ ar gerioù hag an troiennoù evit divizoù ar vubez pendeziek, met reñ a rae ivez termenoù e-leizh evit ezhommoù arbennek, da skouer evit komz eus danvezioù skiantel. Evit aozañ pe dibab ar seurt-se en doa gouennet skoaell digant un toullad mat a dud, evel mezeien, fizikourien, gwiraourien. Evit kalz eus termenoù skiantel ar saozneg eo bet aozet termenoù iwerzhonek diagent, peuvuññ diwar gerioù keltiek o gwizioù. De Bhaldráithe a gavas gwelloc'h degemer termenoù "etrevadell", ouz o c'hempenn diouz reolennoù an doare-skrivañ, da skouer teileascop evit "teleskop", "Reifirmisim" evit "Reformation" (Disivoud), Skoueriekkaat a reas ivez ar stummad da reñ da ragerkioù ha lostgerioù, evel ma reas Ropazr Hemon daou-ugent vloaz 'zo evit ar brezhoneg. (Ma lavarin ma soñj



Tomás de Bhaldráithe 1916-1996

yezhadur ha gant troioù-lavar hag a eztaol un doare-soñjal diouzh ijn hor yezh).

Geriador De Bhaldráithe a vije ezhomm bras d'e glokaat goude tost da 40 vloaz. Embannet ez eus bet rolloù gerioù nevez evit ezhommoù zo bet merzet abaoe e gentañ embanidigezh, met ne spir ket, ret e vije o dastum en ur geriadur bras all. Aet e oa De Bhaldráithe da genidik her gant e studi e Pariz e 1939 met en abeg d'ar brezel e tistroas abred da Iwerzhon hag em ouestlas neuze da studiañ ar rannyez komzet e Cois Fharrage, an tolead hag en em led ar c'hornôg d'An Spideál. Gant ar studienn-se e tiskouezas pegen bras e oa talvoudigezh iwerzhoneg Conamara, a veze sellet outañ gant darn eus lennerien rannvro Munster evel ouz ur c'hozh trefodach. E gouzelva Munster eo bet miret gwelloc'h eget e lec'h all hengoun lennegel ar yezh. Gwashañ pezh zo koulskoude o deus dal'het un tamm mat

nebeutoc'h a dud du-hont d'ober gant an iwerzhoneg eget e kornôg Connacht ha Tir Chonnall (Donegal).

A-drugarez d'an div oberenn am eus mmeget e voe anvet De Bhaldráithe da gelenner war an iwerzhoneg a-vremañ e Skolaj Skol-veur Dulem e 1960. Ne oa ket unan eus ar ouizieñ-se, a bled gant ar yezhoù keltiek, hag a ra fae war ar re a stiv da ad'houint o flas dezho er vubez foran. Alies e kemere perzh e bodadegoù ha kendalc'hioù aozet gant ensaverien. Se ne vire ket outañ da ober labour foumuis war dachenn ar ouiziegezh. Oberennoù dianav eus lennegzh iwerzhonek an 19vet ha derou an 20vet kantvet a voe kempennet hag embannet gant.

E 1976 e voe anvet da bennaouer ur geriadur klok eus an iwerzhoneg, ur riklin divizeg gant Akademerezh Roueel Iwerzhon. Ul labour rannzel! Bez' e tlee bezañ e bennoberenn, met swiwhañ n'eo ket bet kaset da benn c'hoazh.

A Heusaff

**Geriou nebeut anavezet**  
arbennek - special: raklun - project.  
"Tevezeg", diouzh kembraeg 'tywysog', iwerzhoneg 'taoiseach', savet diwar to-ved- o talvoud ren.  
\* De Bhaldráithe' zo distaget de 'wal dré be.

**Summary**  
T. de Bhaldráithe, formerly professor of modern Irish in University College, Dublin, died on 24/4. He will be remembered chiefly as the author of the first English-Irish dictionary of modern Irish. He carried out a thorough study of the dialect of Cois Fharrage (S. Connemara). He was appointed in 1976 as chief editor of *Foclóir na Nua-Ghaeilge* (Dictionary of Modern Irish), a major undertaking which is unfinished.

**Al Liamm**, literary magazine in Breton, bimonthly Subscription 180F (Britany, France) 200F outside State but 250F airmail, to P. ar Bihan, 16r des Fours à Chaux, 35400 St.Malo. The Jan.-Feb. issue, Nr 294 (90pp) presents two poems, reminiscences of a childhood in the country E. of Montreux/Merlax, a translation of a story by F. Kafka in which events have a dreamlike quality, a wealth of notes as usual at the end, but the most interesting contributions are those of Reun ar C'Halán and Jorj Belz. The former tells us how Meven Mordiern, already as a young boy of French bourgeois background became enthusiastic about the ancient Celts and later, associated with the lexicographer Fransez Vallée, exercised an enormous influence on the development of the language J. Belz, writing in Gwened dialect adapted to the unified spelling, takes us on a stormy day to a cave by the sea where he encounters an unworlidy...maid - not the traditional mermaid, though.

5 Cam

## Ma'z it da Vro-Skos

Cumann na Gàidhlig, an hini pòuzeusañ moarvat eus aozadurioù emsav gouezeleg Bro-Skos, en deus embannet evit 1997 ul levrig brav a 32 bajenn, a vent gant Carn. An titl: Fàilte. Welcome to Scotland's Gaelic Renaissance.

Anv a vez eus troiadouriezh sevenadurel - cultural tourism. Setu amañ un embannadur zo ur skouer vat eus ar pezh a c'haller ober evit lakaat ar c'heal-se da dremen er pleustr.

Koulz ha lec'hskudennoù livek dibabet-mat o tiskouez lec'hioù ha savadurioù hag a dalvez mont d'o gwelet, evel ma vez anezho el levrioù bruderezh evit an douristed, e kaver ditour a-zivout traoù a denn d'an istor ha dreist-holl d'ar gouezeleg en Inizi Hebridez hag en Uheldirioù. Da skouer, menegiñ a reer ar c'heizennoù ma vez komzet pe kelennet ar yezh, ma vez klevet sonerezh skosat, ma vez graet diskouezadegoù. En dibenn ez eus peber fajennad a chomlec'hioù ma c'haller

lojañ ha ma'z eo gouest ar perc'henn pe unan bennak eus ar servijourien da gomz gouezeleg.

Tu zo da gaout skouerennoù evit netra eus al levrig gouezeleg pe en unan eus ar pemp yezh muiañ-implijet en Unaniezh Europat. N'eus nemet skrivañ da Fàilte, Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness IV2 3HQ, Bro-Skos.

Mat e vefe aozh levrioùoù heñvel evit pep hini eus ar broioù keltiek all. Daoust hag ez eus unan evit Breizh? Ma'z eus e karten gouzout da belec'h skrivañ evit kaout ur skouerenn, ma roin ditour diwar e bouez ivez e Carn.

A Heusaff

### Summary

Comunn na Gàidhlig has published a beautiful booklet of 32pp which will provide visitors with plenty of information about Scottish Gaelic and various aspects of the Gaelic culture of Scotland.



Made in Brittany

The economics periodical *Les Echos* described the will to live together as characteristic of the Bretons. The associations of communes and the large number of cultural organisations exemplify this social cohesion. So does the feeling which motivates people to buy Breton goods even if they cost more.

Recognition of that fact led in January 1995 to a decision by the heads of a number of enterprises to set up an association using the label **Graet e Breizh** (= made in Brittany), to publicise such goods. They will thus help to create more employment for Bretons in their own country. In Combat Breton, this initiative is viewed with great suspicion - it would be a move by capitalists to exploit Breton national feelings for their own profit. They are pilloried for the low salaries they pay to their employees. However 57 firms - such as important ones involved in food processing - took part in this campaign in 1995, and there are about 750 shops/supermarkets selling goods which display a blue and yellow label and a logo marked **Danvez Breizh** above a lighthouse and the outline of the Breton coast.

**Communes** - various measures are proposed, corresponding to three levels of commitment, ranging from having just a few road-signs in Breton to using the language on official papers, signposts, vehicles, actively facilitating its teaching to adults as well as to school-children, ensuring that there will always be an employee in townhalls capable of dealing through it with the public, making a good selection of books in Breton available in libraries, etc.

We have already reported that a fairly substantial number of communes have stated that they are prepared to take part in a project of this kind involving "easily achievable objectives".

The plan has been submitted to 27 associations or cultural centres working for the promotion of the language and dispersed throughout Brittany. It is expected that it will receive good cooperation from the association of elected representatives "Nerzh Nevez".

## Dazont

The Union of Breton Students Dazont (= Future) achieved the highest scores in February in the elections to the Administrative Council and the Students Council in Rennes University II. Five other students Unions fielded candidates. Dazont has won the trust of a large number of students by its commitment to the defense of their interests and thanks to the clarity of its ideas. Its delegates will stand in these councils against the Parisian centralisation of education. Dazont's motto is: **"Divizout e Breizh hon-unan"** (= It is for ourselves to decide in Brittany).



Dazont: newly elected to the Administrative Council of Rennes University II (by Courtesy of Bremañ)

## Festivals

**Gouel Broadel Pobl Breizh** (National Festival of the Breton People) is to take place on June 8-9. Its purpose is to assert the Breton identity and the will to live as a free people among the other nationals. Its sponsors are urging local groups to take the initiative of organising events in keeping with that purpose in their own areas. Decentralisation will thus make it possible for more people to participate. There are already many towns, including the main Breton cities, for which plans are at the final state of preparation. This festival is intended to be held every year in June, this time being chosen for two reasons: it was in June 845 that the Bretons, led by Nominoë, inflicted a defeat on the Franks which enabled them to set up an independent Brittany in its present limits; and it was on June 9th, 1675, that the popular revolt of the Bonnets Rouges against the tyranny of Louis XIV took place.

**Gouel ar Brezhoneg**, the annual Breton language festival, is to take place (for the tenth time) on June 25/26 in Speted. It attracts thousands of people, thanks in particular to the important place it gives to music performances. It provides an excellent opportunity to display and sell publications in Breton. This year, a book by A. Paillardre, *"Sébastien ar Baid"*, the leader of the Bonnets Rouges, it to be launched. **Rectification.** The sentence "Even Gouel ar Brezhoneg... disappointing\*" in the middle of the 2nd paragraph of the article "Festival for DIWAN in Kemperle" in **Carn 93** was a remark by myself and should have been put in brackets, signed A.H., or put at the beginning of the comments I made at the end of the articles. Apologies to Y. Craff.

A. Heusaff

## Gwenn-Ha-Du,

nationalist bimonthly in French, 28pp. Sub 150F but 170F outside State, to J. Le Maho, 190 bis, Av. de Cligny, Paris 75017 (France). This periodical deals mainly with aspects of the Breton history. The April-May issue (Nr 114) publishes the beginning of a study by A.Y. Dens of the genealogy of the rulers of Brittany during the crucial 818-920 period; abundant notes accompany it. We have also the continuation of Edith Perennou's biography of La Fontenelle who won a dubious reputation during the Wars of Religion (end of 16th Century), as well as Notes by Yann Bouessel du Bourg on seven important writers, including Roparz Hemon of course, associated with the literary Breton language magazine Gwalarn (1925-1944).

## Servij ar Brezhoneg: Strategy for Breton in Public Life

Servij ar Brezhoneg is a service affiliated to the Breton Cultural Institute. It operates with the voluntary help of about 150 Breton-speakers in a flexible, practical and democratic way by:

- 1 immediately giving assistance on the phone or by fax to enquirers, e.g. on how to write such and such a word, how to verify whether a given first-name is Breton;
- 2 proof-reading or translating texts in Breton, e.g. menus, announcements, etc.;
- 3 advising local authorities on how to write correctly the place-names in Breton (a complete list of the names of all the communes of Brittany in a correct Breton form has been published);
- 4 establishing the terminology in Breton for use on sign-posting;
- 5 helping to set-up a monitoring service, Arsellva ar Brezhoneg, by gathering accurate information on the state of the language to serve as a basis for measures to promote it (see **Carn 91** p.8).

Following a preliminary study to determine how the Arsellva could be set up and how it would work, Servij ar Brezhoneg now proposes a plan, covering the next five years, to "bretonize" public life. It is time, they say, to use our language on a par with French, to make it

possible to use it in any field one might choose. The aims should be stimulating but realisable, taking account of the present situation and of what the people in general will agree to.

In order to encourage a more extensive use of Breton, an inventory will be made of the associations, enterprises and communes willing to take part in fulfilling the plan. If they follow the proposed directives, they will receive a seal from the Breton Cultural Council. Progress will be monitored by the Arsellva, and the results published annually. Servij ar Brezhoneg is prepared to answer, free of charge, any question arising in the execution of the plan.

It will also urge those taking part to use the forms it recommends for the place-names and the terms it proposes in sign-posting, for office forms and paper-headings, etc., pointing out that such standardisation exists in other countries (Catalonia, Euskadi, Cymru...).

The plan details the rules to be followed by associations, commercial and industrial enterprises, communes and other units of administration. Examples: **Associations** - every notice or poster in offices in Breton; it should be used at least as much as French in paper work; members will be urged to speak it, it will be used as much as possible for meetings, correspondence, festivals. It is expected that it will receive good cooperation from the association of elected representatives "Nerzh Nevez".



'Leave those accused of giving hospitality to Basques in peace!' by courtesy of BREMAN

## MORE ARRESTS

A dozen of other people (see **Carn 93**) were arrested in Brittany in February and March for harbouring Basque refugees. Large numbers of demonstrators expressed support for them in several towns. Twenty-three municipal councillors stated publicly that they too had put up Basques and challenged the police authorities to arrest them. A spokesman for the UDB, which opposed the use of violence for political aims, declared that the numerous arrests which have been carried out allegedly for aiding terrorists during the past four years were in reality intended to intimidate the Breton movement. In Rennes, a police officer was reported to have told demonstrators that he belonged to an anti-autonomist repression group.

## TREATISE OF TOPONYMY

An Here has for several years now published books, particularly for children, in Breton. And we owe these publishers our first-ever monolingual dictionary, *Geriadur Brezhoneg* (1232 pp.). Recently they decided to go also for important works of research related to Brittany. The first of these is Erwan Vallerie's "Dizezou Studi Istorel an Anvion-Parrez/Treatise de Toponymie, just published with financial help from the Breton Cultural Institute and the "Rennes" Regional Council. It is the outcome of a Doctor thesis which was presented in Breton to a jury of the University of Upper Brittany and which won him unanimously the highest distinction. It is undoubtedly the most considerable original work of research ever published in our language. It comprises three volumes. Vol. I is the text of the thesis in Breton, 520 pp.; Vol. II is the corpus of the thesis, 330 pp.; Vol. III is Vallerie's own translation into French, 520 pp. They are not sold separately. The price is 450 FF.

The early members of the Celtic League will remember Erwan Vallerie as a secretary of the Breton branch for several years. He went on to devote himself to research in Breton toponymy, having been one of the first to get a degree in Breton and qualifying for an MA in 1984. He established himself as an authority in the

subject with the publication (by Beltan in 1986) of his work of historical geography "Communes Bretonnes et Paroisses d'Armorique". Place-names are so interesting because they bear the imprint of history. Those who study them often seek only to elucidate their meaning and engage then in guesswork. Vallerie's approach is new. He bases it on the "Borrowing Theory" which asserts, in the Breton case, that the forms taken in French by the Breton toponyms resulted, not from an alteration - deliberate or accidental - but from linguistic borrowing, a process which like any exchange between languages is subject to rigorous laws. Having recognised that the toponymy of Brittany conceals thousands of words transmitted by Breton to French, the author brought to light a wealth of information which will make it possible finally to explore three hitherto imperfectly known domains: the origins of the Breton language, the genesis of its modern dialects (between the 10th and the 16th centuries), the distinctive characteristics of the Breton formerly spoken in Eastern Brittany.

He raises again the question, which resulted in so much controversy for more than a century now, of the relations between Breton, Gaulish and Latin in Armorica.

Yann Bouessel  
du Bourg

Yann Bouessel du Bourg, a long standing member of the Celtic League, well known to the readers of *Carn*, died after a prolonged illness on May 24, aged 70. His family belonged to the gentry of Upper Brittany. He joined the Breton national movement when he was very young, and acquired a good command of our language. Following World War II, when few dared to play a militant role, he went around Brittany peddling books as part of the BALP scheme to get more people to read Breton and to acquaint themselves with our history. He was always urging those who had been active in the national movement and had suffered persecution to write their memoirs as they would be important for writing the history of Brittany in modern times, and so much of what was being published was coming from hostile sources. He himself collected numerous interviews with former militants, they were published in *Imbourc'h* and *Gwenn-Ha-Du*. He played a prominent role in getting a large statue of La Rouerie (leader of the Association Bretonne for the recovery of Breton autonomy at the time of the French Revolution) erected in Fougères (see *Carn* 84). He was the secretary of a committee which annually awards a literary prize to Breton language writers in honour of the poet, dramatist, novelist and painter Zavier Langlez. He continued to write reviews of books of Breton and Celtic interest so long as he had the strength to do so.

Living close to the eastern border of Brittany he will remain in my mind associated with the men whom Nominie in the 9th century placed in that newly conquered area to consolidate its Breton character.

Alan Heusaff

## War of Attrition

The Offices of Education in Kemper were occupied on Feb. 14 by 60 to 80 people belonging to the Union of Breton Teachers, the Students Association Dazont and two associations of parents whose children attend bilingual classes in public schools. A similar demonstration took place in Rennes, where a brick wall was put up in front of the Regional Education Offices. The demonstrators demanded clear answers to a number of questions. They were assured that the secondary bilingual school students would, this year, on a trial basis, be able to do their history and geography papers in Breton in the Leaving Certificate (Baccalaureat) exam. They were denied this last year on the grounds that only French could be allowed in a national examination, a false pretext since German could be used. As regards the new posts for primary bilingual schools teachers, the answer was given on Feb. 23: next Autumn

there will be two new bilingual classes (Ar Faou, Plougermev) while three schools will each have another bilingual class in addition to the one opened last year.



At the entrance to the Education Offices in Rennes "The wall that smothers our language". Courtesy of *Breman*

# CYMRU

## Arwyddion Fsraddoldeb

Brydw'r galed enioed oedd ennill statws i'r teithoedd Celtaidd ar arwyddion ffordd. Go bryn y medwrn feddlwl am fuddgolaeth pan fydd arwyddion dwyieithog yn cael eu codi, ond yr iaith Geltaidd mewn safle israddol i'r Saesneg neu'r Ffrangeg. Dros y rhan fwyaf o Gymru bydd y Saesneg yn gyntaf a'r Gymraeg (os ydyw yno o gwbl) o dani, sydd yn golygu ein bod yn gorfod cael y neges yn Saesneg cyn darllen y Gymraeg. Ond mae'r sefyllfa mewn rha gwyledydd eraill yn waeth. Yn Iwerddon, dros y rhan fwyaf o'r 26 sir, bydd arwyddion cyfeiriad yn ddwyieithog a'r Wyddeleg yn uchaf ond mewn llythrennau llai na'r Saesneg sydd yn ei gwneud yn anos ei darllen. Ac yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae'r llywodraeth, dan ddylanwad y "revisionists" mae'n debyg, wedi dechrau rhoi'r Wyddeleg mewn llythrennau italaidd sydd mor anodd eu darllen bod rhaid i bobl ddarllen y Saesneg bras er mwyn deal yr arwydd. Mae'r arwyddion hyn yn warh ar y wladwriaeth. Mae'r enwau llyfeydd Gwyddeleg yn cael eu trin fel enwau Lladin gwyddonol planhigion neu anifeiliaid.

Mae sefyllfa debyg i'w chael yn Llydaw hefyd. Ar ôl brwydro hir ennillwyd arwyddion dwyieithog mewn rha ardaloedd,

ond gosodir y Llydaweg o dan y Ffrangeg ac mewn llythrennau italaidd (ond nid mor anodd eu darllen a'r rai yn Iwerddon). Yn ddiweddar mae awdurdodau ardal Penn-ar-Bed wedi dechrau codi arwyddion a'r Llydaweg yn llai na'r Ffrangeg hefyd. Felly gwneir y Llydaweg yn israddol i'r Ffrangeg mewn tair ffordd! Mae llywydd Kuzul Sevenadurel Breizh (Cyngor Diwyllianol Llydaw) wedi cwyno wrth yr awdurdodau, dan ddwyed bod safle'r Llydaweg ar yr arwyddion hyn yn gwneud i bobl feddlwl bod y Llydaweg yn iaith eiraidd, ac ni allai Kuzul Sevenadurel Breizh dderbyn hyn.

'Rydym yn dal heb glywedd beth fydd politiaid iaith arwyddion cyngorau unedol newydd Cymru ond gobethiwn na fyddant yn cael syniadau o Lydaw nae Iwerddon!

Robat ap Tomos

### Summary

The struggle for bilingual road-signs is hardly worth the effort if we settle for signs where the Celtic language is in an inferior position to the imperial language. Signs recently erected in Brittany where the Breton is underneath the French, in italics, and in smaller print, have been the subject of further campaigning.

## An Tóráí

Y mae 'na lawer o newyddion am wleidyddion y dyddia' hyn ... efallai ... Mwy na dígion?! Fodd bynnag, ydych chi wedi ystyried o le mae'r ansoddair Cymraeg: "Toriaidd" yn dwd yn wreiddiol?

Mewn gwirionedd, mae'n dwd o'r wyddeleg. Mae'r Gair "Tóráí" yn enw sydd yn y wyddeleg ac y mae 'n golygu:

- lleidr
  - herwr
  - erlidwr
- Y mae'r enw "Tóráí" wedi ei fenthylu i mewn i'r Gymraeg ac yna i mewn i'r Saesneg fel hyn
- |           |             |         |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Tóráí     | Toriaidd    | Tory    |
| (enw)     | (ansoddair) | (enw)   |
| Gwyddeleg | Cyrraég     | Saesneg |

Felly, pan mae'r werin yn defnyddio'r ansoddair Cymraeg: "Toriaidd", ydan

nhw'n sylweddoli be' mae 'n golygu 'n wreiddiol?

Meddyliwch amdano?" Mae'r wybodaeth yn dwd o'r geiriadur: "Foclóir Péca" - Gaeilge - Béarla (Geiriadur Pócaid) (Gwyddeleg - Saesneg) Tudalen 496. Cyhoeddiwyd gan: An Gúm, An Roinn Oideachais, 44 Sráid Uí Chonaill Uachtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Éire.

### Catalogue

The 1996 catalogue from the Welsh Academic Press which also includes titles from its associated imprints *Y Ddraig Fach* and *Gwasg Addysgol Cymru* is available from: 40 Stryd Newydd, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2PU.



## TO AMEND OR DEFEND

Labour's methods in deciding a policy for a devolved Welsh assembly are a contradiction of the democratic principle they say they want to re-introduce into Welsh political life by establishing their assembly.

Their failure to reach an agreed consensus by meaningful debate, indeed their reluctance to hold a debate and to consider the opinions of their members gathered in their own consultation process, indicate that their policy had already been decided by London denying the Welsh party the right to set its own agenda.

One possible reason why Labour have circumvented the democratic approach is that they still suffer the convictions of a handful of MPs who are totally opposed to any form of devolution.

In a brief but remarkably revealing interview Llew Smith, MP, effectively indicated that his silence on the issue, as was that of some colleagues, conditional on other members not pursuing greater powers for the assembly.

Labour's emphasis on party unity has necessitated the pacification of the anti-devolutionists at the cost of a meaningful Welsh parliament. But the ideological struggle within the Welsh party has not yet been resolved. This is not only clear in the ambiguous words of the policy document *Shaping the Vision* which failed to clearly define Labour's policy, but has become apparent in the range of embarrassingly varied interpretations as to what the 'agreed policy' actually means.

The differences, which reflect to a degree the aspirations within Welsh Labour have surfaced on the issue of legislative powers for the assembly. Labour's Welsh executive insist that their policy outlines an assembly with secondary legislative powers only, the nature and extent of which are yet to be defined.

Wayne David, MEP, leader of the British Labour group in the European Parliament, assures us that the policy ensures primary legislative powers for the assembly in three key areas - regulating the quangos, the Welsh language and local government reorganisation.

Tony Blair, on the other hand, has indicated in interview that the assembly would have no powers to legislate whatsoever. Some MPs have hinted that the assembly will wield more influence than their present policy suggests and will accrue greater powers once established. The hope of the pro-devolutionists seems to

(cont'd.)

(To amend... contd.)

be that a clear devolution policy is on hold until after the next general election when they can force a debate without electorally damaging their party, assuming of course that they win.

It can not be very encouraging for them, therefore, when the Labour leader, who presumably does know his own party's intentions, seems to occupy the position least favourable to meaningful constitutional change. Considering Tony Blair's emphasis on party unity it is understandable that he is concerned about disunity on the devolution issue especially when the Tories have made it quite clear that 'the break up of Britain' will form, along with the likely anti-European stance an important part of their emotive attacks on the Labour party in the General Election battle. It is not inconceivable that the British nationalists of the Welsh Labour party, whose rhetoric resembles that of the Tories' to a remarkable extent on this issue, could contribute to a Labour defeat by opposing the weak measure of constitutional reform that Labour are committed to introducing.

But unlike 1979, the anti-devolutionists are not the most prominent or senior MPs. Their importance in the party is limited, demonstrated by their inability to influence the policy through rational democratic argument. Besides, Mr Blair has not shirked from tackling thorny issues in his party before or members associated with them. Dropping Clause 4 for instance had a much higher profile in the media than Welsh devolution (even Harriet Harman's choice of school has been more controversial). So to confront the anti-devolutionists who represent 'old Labour' in Wales would surely provide him with an excellent opportunity to add to his list of 'New Labour' public relation victories and allow Labour to present a consistent devolution policy for Wales and Scotland to defend at the next election?

Well, no. In the period following the adoption of their present policy it is ironically and quite unfairly, the pro-devolutionists - the progressive socialists who have been portrayed by the party's image makers and spin doctors in England as the old unreconstructed Labour party, largely in an attempt to discredit shadow Welsh secretary, Ron Davies' behind the scenes attempt to ensure greater powers for the assembly.

Ron Davies' position in the party is, at least for the present, safe. His fourth place in Labour's shadow cabinet elections of 1995 effectively made him unsackable from the post of shadow Welsh secretary. Mr Davies is an important player in the devolution debate but his influence on the policy has been marginalised in the past, it is unclear whether Mr Davies will continue to try and influence the policy before the next general election.

However, the Labour party's failure to deal equitably with Wales and Scotland has provided the impetus to establish *Welsh Labour Action* (formerly - Campaign for an Assembly with Real Powers) whose aim

is to amend Labour's policy. They want - a fair voting system, legislative and tax raising powers, equal representation of women and direct representation in the European Union institutions. Labour is at present committed to only one of these and there is some doubt as to whether their existing plans for women only lists for prospective parliamentary candidates in safe seats is legal under discrimination laws. The importance of WLA cannot be overstated. Now that the parliamentary party has decided by a slim majority to back the leadership - or should I say the 'agreed' policy, the movement has already received the backing of MPs and MEPs, but its most important functions will be to provide a vehicle for dissatisfied grass roots activists and the ordinary membership who believe their opinions are not being represented in the policy making process, to change their party's position.

It is a pity that WLA had not been founded some years ago like their sister movement in Scotland. It represents a missed opportunity where the devolutionists could have pre-empted the opposition and arguments of the reactionaries. It reflects the stagnancy of debate within Welsh Labour and demonstrates a complacency which has allowed the reactionaries to control the agenda.

Although it is unlikely that the policy will be amended before the next election there is mounting pressure on Labour from outside of the party to amend their proposals on devolution. The Institute of Public Policy Research has condemned Labour's failure to adopt a full form of proportional representation. The Liberals, who like the other parties in Wales were excluded from Labour's consultation process, have proposed a Welsh 'Senedd' elected by single transferable vote with limited economic powers initially gaining full legislative and tax raising powers after a five year period or in other words for its second term of office.

Much depends on Plaid Cymru's performance in the next general election. If they can increase their share of the vote and perhaps win an extra seat or two they might very well help determine Labour's post election devolution policy.

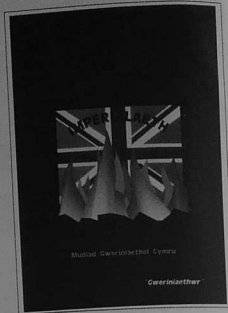
R. Jones

### Grand Confrontation?

The Tories have proposed changes in the running of the Welsh Grand Committee. The principle that the Grand should sit in Wales as opposed to London seems to have been accepted seeing that the committee which constitutes all the Welsh MPs is effectively a forum for questioning and debating government policy relating to Wales.

The significance of the move is that it presents an opportunity for our language to be used in an official capacity during the sitting of a parliamentary body.

Paul Flynn, MP, raised the question in Parliament of whether the Grand's



### The Young Republicans

A record of the Welsh Republican Movement - Mudiad Gweriniaethol Cymru by Gwraig Carreg Gwalch, Iard yr Orsaf, Llanrwst, Gwynedd (1996). Price £7.50 ISBN: 0-86381-362-3

This book is a chronicle of the early days of the movement, recalling the personalities, the activities, the articles - and also their achievements and their influence on the national politics of Cymru.

'Gweriniaethwr' writes: The aspiration, the burning conviction behind The Welsh Republican Movement - Mudiad Gweriniaethol Cymru when it came to take more formal shape in the mid-years of this present century was no new political phenomenon in the history of Wales. Many of our forefathers who took part in the rebellions of the 19th and earlier centuries died with the ideal of their country freed from the yoke of alien imperial royalism alive in their minds. It is an ideal which has lived through the generations. And it is to the generation of today that we look to honour and make real at last those fierce dreams of our forebears, and in so doing help to set all Welsh men and women worthy of the name on the road of self-respect and national freedom again.

proceedings would be bilingual. Rather than give an assurance that they would Tony Newton, Tory leader of the House of Commons, decided to refer the matter along with the other proposals to Parliament's Procedures Committee.

In attempting to mottoball the issue Mr Newton's hostility drew an assurance from Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru president, that he intends to use his first language - banned as unruly behaviour in Westminster - when the Grand sits in Wales.

Mr Flynn has indicated that he will also be speaking Welsh as will some of his Labour colleagues alongside Plaid's four MPs.

R. Jones

## The Welsh Academy English-Welsh Dictionary

(Geiriadur yr Academi) Griffiths & Jones 1995 1710 pp. UWP, Cardiff CF2 4YD.

It is over 20 years since Dr Bruce Griffiths and Dafydd Glyn Jones proposed this dictionary. They have since laboured mightily to produce a reference book which is comprehensive and unique. Its scope is far greater than that of any previous English-Welsh dictionary. It provides a wide range of examples of Welsh usage, both colloquial and literary, corresponding to a given English word. For example 'dress' (verb) has eight column-centimetres ranging from the expected 'gwisgo' to words for 'dress a millstone', 'dress timber', 'dress a shop window' etc.

This is what one would expect from a modern dictionary, but the sad fact is that previous Welsh dictionaries were little more than word lists presented without contexts. The Academy dictionary is therefore unique in its scope, notwithstanding Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru, which deals with the language according to a different scheme and has, in any case, only reached the letter 'p'.

There is much useful information on pronunciation, verbs, plurals, mutations, prepositions, suffixes etc. in the introductory pages. As dictionaries must, it reports usages which are mere copies of English but it also provides a wealth of alternatives. By drawing on this store of regional variations and literary forms many people will be enabled to expand their vocabularies. I use the word 'enabled' advisedly, because this book is not merely a record of the language but an essential means of promoting its use.

Peter H. Edwards

## Opposition to English Queen

The Queen of England was to visit the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth on May 31st, in order to open a new extension to the library. It was reported publicly that all the staff of the library were delighted about the visit and were preparing for it enthusiastically. But in reality the opposite was true. Many of the staff signed an open letter to the officials of the library asking them to withdraw the invitation and give the honour of opening the new extension to someone more suitable - someone who had made use of the resources of the library to enrich the life of our nation.

When the Queen of England's grandfather went to Aberystwyth to lay the foundation stone of the National Library at the turn of the century, everyone welcomed the visit, and when Mrs. Windsor herself paid a visit in 1955, any member of staff who dared to oppose the visit would have been in danger of losing their job. But now things are different.

The last significant royal visit to Aberystwyth was in 1969 when Carlo (whom the Brits call 'Prince of Wales') came to make his unsuccessful attempt to learn Welsh. (The little he did learn he seems to have forgotten since. He is apparently unable to string together a single sentence.) At that time *Cymdeithas yr Iaith* led the opposition, but even then there was hostility from the people of the town towards the protestors. Things have changed now. The Aberystwyth area is represented in the English parliament by a Plaid Cymru MP and the cafes of the town are filled with radical young people discussing republican ideas. People who jeered *Cymdeithas yr Iaith* in 1969, have congratulated them this time on opposing the visit.

The visit was opposed for several reasons. The English monarch is a symbol of centralised English rule in Wales, which most people in Ceredigion (the Aberystwyth area) want to be weakened or ended altogether. The English queen's head on the money we must use reminds us that we are a conquered nation, and it symbolises lack of democracy, social inequality, and the disability of the political system to adapt and modernise. In addition, the queen of England herself was unsuitable to open an extension to the National Library because she is a completely cultureless person who has no interest in what the library represents. The honour of opening the extension should have gone to someone who has enriched the nation - people such as Meredydd Evans, R.S. Thomas or Dr. John Davies had been suggested.

*Cymdeithas yr Iaith* organised a weekend of entertainment in association with the protests against the visit, including two evenings of Welsh music.

Taken from *Tafod y Ddraig*

### Queen Goes Home

The visit started to fall apart at an early stage when the Royal party's motorcade approached the National Library where demonstrators vaulted barriers and tried to storm the vehicle which was forced to take evasive action. Five demonstrators were detained.

Later, as several hundred students gathered at the University Campus, a decision was taken to end the visit.

The dramatic decision to cancel engagements, taken on security grounds, indicates that both the Queen's advisors and also the intelligence services, who normally carry out preparatory work ahead of such visits, were caught totally unprepared. This is likely to be particularly embarrassing to the British security services who have been attempting to define a new post cold war role for themselves. Basic indicators seem to have been totally ignored in that at a time that there is a growing tide of anti-monarchist opinion in England it does not seem to have registered that the substantial body of republican nationalist opinion in the Celtic areas has also increased.

The United Kingdom media are already attempting to pass off what is undoubtedly a deep humiliation as being linked to a single issue. The students were described as 'language activists demonstrating in support of the Welsh language'. It was clear however from the few who chose to be interviewed in English that the demonstration was an expression of contempt for the 'English Monarchy'. One interviewee almost spat out the words 'she is not our Queen'. It's clear that even Elizabeth Windsor herself is now aware of that.

The fall out from the visit is likely to be even more security paranoia when the Queen or the other royals visit the Celtic areas.

The English take their Queen seriously - now they realise some of the Celtic people take their opposition to the Queen more seriously!

J.B. Moffatt

# ÉIRE

## Ré Nua i nDán don Mhanainnis

Mar a tuairiscíodh i gCarn 92 lorgaigh Rheyinn Ynsee Eilann Vannin (Roinn Oideachais Oileáin Mhanainn) aghnascáil ón bpobal agus ó na heagrais éagsúla ar fhorbairt na Mhanainnis, go háirithe le spreagadh a thabhairt don suim atá léirithe ag an pobal i geotíne in athbheochan na teanga. San idir linn foilsíodh an tuarascáil a d'ullmhaigh coiste speisialta faoi stiúir an Dr Brian Mac Stoill 'The future development of the Manx Language' len é a chur faoi bhráid an Tynwald-Rialtas Oileáin Mhanainn. Is tuarascáil chuimsitheach í ina drugar ar dtús achoimre ar stair na teanga agus na t-reid fite fuaithe le chéile mar is eol dúinn. Is ó dheireadh an 18ú aois a tháinig an meath is mó ar an Mhanainnis, ach fós bí an phríomh theanga i measc an phobail í don chuid is mó den 19ú aois. I 1950 nó raibh fágtha ach deicimír cainteoirí dúchais agus is beag a rinne rialtas Oileáin Mhanainn chun an meath a stopadh. Rinneadh faillí iomlán nach mór i dteagasc na teanga ins na scoileanna. Baineann na moltaí is sonraíoch sa tuarascáil le cur chun cinn an Mhanainnis se chofas oideachais, nanaítear plean, céim ar chéim ó 1996 go dtí an bhliain 2004 nuair a bheadh cúrsa leandúach naoi mbliain curtha i gcrích.

Is sa mbliain 1992 a cuireadh tús foirmeidil le clár teagasc na Manainnis ins na scoileanna nuair a thairg an Rheyinn Ynsee ranganna do dhátaí ós cionn seacht mbliana d'aois a raibh suim acu i a fhoghlaim. Bhí an t-éileamh chomh mór sin nach raibh deis ranganna a chur ar fáil do mhórán thar leath den aos scoile a bhí a n-iarraidh. Réitíodh clár dhá bhliain 'Bun Nóis' le tacaíocht bhogbhair fíomhaire agus cásin; baineadh feidhm as an gcúrsa seo ag an dá leibhéal, bunscóil agus iarbunscóil, go dtí '94 nuair a cuireadh cúrsa iarbunscóile ar leith ar fáil. Faoi láthair tá na daltaí teoranta don chúrsa dhá bhliain sa chaoi go mbeidh deis ag an méid is mó d'obhán an bun chúrsa a dhéanamh. Is léir mar sin gurb é an easpá mínteoirí an bac is mó atá ar an bplean forbartha anois. Dar ndíthéar tá baint uir an ganntanas mínteoirí agus staid na teanga san iarbunscóileachas.

Ní aithnítear an Mhanainnis mar ábhar don GCSE (General Cert. of Secondary Education) gan trácht ar í bheith ina ábhar don scrúdú A-leibhéal.

O tharla gur theip ar an idirphlé a bhí ag Rheyinn Ynsee Eilann Vannin agus Bord Scrúidhán Sasanach le haithneantas a fháil don Mhanainnis sa scrúdú GCSE, tá sé i gceist cáilíocht neamhspleách a bhund don teanga ar chomhchéim leis an teastas GCSE. Moltar Teist Chadjín Ghaelgagh - TCG nó GCM (General Cert. in Manx) a thabhairt ar. Cuirfead tús leis an gcúrsa seo i Meán Fómhair na bliana seo '96, agus leis an gcúrsa A-leibhéal sa bhliain '98. Chun an plean a chur i gcrích ní mór 11-12 mínteoirí breise a fhosú. Is mínteoirí taistil iad na mínteoirí Mhanainnis, iad ag dul ó scoil go scoil agus is amhlaidh a bheadh amach anseo faoin bhlean nua. Sé an chéad riarachanas mínteoirí a oiliúint chun freastal ar an éileamh atá ag fás in aghaidh an lae. Caithear dianchúrsaí a reachtáil dóibh agus is obair bhreise í so don dream beag cáilithe a bhfuil ualach obre orthu cheana. Tá deacracht ar leith ag ullmhú cúrsaí teagasc sa Mhanainnis mar gheall ar a laghad litríochta atá ar fáil sa teanga.

Aistríochán is mó atá ar fáil; rinneadh aistríochán ar an mBíobla agus an Leabhar Urmá Coiteann san 17ú agus an 18ú aois, agus cuireadh go leor téacsanna eile creidimh ar fáil san 18ú aois. Seachas sin tá seálta béaloideas anois atá cuid mhath serfofa sa Mhanainnis le tríocha bliain anuas, gan trácht ar an obair acadúil sa teanga mar chuid den Léinn Ceilteach atá déanta ag an Dr Seoirse Broderick agus an tUrramach Robert Thomson. Maidir leis na moltaí eile atá sa tuarascáil chun an teanga a fhorbairt i measc an phobail, luaithear na ranganna oíche - atá ar bun cheana le fada - cúrsaí comhfhreagrais agus scoileanna samhraidh, atá a reachtáil cheana le cúpla bliain anuas; caithear breis achmháiní a chur ar fáil do na cúrsaí seo uilig, níos mó tacaíochta a thabhairt don ceol agus amhránaíocht traidisiúnta agus an turasóireacht cultúrtha a fhorbairt d'fhonn tairbhe eacnamaíochta a thabhairt don teanga. Tá ról lárnach ag na cumainn

deonacha a rinne obair fhónta thar na bliana san fhorbairt seo, ar nós Yn Cheshacht Ghaelgagh agus Caarjyn ny Gaelgey máille le cuid de na heagrais eile a bhfuil feidhmeanna eile acu chomh maith le cur chun cinn na teanga, mar atá Mec Vannin, an Conradh Ceilteach agus an Comhdháil Ceilteach agus go leor eile atá bunaithe go háitiúil ar Oileáin Mhanainn agus tuilleadh díobh thar lear.

Caithear cur leis an méid beag Mhanainnis a chraolair ar an Raidió. Faoi láthair níl ach clár amháin uair a chloig sa tseachtain a chraolair. 'Clare ny Gael' agus is clár dhátheangach é, agus an cúlpa focal ag tús agus deireadh craolta, cé go bhfuil ceangal ar aon dream le ceadáin méid áirithe a chraoladh sa Mhanainnis faoin Acht Craolachán '93. Tá gealltint tugtha ag Raidió Mhanainn leathnú a dhéanamh ar an méid a chraolair sa Mhanainnis. Níl aon mhíoladh ar leith go gceirfí cláracha sa Mhanainnis ar an tÉilifís, cé go n-aithnítear gurb é an meán is mó a chabhróid le forbairt na teanga. Is léir gur constaic mór é an pobal beag atá i gceist sa gcás seo, is beag comhlucht TV atá sásta freastal ar mhíonlaigh, go háirithe ar mhíonlaigh teanga. Is cís é seo ina bhfuil cearta mhíonlaigh a sárú agus caithear seasamh a ghlacadh air luath nó mall.

Tá easnamh mór amháin sa phlean forbartha dar liomsa, sé sin gur do pháistí os cionn seacht mbliana d'aois atá soláthar á dhéanamh. Tá tabhacht an mhóir leis an oideachas réamhscoile i seibhí teanga. Sa mBriotáin sé a bhfuilocht na na n-áraití Diwan a cuireadh tús le teagasc trí mhéad na Briotáine. Is fíor go bhfuil grúpaí beaga tuismitheoirí ar Oileáin Mhanainn a bhfuil clann a dtógáil go dhátheangach acu agus a bhunaigh naonora 'Chied Chesmad' (An Chéad Céim) agus a thagann le chéile 2-3 uair a chloig sa tseachtain. Moltar go gceirfí físeán le fuaimnais sa Mhanainnis ar fáil do na grúpaí seo.

B'fhéidir gur céimeanna beaga atá i bhfíorhóir na moltaí sa tuarascáil, ach is mór an dul chun cinn é ar an staid ina raibh an teanga thar na blianta. Tá buíochas ar leith tuille ag an Dr Brian Mac Stoill ar son a bhfuil déanta aige ó ceapadh ina Oifigeach Mhanainnis é; tá níos mó ná obair beirte á dhéanamh aige agus tá géle cúnóir amháin ar a laghad a ceapadh le go mbeidh deis aige an plean forbartha a chur i gcrích. Tá Coimeáil ny Gaelgey (Manx Gaelic Advisory Council) ann chomh maith a dhéanamh obair aistríochán agus a chuireann teidil, ainmneacha sráide agus rí ar fáil don rialtas agus don phobal i gcoitíne. Léir an dea-thoil atá a chothú i measc an phobail tá seans níos fearr ann ná mar a bhí ariamh an Mhanainnis a athbheochan.

Brid Heussaff

**Summary**  
This article discusses the growth and development of the Manx language.

## ELECTIONS IN THE SIX COUNTIES

Every time one writes about the situation in north-eastern Ireland (we all the time forget that Donegal is the northernmost county in Ireland) we too often overlook that 'Ulster' includes Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan, all of which are part of the Republic of Ireland, one says, one has to say, at time of writing!

With that as caveat the election that was not an election turned up some interesting and important results. The Sinn Féin poll increased considerably to almost 16% or about 42% of the nationalist turnout. The same figure of about 40% recurs in the statistics of the Belfast returns which indicate that the non-unionist population of that city is now over 40% - an amazing demographic shift accounted for in part by new housing estates to the west of the city and the shift of many of the wealthy unionists to north Down where the exotic figures of the UK Unionist Party polled sufficiently highly to return one Dublin unionist of the converse class, Conor Cruise O'Brien, once author of the Irish Government's anti-partition propaganda tracts, who is now claiming that he was elected to a seat at the forum: he wasn't!

On the Unionist side of the fence the bellicose Ian Paisley had hoped to be 'first past the post' in total numbers of votes cast - something he tried to achieve by having his name added to the name of his party, hoping no doubt that his own bible-belted charisma would render the poll a solo run of endorsement for himself. In that he was disappointed - David Trimble's Official Unionist Party got the highest number, the SDLP of John Hume was in second place with Paisley's DUP slightly ahead of Sinn Féin in 3rd.

Some of the Unionist leaders, much of the English press and many of the Dublin and Cork unionists who write for the *Sunday Times* and *Sunday Independent* (in Ireland) - O'Brien say, Eoghán Harris, Ruth Dudley Edwards, Kevin Myers etc. - hyphenate Sinn Féin as Sinn Féin/IRA as if to associate the party with the army. They don't, nor does anyone else similarly, hyphenate other parties such as WP/Official IRA, UUP/Orange Resistance/Third Force/UPV. To do so *tout court* might help one in 'reading' the situation.

Another point might be made here in passing. The main media comment is of the absence of police and military patrols from the streets of Belfast as a by-product of the peace progress. That is so, though armoured vehicles do patrol intermittently. But Belfast is not all it seems and I myself have been stopped by armed soldiers near Newry and to the west in south Armagh; have seen armed constabulary in groups in

Armagh city; and passed a dangerous (to themselves) patrol on the roadway in the village of Caledon in south Tyrone. A bus tour of historical and archeological sites in south Armagh was accompanied by a helicopter which drowned out the guide's talks. A minor irritant, one might say, but one which is just a minor aspect of a continuing pattern of insult, harassment and antagonism on the part of the armed forces of the Tory party (they being the current custodians of power at Westminster).

This is worth drawing attention to because it is never adverted to, no more than the outbreaks of loyalist violence and intimidation are ever reported - UDA posters threatening local criminals have been seen for example in the railway station at Castlereagh, a mostly unionist seaside resort in county Down.

It might also be noted that one party, the IRSP, was not permitted to enter the lists at all which left one party which would have an understanding of one military grouping - the INLA - without a voice.

But as we write Sinn Féin also has been left outside by the imposition of a condition which is not paralleled in other parties represented and attending: the DUP has not been asked to hand up the weapons of Ulster Resistance, the Third Force or the Ulster Protestant Volunteers; the UUP has not been forced to untwine itself from its affiliated secret society, the Orange Order or to disband 'Tara' or other shadowy outfits; the PUP have not been asked to decommission the weapons of the UVF nor the UDP those of the UDA.

On the non-Unionist side of the electorate it should be remarked yet again that Sinn Féin is an all-Ireland party, the SDLP are not. The main political parties in the Republic, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are not organised across the border nor are the Progressive Democrats. Some smaller parties are and their results were devastating. The WP polled a total of 3,535 all over the six counties; the Democratic Left - that of the extraproportionate number of ministries in the Dáil - got 1,215 and the Communist Party of Ireland 66. The Green Party's total was 3,728.

The party headed by the man who once arrested John Hume - the Liberal Democrats - did not contest the election but candidates did stand as Conservative and Labour and their votes 3,608 and 6,425 respectively make interesting reading, and a strange comment on their 'rights', their 'mandates' to dictate terms of settlement in Ireland.

There are many issues to be decided yet, among them the most important one, who do people think they are and to what - in a positive sense - do they aspire, and Scottish independence would have a major impact on thinking all round: the Cruthin



Gerry Adams

myth of Belfast Lord Mayor elect Ian Adamson has an island people being defeated at the battle of Moytura centuries B.C., leap-frogging the littoral people between them and the sea (something there is no evidence for whatever), settling down in Scotland before returning in the 17th century plantations to take their own land back from the usurping Celts (a sort of 'norm-iron Zionism!'). Such beliefs - and beliefs are often more important than facts - would necessarily suffer a sea-change with Scottish independence.

P. O. Snodaigh

### Talks Without Sinn Féin

The IRA ceasefire held for 17 months. During that time no date was set for starting negotiations to settle the future of Northern Ireland. It was after the truce had ended that the British Government fixed a date for starting talks. But that same Government decided to exclude Sinn Féin unless there was a resumption of the ceasefire.

The Irish Government agreed with the British Government on that condition of participation by Sinn Féin. Both Governments have decided to ostracise Sinn Féin unless the IRA ends its armed struggle. But what if it doesn't? It means that one of the most important political parties in Northern Ireland will be ignored. How can talks on the future of Northern Ireland come to a successful conclusion without Sinn Féin?

It is no use pretending that Sinn Féin controls the IRA. The relationship between them does not co-respond to that between the British Government and the British Army. Not since the Curragh Mutiny has the high command of the British Army disobeyed the British Government.

(cont.)

(Talks without... contd.)

The British and Irish Governments have enhanced the IRA's position by sidelining Sinn Féin. The two Governments are strengthening the hands of those who want to rely on the armed conflict. That is being done at the expense of those who seek the same objectives by political dialogue. Is that what the Irish and British Governments want? Whether they do or not they have succeeded brilliantly in undermining the prospect of successful political negotiations. The talks will be useless without the participation of Sinn Féin.

It is argued that talks on Northern Ireland would be worthless without the Unionist parties attending them. There is, however, one fundamental difference between them staying away and Sinn Féin being kept away. The Unionist absence would be voluntary, Sinn Féin's absence would be forced on the party.

If the Unionist parties saw that the future of Northern Ireland was being negotiated they would attend. They know that they would lose everything if they didn't. If the future of Northern Ireland was negotiated without Sinn Féin the talks would be in vain. The whole process would have to start all over again. How many more years of armed conflict would there be in the meantime? Many years if the violence was confined to Northern Ireland. Not many if there were a few telling strikes by the IRA in London. If notable buildings get blown up or burnt down there the British Government will abandon the Unionists.

It is in the interest of the Unionists that Sinn Féin takes part at the negotiations. If Sinn Féin is excluded from the talks the Unionists may well lose everything. They may as well understand that they won't get everything they want in any case. They may manage to salvage some of their privileges if all parties are allowed at the negotiations. If the Unionists carry on insisting that Sinn Féin should be kept out the violence will continue.

Merfyn Phillips

## Appeal

A Dhuine Usail,  
I would very much like to get the Pater Noster (Our Father) - both written and spoken - in the Six Celtic Languages. As I have Gaelic, I really only need the other five: Manx Welsh, Gàidhlig, Breton and Cornish.  
Can you help me?  
Sincerely, Uaim-se

Niall Mac Fhionnghaile,  
Ard a' Tuir,  
Mín a' Labáin PO,  
Lestir Ceannainn,  
Co Dhún na nGall, Éire.

# Language News

## Conradh na Gaeilge

The Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis was held in Belfast this year and was by all accounts a more lively affair than ones in recent years. Gearóid Ó Cairealláin, (more well known before as editor of *Lá*) was re-elected Uachtarán. Some new and younger blood appeared on the organisation's ruling committees with suggestions in some reports that Ó Cairealláin was attempting to consolidate his position by ensuring election of supporters, though those standing were quite a mixed bunch. A reception for the Ard Fheis was hosted in Belfast City Hall. A video on the Irish language in Belfast was produced. Some unionists were reported to have attended the Ard-Fheis secretly and it was stated that to accommodate that tradition the national anthem and flag was absent from the Ard-Fheis this year.



Gearóid Ó Cairealláin

## New Irish Weekly

In early June Bord na Gaeilge announced the results of a public competition for the contract for a weekly Irish language newspaper.

The competition was contested by ten groups or consortia and the contract is worth £3,500 a week. It was awarded to a solicitor and accountant from Spidéal, Conamara, Pádraig Ó Céidigh, who is managing director of Aer Árann and the Irish summer college, Coláiste Chonnacht. It will commence publication in October and it is hoped to sell 7,500 copies a week in the first year rising to 10,000 in the second. The newspaper will be based in Cois Fharráige, Conamara and printed in the Connacht Tribune printing works. There will be five full-time employees with another twenty or so part-timers. The newspaper will be a tabloid 32 page one with four full colour pages and four others with some colour. It is expected that twenty per cent of the space will be taken up with advertisements, some thirty per cent with

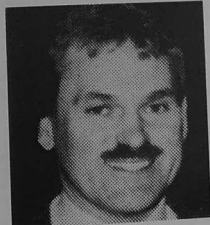
photos and the remainder with news and stories. Coverage will be wide with sport, education and arts included as well as news and columns. There will be eight pages devoted to Gaeltacht affairs but there will be emphasis on Dublin also. It is expected that having lost the contract the previously weekly paper *Anois*, run by Gael-Linn, will shortly cease publishing.

## Gaelscoileanna thriving but difficulties exist

At its Comhdháil Bhlantúil (AGM) at the end of April the annual report showed that the organisation was continuing to make considerable progress despite various difficulties. Five new schools with official recognition were opened in 1995, five more opened without recognition, one stream opened and one school changed to teaching through Irish. Difficulties persisted with the Dept. of Education with regard to the tardiness in giving recognition to schools - all have now to be sanctioned at ministerial level and there is clear evidence of attempts to curb the growth of Irish medium schools.

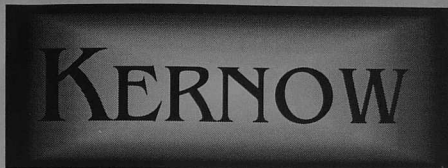
Expansion in recent years was assisted considerably by the activities of two Regional Officers appointed with funding from the Dept of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht. Unfortunately this funding was confirmed as definitely ending in October 1996, which will have detrimental effects.

Also of considerable concern was the refusal of the Dept. of Education to sanction, in their plans for new regional educational boards, a separate board to cater for Irish language and Gaeltacht schools.



Vivian Uibh Eachach

A new Uachtarán was elected this year, Vivian Uibh Eachach, previously secretary and editor of the organisation's magazine, which he has improved considerably in recent years. Vivian is a long standing member of the Irish branch of the Celtic League.



## Tavas, Heanez, Nearth, Both

(Language, History, Energy, Will)

Me a wellas towle adewethas urt an television, Shanol 2, dro tha rebelyans an Jacobitez ha trowth tra Culloden, ke na ellama gothas rag fra ew reze tha nye hanwall hedna rebelyans. Wos hactar an Sausen, ha nye a dale adgan mesk rima pulia Scottez, han davs angye tha cruppyan an doar pub seen an heanez Gothalack, tawas, caon, delhas, spezer, han ethick gwra ouga nena leb ve mar leas teeaz an Eualdeer hellez meaz a go treven rag ry an gwella than devas, meero, thera nye quellas hethow edn Alban leb nag igge an tacklawma maraw; en contrary part, ma lowar cowz dro tha gwel a Alban glaze dibar arta, ha pell thurt boaz maraw, ma heanez ha goth an Skottez nevra mouy deraage an lagagow nye.

Thur pelea igge hebma devethes, than? Car dre hevall, ethewa peath an bobell Kelezonack, an ledars eze urt pedn an veadge ma, thenz meaz an bobell tyogow, ni an pedzhivigian, ha thenz dewa an both an bobellma. Leb ma an both, e veath baree an gwra.

En 1746 e ve pedzhivick, Charles an Teag, reez crya ledurdy an bobell Kelezonack, buz ther a kethe ledurdy ma nena ke boaz cryez, nye a dale adgan dro an deanna favan googe, hag e ve eve leb reez wheelas e fortyn leb reez destrea fortyn rima a veng a skoolthya, whathee nebas ha nebas Alban reez dasveva.

En 1746 an Skottez a theath teraba Derby, ha nena, culla urt scavall an gow drera army broaz a kerraz tewa noor bedn angye, gye a draylyas an dro ha troachya trea tha Alban.

En 1497 an Cornowan, ledyez gen gove en ednack, a oras an army angye bezyn Rosthue, ha a zavas aman ha ombla; ha ke ve angye fethes, gye a theravas aman arta ke kethe blenhamal Hagenzol, termen an Brezel Civill en 17vas cansblethan, an army Curmoack a geyv trevath war trevath, ha na veva beska fethes?

En Alban gye a wheelas destrea an tawas Gothalack ha pub seen an heanez nacnall Kelezonack. En Curnow, an tacklaw ma

reeg clamdera heb gweras aveaz, dreath cawses naturall. Eze rag fra an Curnowian hethow na ell gwel wuerth an Skottez, ha gonez tewa an journa hoban leb alga an pow angye boaz assonex arta avel glaze thibarh?

"Fatla urt an erbidgack Curmoack?" ma radn goolen. "Na ellen nye leana traveeth vaze heb erbidgack jack!"

Urt hebma therama gorriby, gwro considra teeaz Chechnya. Igge rina quachas teraba an erbidgack angye tha voaz creav ken demanda go reath? Ree eysy ewa tha excusya gon hunnen rag gwreans dreath descrea dre gonha pub tra boaz fity ken dalla. Pe ra an gorhall dalla tha selhas, pewa vedn laull, "Gortero teraba me tha griba a fedn!"

Ena tha nye gon tawas (ha nag eze traveeth ew mouy mene avel hebma rag prey deraage an beaz agom haaze), ema tha nye gon heanez (peacare), ema tha nye lowar nearth (fatel ew hebma usyez?) Eya, nag o nye buz nebas, whathee nebas ew an Chechnyans gurtez warbarha gen an Russians! Ma edn dra eze than deenza, ha ma owne tha ve dralgava fillal tha nye, ha hedna ew an both, ha kylmez close tha hedna ew an credgans. Heb credgans, traveeth. Ez ezi a lavarall en Bibell drell an credgans gwayath menhiow.

Meero an dro. Ma leas mena, dehogall. Eze credgans luek rag gwel thongy? Gero nye seyva an gwelha exampills, ha meddra peath eze gwrez gen rerol, ha gwel gon gwelha. Pokeean, gero nye ry aman, ha gwel ro a gon pow than Sausen.

Richard Gendall

### Summary

In 1746 Bonnie Prince Charlie called upon, and wasted, the loyalty of the Scots, the upshot of which was the near destruction of Gaelic Scotland. They had even turned back at Derby without a fight. Yet Scotland has risen out of its ashes, and there is much talk of independence today.

In 1497 the Cornish army, led only by a blacksmith, reached, fought and lost at Blackheath, yet rose again the same year!

And in the Great Civil War, the Cornish army was invincible!

If we Cornish are serious over wanting our country back, let us remember what we can do, and have done. We have every necessary factor to give us confidence - language, history, energy, skills. It all depends on the will to succeed, faith. Let us not make the excuse that we must first assure ourselves of a sound and independent economy. Those who are really serious just get on with it.

The Scots have recovered. The Chechnyans have not first worked out a secure economy for themselves! If we are not prepared to go for it, we may as well give up.

## Kesva an Taves Kernewek a dhe Gembra

Yn Kres mis Hwevrer kannasow diworth Kesva an Taves Kernewek eth dhe Gardydh (Caerdydd), Kembra, rag comuntell gans eseli Kesva an Taves Kembra (Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg) had yw kori soedhogel seyvs gans an govannans yn Loundres der an Soedhiva Gembra. Dihaval yw diworth an Gesva Kernewek yn unn fordh bossek - yma dhe'n Gembroyon Yalgh blydhenyek a dheva viivil beus!

Soedhogyon Kesva an Taves Kernewek, Jenefer Lowe, Wella Brown, Skriflenyans, ha Kaderyer Graham Sanderson, a dhegemmeras dynnarh hegar ha kolonnek ha'n keskows a hohys a hwitbas ober ha savla an dihy gesva ha fatell yllir kesoberi war dhisplegyansow agan dihy yeth.

An Gembroyon o lowenn dhe glywes yn kever studh an yeth kernewek ha py par ober a vydh gwrys yn Kernow. Keffrys i a dhiswedhas an rann a wrons i gwari yn bynnans puptydh Kembra ha dres oll klerthe styf Reth an Yeth Kembra yn savla aga thaves y'n termyn a dheu.

Ernyys vev a fia dhe les dh'agan diw vro ha diw gesva kesoberi gwella gyllyn ha dhe ystynnna pella y'n termyn a dheu an kolm a veu gwrys.

### Summary

Report of a meeting held in February between the Welsh and Cornish Language Boards.

Cuntellians  
Letherednathie  
An Iz-Albanack  
en Alban

Ma clappiers an tavaz iz-Albanack (Scots) ow styrria restru cuntellians arbennik rag formia letherednathie squyrhez rag an tavaz angye. (An tavaz Albanack Keltack, kensa tavaz an pow, ew squyrthes en iyen en parrez, leba blethedyow). Nag eze idn standard rag an deeze leb a ra screffa iz-Albanack en deethoyow ma, buz an 'Scots Leid Associe' (Coweithas an Tavaz iz-Albanack) a lavarraz dre vedn angye cossyllia gen seffers ha muryanow an tavaz tha zenge 'byrdnar colloque', cuntellians leb veath devysyes I. Rol degemerez a'n gerriaw mouya kemyn.

2. Rol rowlys letherenna da gen torvys-rowl ew assenyys. 3. Neb zorth a gussell stak rag pesya gen an wheal. 4. Dalleth chekkyor letherednathie rag compositors ha dyllors. 5. Dalleth gerlevar rag compositors (ma nebba gerlevar iz-Albanack dyllez en parrez, buz nag ew squyrhez an letherednathie et angye). Tebbiaz da rag teze an iz-Albanack vya meras urt an clatterow ve kevez en Kernow dro tha weel letherednathie standard rag an tavaz, ha nena angye ra gwelhez dre dale thothan boaz ware. Ma nebba teze, mowz laull dreze interest thothan en tavaz, ew warbidn gwel letherednathie squyrhez rag an tavaz - na vedn an deeze ma gwelhez iz-Albanack moaz rang ha comeras lea an Sowznack en Alban.

Devethez ew an tavaz iz-Albanack adhort an Sowznack o cowez gen an Normanow en Alban dro than 13vez cansblethan. Hye theath ha boaz tavaz, offysyal an pow bedn an 16vez cansblethan, ha comeras lea an tavaz Albanack mesk an deeze broaz ke thera an radn vrossa a'n deeze kemyn clappia an Albanack Keltack. (Na oren nye poran pewa an kensa matern en Alban an oia clappia Albanack.) Nag o pur dha oll an termen an kevern treeth clappiers an Albanack ha clappiers an iz-Albanack. Govearns Alban vengha destrea an Albanack ouga an Dasformyans en 16vez cansblethan. Buz chawngwez ew hedda lebben. Ma'n theaw davaz dadn trooz tavaz an Sausen, ha'n theaw aswonez gen Bord Tavosow Bean Europ.

Robat ap Tomos

Summary

The Scots Leid Associe (Scots Language Society) are planning, in consultation with other interested bodies, a special conference later this year to devise a standard spelling for Lowland Scots, which up to now has never been fully standardised.



Keskerdh Kernow '97

In May 1497 around 3000 Cornishmen gathered at Bodmin. Under the leadership of Myghal Joseph An Gov (The Smith) of St Keverne and Thomas Flamank of Bodmin they marched to London in protest at the taxes imposed on them to finance England's war against Scotland. Gathering support along the way, the marchers reached London in late June, where they fought a battle against the King's forces, they were defeated and the leaders imprisoned. At the end of June, Myghal Joseph and Thomas Flamank were executed at Tyburn, but the rebellion had its effect in the special treatment of Cornwall thereafter. Myghal Joseph declared that he would have a name perpetual and fame permanent and immortal.

The events of 1497 have been remembered and are commemorated in Cornwall each year. Next year will be the 500th anniversary and deserves special attention. It is hoped to make the whole year a celebration of Cornwall and to remember the efforts of the men of 1497 by emphasising the achievements of Cornwall and the special identity within and to the wider world.

The proposed programme includes a production of one of the medieval Cornish plays, concerts, publications, exhibitions, a new film, work in schools and a youth project. In addition other events will add to the year, such as the Celtic Film Festival, which will visit the country for the first time in 1997.

At the centre of celebrations will be a march to London, following the 1497 route and arranged so that everyone can take part, whether it be for 3 miles or 300! Cornish events and exhibitions will be arranged at stopping places along the way, culminating in major events in London.

Organisations and individuals can join Keskerdh Kernow 97 for a minimum subscription of £5. Further details from: Keskerdh Kernow 97, 5 Quarry House, Rundles Court, Malpas Road, Truro TR1 1UR, Kernow.

Pennseythun  
Gernewek  
1996

This year saw the twenty first Pennseythun Gernewek, organised by 'Kowethas an Yeth Gernewek' and the first to be held in South-East Cornwall at Trenkrug, Porthbyghan (Tenecree, West Looe). Over the "Weekend" (some five days long) a varied programme of events, including talks on subjects as varied as the genetics of the Cornish Celts, and the technicalities of linguistics, Cornish language lessons, and a walk to Kilminster Woods, was enjoyed by the eighty people who stayed on site and those who visited during the daytime and evening sessions.

The evening entertainment was provided by various groups including Peter Berryman & Cathy Stevens (half of the Group "West") who's song "An Arvor" (the Shore) won The Pan-Celtic Song Contest at Tra Li (Tralee), also by Cam Kernewek, Ros Keltex and the Troyl Band who all gave a display of traditional dancing and were executed at Tyburn, but the rebellion had its effect in the special treatment of Cornwall thereafter. Myghal Joseph declared that he would have a name perpetual and fame permanent and immortal.

Also the unofficial yet traditional Saturday night/Sunday Morning "Keeywi Kurri ha Gwin" (Wine & Curry Party) courtesy of Mr Pawl Dunbar, went off with a swing, causing some of those who attended to completely miss the whole of Sunday Morning.

Commenting for the organisers, Pol Hodge remarked that the numbers attending compared favourably with the previous years, showing the strength of interest throughout the Duchy.

Further information on forthcoming 'Kowethas an Yeth' events can be obtained by telephoning Pol Hodge on 01726 882681.

The Celtic Den

A quarterly journal, mainly in English, dealing with Celtic language literature. Available from all good bookshops or direct from: The Celtic Den, 36 Frutthille Park, Belfast BT1 8GE, Ireland. Tel: 0232-232608 £1 per issue + 25p p&p. Annual subscription (four issues) £5 (include p&p).

Letter

Y charry,

There appears to have been some misunderstanding as to what is meant by (Modern) Cornish:

Time was when poor benighted Celtic scholars who drew up the distinction between Old, Middle and Modern Cornish thought the last user of Modern Cornish (otherwise known as Late) was the late Dolly Penreath. There are however as is well known, two major "misunderstandings" or standard languages both for different reasons but with equal justice called Modern Cornish, though one of them might better be called Revived Cornish (I am not alone in registering discomfort at the title of Wella Brown's Grammar). One of them, it appears, amid mild speculation as to the possible forging as opposed to the 'masking' of original MSS and the associated pedagogic problems, involves 'the manipulation and falsification of the orthography and grammar' (of Medieval Cornish by the way) but could be said to be wrong for the right reasons, while the other keeps to the late spellings and could be said to be right for the wrong. In all this of course it helps to be able to tell the difference between 'write' and 'rong' but is not strictly necessary. (Mr Phillips, for example, who seems unable to tell the difference between smuggling and "free trading" appears to require some help from the Excise Men). In this light (and we could all do with some!) readers may have been reluctant to endorse Mr. Gendall's comment (Carn 92) on my letter on Modern Cornish terminology. (Carn 89) 'Mr. Chadwick's letter, simply proves my point (my emphasis). There appears to be considerable misunderstanding as to what is meant by Modern Cornish as well as by the standardisation of its orthography' (his). It may after all have been somewhat unclear from the orthography as to whether it was the language, or the misunderstanding, that he was seeking to standardise. (His Modern Cornish would appear to have been the "standard" one i.e. Carn 88. Is it?) Last year a young London-based kemyn speaker met a fluent kernuak speaker at Lowender Peran and was delighted, as no doubt was St. Piran, to find that they could hold a reasonable conversation. Perhaps this is what is meant by Living Cornish. I cannot speak for the illiterate Dolly but there's just a chance that had she been listening she would have shouted (and perfectly authentically) to anyone within earshot: [Gaseugh agas flows!] Some respelling is permitted...

Talking of 'flows' you may recall from Mr Gendall's reference to a 'camnyllage' scheme (Obfuscation=tewlheans? takes many forms) he appeared to be in some doubt as to my identity...? Well it turns out that all along I was in disguise, having styled myself - *meur ow ankomyrnys* - Chairman Kowethas Kernewek Loundres, which of course is The London Cornish Association, instead of Chairman Kowethas Kernewek Yn City Lit i.e. the independent-minded, Cornish class in London (Well it is London based...). Scholars, (B.A., PG.Dip Ling.) and Cornish (one eighth Cornish) people like to see things in black and white, and in response to Nicholas Williams' publication a little 'Comic acid' may stand us all in good stead but for the time being, when it comes to grey areas, it being important to keep up appearances, may I suggest pale blue?

Cheryta  
Lommas Carwithedneck  
(just testing the water)

Celtic  
Rugby  
Championship

I'm sure you would agree that there is one thing every Celtic nation enjoys watching and playing. I am referring to, of course, the great sport rugby. I am astonished that a Celtic rugby championship has not already been set up. In this article I am going to discuss the pros and cons of creating a Celtic rugby championship.

We have to look at the problems and difficulties of this idea. To begin with, a big problem facing us is the poor standard of some stadiums but this can be changed. Why not design new stadiums for the nations who have not at the present time got world class grounds. But where would the money come from? Maybe we could get grants from certain organisations or authorities. If we could find the money to build these stadiums it would have to be built in the capital of that nation.

Another problem is how can this championship be financed. There will be a need for sponsors. There are many Celtic companies in every Celtic nation that may be able to give financial support.

I am now going to give you my idea of a Celtic rugby championship. The championship will be seven days long and held annually in a different Celtic country every year. It might be a good idea if the first couple of championships are held in

Ireland, Wales or Scotland while the other countries are having their new stadiums built.

At the beginning of this championship there will be two groups or leagues. The groups will consist of three Celtic countries. The two top teams of these groups will be through to the semi-finals. Then the two winners will be through to the final. The winner of the final will receive a trophy called The Celts Cup.

As I said the championship will be seven days long. On the first day (Sunday), the first match of each group will be played. Then on the second day (Monday), the other remaining matches of each group will be played. On the third day (Tuesday), there will be a break to prepare for the semi-finals on Wednesday. Thursday will be another break for the final on Friday. The Saturday will be a special day. There won't be any games, there will be a festival.

In this festival there will be stalls. It will be like an Eisteddfod. The Celtic rugby championship will have a stall and show the Celts to fans. The six rugby unions will be able to have stalls also. Other Celtic organisations, not only sport, will also be able to have their own stalls. Organisations such as the Celtic League can have stalls. If possible, this festival would be even better if the players would be able to meet some fans and sign autographs and maybe even pass the ball around. This festival would be held in an appropriate field somewhere in the hosting country.

With a championship there will be an obvious need for some form of management. A committee will have to be set up. This committee will be comprised of representatives from the Celtic rugby unions. A chairperson of the committee will be elected by the representatives.

To get this championship on its feet publicity is needed. Contacting groups such as Urdd Gobaith Cymru (The Welsh League of Youth), to see if they can get people interested, might be a good idea. Also national newspapers such as the Western Mail, The Scotsman and other popular newspapers may be able to advertise. It would be good if the championship could take the interest of Celts all over the world. Contacting communities in America, Nova Scotia, Australia, Patagonia etc could bring people back to their homeland for the championship.

This championship will only go ahead with the support from the Scottish, Welsh, Cornish, Irish, Breton and Manx Rugby Unions. Hopefully every nation would be able to take part.

If this championship happens it would be great. It would be the beginning of a new era for Celtic Rugby, so to make it extra special it would be ideal for the first championship to take place in the year 2000, the new millennium.

Steffan Lewis  
Age: 11

# MANNIN

## Filmyn as Chellveeish Cheltiagh

Va'n chiahgtoo feailley jeig jeh filmy'n as chellveeish Cheltiagh er ny chummal ayns Bangor sy Thalloo Vretnagh er y gherid. Goll rish y Cohaglym Cheltiagh, ta'n feailley shoh rouail mygeayrt ny cheeraghyn Cheltiagh, er-lhimme yeh Mannin. Choud's ta fys aym, cha nel Mannin er ngoailt ayn dy kiart nearys y traa hoo Peter Maggs as George Broderick jeh Foillan Films y filmy'n 'Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey' dy ve taishyunt ec y feailley shoh ny smoo na jeh bleaney er dy henney. Va shoh y chid fillym va reau jeant as y shecan ayns Gaelg ny lomarcan. Chamamah as shen, er-lhiam dy ren Rob Rolner (eshyn ren 'The Story of Mann') prow dy ghoailt ayns sy feailley shoh keayrt dy row, agh d'nsh Albinagh enagh da nagh dod eh er y fa nagh row Mannin ny cheer Cheltiagh!

Anshee, ec Bangor ayns 1996 dooyrt sleih dy liooar dy ve vie lhiou cheet d'ys Mannin dy beagh y feailley goll er cummal ayns shen. Agh cha jean shen taghyrt derrey vees sleih voish Mannin goailt ayns lioorish jannoo filmy'n as feeshany.

Ayns y chlaare stoamey jeh'n feailley, va caslys-cheeey jeh ny h-elany'n shoh. Goll rish ram caslys-syn-cheeey y laa t'ayn jiu, va baurney sy voayl raad lishagh Mannin ve ry-akin.

Ec y feailley filmy'n as chellveeish Cheltiagh, t'eh baghtal ry-akin dy vel noudys enagh eddyr ny colughyn moarey as ny colughyn beggey. Dy jarroo, ta colughyn moarey ayn: y BBC, HTV, Chellveeish Albinagh, Ammyr Kiare Bretnish, France Trois as myr shen. Ta troo ny colughyn beggey orroo shoh as foddee dy vel ny colughyn moarey coontey dy vel adsyn ta beg goll rish jiargany'n. Ta sleih enagh smooinghyn dy vel y feailley shoh er jeet dy ve fo smaght ny deiney moarey dy bollagh. Agh fegooish ny colughyn moarey veagh genney argid ayn. As ga dy vel ny 'Celtic' ayns ny colughyn moarey jannoo rooyr

stoo ayns Baarle as Frangish, foddee, son shickyrts t'ad jannoo filmy'n as feeshany ayns chengaghyn Cheltiagh.

Va'n ard-oraid currit ec Bob Collins, Lhiass-Ard-Stiureydr Raidio Teiffis Eireann.

Dooyrt eshyn dy nee ny traghtys (commercialism) yn red smoo ta baggyrt er ymskeaylley ry-hoi cur ny cultooryn dooghysaghy er nyn doshaghy. Ta'n chaghnooylleaght as y mangey er chaghlaa reddy'n son dy bragh. Ta shin egnit dy chur ooashley da'n argidys car y traa. Shegin da claryn cosney argid da ny ronneyderyn (shareholders). Claryn nagh vel jannoo shen, t'ad jeh beggan scansh. Cha nel Bob Collins ayns coardalys rish shen, agh shen ny ta taghyrt.

Dooyrt Bob Collins dy vel Bretin er ve feer aighoil er y fa dy row S4C (Ammyr Kiare Bretnish) currit er bun as t'eh feer speeideilagh. Cha vow Nerin ny Nalbin lheid yn argid as hooar S4C. Agh ta Comataidh Teibhisean Gaidhlig (CTG) ny red mie.

Ta CTG reill harrish y chellveeish Gaidhlig, goll er stiurey ec John Angus McKay. She McKay y dooinney ren mirril as eh taym red goll rish jeh milloont part veih reiltsy Lunnin dy chooilley vlein ry-hoi claryn chellveeish ayns Gaidhlig. Heill sleih dy liooar dy row Lunnin cur yn argid shoh da'n Gaidhlig dy cheelney ny h-Albinee veih'n ashoonaghy, agh t'eh jeaghy'n nagh vel shen kiart. Ren McKay reaghay sorch dy chonaant da'n Ghaidhlig, geiyrt er yn earroo dy chlaaryn va ny Bretnee geddyn.

Va imraa dy liooar jeant ec Bangor mychione Teiffis na Gaelge. Shoh yn shirveish chellveeish noa vees goailt toshiaght Oie Houney 1996, ymskeaylley ayns Yernish ny lomarcan. Va ooilley ny fir-toshee jeh'n stashoon noa ec Bangor. Ren Anne McCabe, y Femblyder Cooilteeny (Commissioning Editor) jeh Teiffis na Gaelge, goailt ayns ayns reoonaaght mychione kiaddey (plannal)

claryn noa. Dy chooilley cheayrt va peiagh enagh briaght feysht jeh'n ven vohit, v'ee egnit shirrey tooilley fys veih ny mainstyrn eck, va nyn soie sy chamyr cheddin maree. Bee y shirveish noa ymskeaylley son tree ooryn sy laa ec y toshiaght. Tra vrie peiagh enagh jeh Anne McCabe cre vees ad ymskeaylley cheu-moioe jeh'n traa shen, cha row fregayrt crumyn ry-gheddyn. Gyn ourys bee eh mie dy liooar Oie Houney, agh t'eh jeaghy'n dy vel skimmee Teiffis na Gaelge ro harroogh dy ve boirit lioorish reddy'n goll rish Gaelg Vanninagh ec y traa t'ayn. Agh oddagh Mannin cosney reddy'n foaysagh ass Nalbin as ass Nerin neesh. Foddee dy bee ny Manninee ably dy chur Gaelg er feeshany'n Gaidhlig son patchy'n.

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Orree Crennell

*The annual International Celtic Film and Television Festival was held in Wales recently. Fears were expressed there about the impact on native cultures of the new world of naked commercialism allied with new technology. Also, exactly what is 'Celtic Film and Television'?*

## Call for Crackdown on Money Laundering

The theft from a Securicor van in Belfast some weeks ago, over £1,000,000, by a para-military gang gave spectacular publicity to what is by now an almost routine 'money making criminal machine' in the North.

Protection rackets, robberies, drugs etc. are all part of criminal activity which immediately conjures up visions of caches of money or pots of gold all over the city. What do these criminals do with the vast amounts of cash they generate, some of which, readily identifiable, can be traced? The answer of course is that they launder it and fortunately for them Ireland with its own financial services zone connected to the easily accessible offshore tax havens in the Isle of Man and Channel Isles is well placed to service these crooks.

The Celtic League is a seasoned critic of the financial services sector now established in Dublin and the Isle of Man. In February of 1991 we specifically raised with the Manx Government's Chief Minister the question of the laundering of money from para-military sources in the North through the Island. Our concerns were brushed aside only to see later in that year confirmation when newspapers in the North indicated RUC concerns that accounts in Manx and Channel Isles banks were suspected of being used by these groups.

The Manx government remained complacent about shady transactions within its jurisdiction, even when the doubts of its own regulatory body the FSC, and its lack of staff, were exposed in an article in Private Eye magazine on 24.5.91.

The Manx government proudly proclaimed the world will get the message *the Island is a no go area for money launderers* as it enacted amendments to its domestic Prevention of Terrorism Bill in 1992. The Celtic League remained critical however and its criticism was echoed by the Manx Nationalist Party in a detailed report on the Finance Sector in 1994 which contained the cryptic comment that there was *evidence that the smiling face of the finance sector masks a deeper layer of out and out criminal activities ... no authority, least of all the Manx Government has systematically investigated the underworld of the Isle of Man finance sector.*

Unfortunately for the Manx government the next critique was to come from an establishment source. In October of 1995 the head of the Island's Fraud Squad Dept., Insp. Geoff Allen, confirmed that money from criminal sources had infiltrated the Manx financial system. Speaking at a conference on money laundering held on the Isle of Man he confirmed that illegal funds from both

Europe and Latin America had passed through the Island. Meanwhile the head of the Island's FSC, Jim Noakes, is quoted as saying at the same conference, 'Criminal business is already embedded in the financial system and some of us may already be working for criminals without knowing it. It's our problem - if we claim to be an international centre we are involved'. These honest and frank admissions were swiftly buried by the finance sector's PR machine and the Manx government.

The Manx government, like others globally, does not seem to have the inclination nor the will to devote sufficient resources to policing its financial services. The regulators and policemen themselves admit the sector is targeted by criminals. Gangs from as far a field as Moscow and Columbia are reported to have used the Manx financial centre - fertile ground indeed for any group in Belfast looking for somewhere safe to stash £1,000,000.

J.B. Moffatt

## Penal Reforms Imperative

The Manx Council for Civil Liberty has stepped up its campaign to liberalise penal policy in the Isle of Man.

Following the death in custody of a young prisoner at the Island's overcrowded Victoria Road jail the MCCL contacted the internationally respected, London based, Howard League for Penal Reform. The Howard League has indicated a willingness to send a fact-finding mission to the Island.

The inquest into the death of the inmate at the prison returned an open verdict. During the inquest a medical expert was critical of the drugs administration at the jail he said: "It should have been managed with medical advice" and went on to say that he had not come across such large doses of addictive drugs being prescribed which included Mogadon and Valium - outside the prison. It was revealed that the inmate hanged himself when an observation flap was left open for ventilation purposes. Evidence from fellow inmate that the dead prisoner had been attempting to attract attention for

J.B. Moffatt



over two hours by pressing the cell buzzer was rubbished by Advocate Paul Morris who was representing the Department of Home Affairs. Another prisoner scheduled to give evidence at the inquest failed to turn up as he had taken an overdose the day before the inquest. The inquest Coroner cautioned the jury to be 'careful' about the evidence given by prisoners!

Coincidentally an Independent Television news crew working for the Regional station Border Television was refused permission to shoot footage at Victoria Road jail. The Manx Council for Liberty in an interview with the television team condemned both Manx penal policy and conditions at the jail, they said Manx government attitudes towards penal policy were sick! MCCL say that the facilities are unfair to both prisoners and staff.

Meanwhile in a separate, related development, the United Nations has also indicated that the Island's policy of imprisoning children (10-14 year olds) will again come under scrutiny when the Committee on the Rights of the Child meet in May-June 1996.

Last year the Committee, which is based at the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva (Switzerland), extended recommendations it had earlier levelled at the United Kingdom government to include the Isle of Man. The proposals called for 'serious consideration to be given to raising the age of criminal responsibility'. The language, although diplomatically framed, was a direct criticism of the Manx government's harsh policy towards young offenders.

So far the Manx government is unrepentant and the Department of Home Affairs Minister, Richard Corkill has said, in an open snub to the UN, he will not be influenced 'by some committee in Geneva'.

## CENTRE FOR MANX STUDIES

The Centre for Manx Studies was founded in 1992 to provide a focal point for research in a wide range of areas relating to the Isle of Man, from the earliest times to the present day. The Centre is able to offer a number of services and facilities to researchers at all levels, drawing on the expertise and experience of its parent bodies Manx National Heritage, the University of Liverpool and the Isle of Man Department of Education, 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LX.

## Manx History

Students taking the BA (Honours) History course at the University of Huddersfield, England are now able to opt for a module on Manx history, entitled 'The Isle of Man in the Irish Sea Province, 1300-1700'. Taught by Dr Tim Thornton, the advanced level module offers the opportunity to experience a long-term view of Manx history, including the examination of issues raised by small nations responding to the challenges of invasion and 'colonial' domination through a discussion of the Viking and Scandinavian heritage, the link to Scotland and the lordship of the Isles, the transition to English overlordship in the fourteenth century, the role of Man in English high politics in the late middle ages and early modern period, the Stanley lordship of Man and the Manx church and the impact of the Reformation.

If you would like more details, please contact Dr. Thornton at the University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH, England.

## A Short History of the Manx Language

Brian Stowell and Diarmaid Ó Breasáin.  
Pub. An Clóchán, Beal Feirste,  
price Stg. £2.50

Sometimes referred to as the Cinderella of the Celtic languages, Manx Gaelic is also known as a dead language. Building on the work of previous pioneers, Manx has in the last fifteen years seen a remarkable growth that has belied these two perceptions. Only 150 years ago Manx stood as the language of 90% of the Isle of Man, living in tandem with its two sister languages in Scotland and Ireland. It was however to experience a remarkable decline with the last native speaker dying in 1974. Throughout that period men and women struggled against negativity and ignorance to save Manx and now they are finally being rewarded with the boom which Manx is currently experiencing.

## POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

Draft proposals are under discussion with the participating Departments of the University of Liverpool for two new postgraduate taught awards in Manx Studies, an MA and a Diploma. The courses have been planned so that a candidate successfully completing the Diploma course can transfer to Year Two of the MA. The courses are designed to encourage the advanced scholarly and systematic study of the Isle of Man and to foster new research within the framework of a taught degree. The approach will be multi-disciplinary. Compulsory elements will provide a formal structure for the study of a broad span of Manx geology, archaeology and history, while optional modules will offer an opportunity to work in smaller groups following detailed courses of study on specifically Manx topics.

Information from: The Centre for Manx Studies.

## Documentary Series

The Centre for Manx Studies has been asked to contribute to a proposed series of documentary programmes to be broadcast on Manx Radio.

The subject is 'Manxness' and will be explored through some of the research now taking place, particularly regarding aspects of Manx cultural life.

## Letter

A Chara,

It is one thing to show (the article in your Spring 96 edition of *Carn* "How Roger Casement was vindicated") that the "diaries of Roger Casement" which suggested that he was homosexual were forged to turn homophobic elements of world opinion against him at the time of his trial in 1916. It is quite another thing for E. O'Maille in the present day to claim that it is "Sinister and Evil" to suggest that someone can be both an Irish Patriot and a homosexual. Fortunately in the Republic of Ireland which Casement gave his life towards it is today an offence to discriminate against homosexual citizens.

I am surprised that *Carn* should publish such disgraceful sentiments which could appeal only to prejudice and ignorance. In doing so it does nothing to further the aims of the Celtic League.

As for E. O'Maille may I suggest a possible title for another article "Oscar Wilde - Branded 'Homosexual' by British Conspiracy!"

Michael Cashman

## Political Correctness for Celts

### The British Isles

The term *The British Isles* is not acceptable as a geographical term when it refers to Ireland, the Isle of Man and Great Britain, as Ireland and the Isle of Man are separate entities, not 'offshore' islands of Great Britain. But while it has long been admitted that the term *The British Isles* is incorrect the problem has been in finding an alternative.

Surely the first step is to ask what terms are used by the Celts of these islands? In Dineen's Irish language dictionary, these islands are described as 'Oileán Iarthair Eorpa'. The term used in Manx is 'Eilanyr Sheear ny hOarpey'. Both of these mean 'The West Europe Isles'. A search of the major Scots Gaelic and Welsh dictionaries revealed no term for these islands at all (I could not find a source for Cornish). This must, if not all, of the Celts of these islands do not use any term based on 'British'.

In the light of this, should not 'The West Europe Isles', as the traditional term of the Irish and the Manx, be considered before any alternatives?

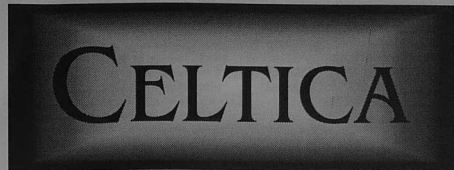
One commonly suggested alternative is 'The Anglo-Celtic Isles'. The 'Anglo' and 'Celtic' parts are usually understood to be separate from each other. This is a hairsplitting distinction. In practice it would be easy to argue that if Ireland, Manin and Great Britain are Anglo-Celtic Isles their peoples must be Anglo-Celts. This is just another way of saying they are British.

The obvious answer is to choose a neutral geographical term that can be understood world-wide as referring to these islands. That rules out vague terms like 'The Atlantic Isles' or 'The European Isles'. 'The North Atlantic Isles' sounds like Newfoundland or Greenland to North American ears, and 'The North Europe Isles' excludes Iceland. We are drawn inevitably to 'The West Europe Isles' as the simple statement of geographical fact. That is why I believe it is no coincidence that the Irish and Manx chose it.

The term 'The West Europe Isles' also reaffirms that these islands have always been part of the history and culture of Europe. It would help to bridge the psychological gap that exists for many between Brittany and the other Celtic countries, and make it easier for Celts to see 'Celtica' as a natural region of Europe. The English could feel closer to their nearest neighbours on the European mainland. Some Tory rightwingers apart, most English people should not object to that.

For all these reasons 'The West Europe Isles' is the best alternative to the so-called *British Isles*.

N. Mac Coitir



## A New Opportunity for the Celtic Languages

Some twelve years ago, when I first developed a serious interest in Celtic linguistics, my original intention was to develop an international Celtic language based upon all of the Celtic languages - Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, Manx Gaelic, Breton, Welsh and Cornish.

However, I quickly discovered this to be an impossible dream. The schism between the Gaelic languages and the Brittonic languages was too great and any attempt at marrying the two together would in the last resort prove to be too contrived and self-defeating.

I was, to say the least, disappointed and frustrated at having to abandon my original intent. I had for a long time been aware of the need for a Celtic-based language-in-common for the Celtic peoples, as well as for those who had lost sight of their Celtic heritage and even come to think of themselves as being English (or, perversely, 'British', by which they meant the same thing) or French.

In the past hundred years there have been numerous attempts at inventing and popularising artificial languages of various kinds. Some of them enjoyed notable success in their day but perhaps the most well known of those which still survives is Esperanto (which, interestingly, claims 8 million adherents).

The objection to all invented languages, however, is that they are generally based upon English, Latin, Greek, or various Germanic or Slavonic languages.

What I wanted was a language for the Celts, a language which was more than mere 'invention', a language with authentic roots, a language which could well have been what the original Celtic might have evolved into had it not fragmented into separate parts.

Just as the original Celtic had fragmented and 'diverged' into the language we know today, I wanted to draw

together these separate threads into a culturally-sound 'converged' language geared for the modern world.

## The Answer

After pondering the problem for some time I finally came to the conclusion that the best approach would be to structure a language based on the Brittonic languages but with elements from the Gaelic languages and from what we know of the original 'common Celtic' language.

Although Anglo-French influences have driven a wedge between our Celtic tongues, marked similarities do persist and we still retain much greater linguistic commonality than is generally realised.

All the Celtic languages (even Breton, which, unlike the others, now exists within a French ambience) have, to a greater or lesser extent, been influenced by English. (Indeed, its influence upon Cornish has been so overbearing that, sadly, one almost thinks of it nowadays as an English dialect rather than as a traditional Celtic tongue).

## Decadence

The signs of decadence are patently clear as destability and fragmentation become features of the Celtic tongues.

One only has to examine the pathetic state of the Cornish language in the last century, just before it became extinct, to see what could be in store for our other languages.

The process is exacerbated by some writers and educators who, by neglecting the traditional literary forms and straying into dialectism and colloquialism serve to undermine the authentic Celtic roots of our languages.

Is the process by which the original Celtic destroyed itself repeating itself?

The Cornish language, only relatively recently resurrected, has already splintered into three or four different factions. The other Celtic languages gradually disintegrate into numerous dialects and sub-dialects. All of them linguistic dead-ends; indulgences we cannot afford.

All this results in the weakening of the traditional linguistic standards so essential in providing stability. It splits the population into smaller and smaller factions making the language 'market' increasingly less viable.

It may not be an exaggeration to say that Brittaneg could well be the Celtic World's last best hope.

## The Problems

Before looking at Brittaneg's advantages and benefits, let us attempt a survey of the difficulties the Celtic languages must overcome.

1. A lack of social, legal, and political status born of ideologically-motivated opposition from the English and French establishments.
2. Non-viability of individual Celtic languages as mass media because (a) most people use the dominant languages of English or French (b) fragmentation within each individual language dilutes the potential language 'market' and (c) potential learners, who would prefer to learn authentic language rather than some heavily anglicised or francised version, are deterred.
3. Unwillingness of political establishments to introduce the necessary resources to promote use of Celtic languages (e.g. by teaching and by extensive use of Celtic languages in the mass media). Only governments have the scale of resources necessary to create the market demand for reading material and broadcasting which would turn Celtic-language publishing and broadcasting into straightforward commercial propositions. Clearly, the Anglo-French political axis is not about to provide these resources.

## A Common Language

A language, to be a competitive and adequate medium of communication in the modern world, must

- (a) Have an adequate vocabulary. Brittaneg is a language which will have a store of words enabling great precision of expression and infinite shades of meaning. (That is one of the strengths of the English language).

(cont.)

(A New Opportunity... contd.)

- (c) Be capable of straightforward expression, and
- (c) Be attractive to learners. A potentially greater number of people can use Brittaneg than would use any local Celtic tongue and this in itself makes it more commercially viable.

Now, in Brittaneg, we have an inter-Celtic 'language-in-common' which has been purged of excessive external influences, to serve as a standard and source of inspiration for those wishing to connect with and preserve the authenticity of our local Celtic tongues. Brittaneg can be regarded as our very own 'Esperanto', providing an authentic means for communication between fellow Celts without resorting to English or French.

There is a natural tendency for most Celtic speakers, when searching for some word or expression, to lapse into using the words and expressions of the dominant language - be it English or French - as a matter of expediency. For those knowing Brittaneg this need no longer be so.

## A Linguistic Bridge

Brittaneg is a means of communication not only for the 'home countries' (i.e. Ireland, Scotland, Mann, Cornwall, Wales and Brittany) but also for expatriates in England and France and overseas.

Bearing in mind, as has been mentioned, the following of 8 million achieved by Esperanto, it does not require much imagination to see the enormity of the potential readership world-wide using the medium of Brittaneg.

But, finally, let us be clear about one point in particular. The objective of Brittaneg is not the *devalue* our extant local tongues but rather to *underpin* them and supplant the English and French languages as means of communication between Celts.

Brittaneg is a *bridge* between the individual Celtic tongues.

Brittaneg is constructed in such a way as to be easier to learn than is any individual Celtic language. An understanding of it will therefore provide an *entrée* into any of the local Celtic tongues, and vice versa.

Furthermore, Brittaneg can act as a mutual word bank - a source of authentic Celtic vocabulary - and a harmonising influence upon local Celtic tongues.

A self-teaching Brittaneg grammar and vocabulary 'Yeith an Brit' is now being published in monthly parts. Trial subscriptions (first two parts) cost £1sterling or French Fr10.00. Outside Europe US \$2.50. Cheques only, payable to: R.G. Roberts, 4 bank Square, Southport PR9 0DG, England.

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Richard G. Roberts

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**Garm Lu** is the Canadian Journal of Celtic Arts published annually by the Celtic Society at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Since its humble beginnings as a fledgling student endeavour in 1986, *Garm Lu* has developed into a mature, well-produced and attractively presented journal. The offerings here are varied, from poetry to short story and academic papers on history, folklore, language and book reviews.

The 1996 issue opens with a paper exploring Victorian social and political attitudes toward Ireland in "British Liberalism, the Potato Famine and the Celtic Race, 1845-51" by Ed Lengel. Also of socio-political interest is "The Literature of Terror" by Sandy Carlson, exploring the relationship between writing and resistance in late twentieth century Belfast. There are fine examples of poetry in Irish from Jennifer Reid, a student in Celtic Studies and co-editor of *Garm Lu*. Her style is simple, touching and accessible in "Beán Fásta" and "Ag Síleadh". Another poem by James Leonard relives the unforgettable call of sea and rock that emanates from the cliffs of Aran.

Another Celtic Studies student, Barbara MacKellar, takes a second look at "Surrealism in Traditional Irish Folklore" from the shape-shifter of traditional tales to the Madness of Sweeney. Of related interest is Douglas MacGowan's "Janet Douglas: the Vanishing Seer", a famous historical example from the seventeenth century of a young girl from the Scottish Highlands who possessed the 'Second Sight'.

Written in Irish is a well-researched paper on the literary connections and effect of Joseph Conrad's writings on the work of Ireland's Pádraic Ó Conaire earlier this century, during the latter's time spent in London. An article written on the topic of the art of Celtic manuscripts, "Some Observations on the Study of the Echtermach Gospels and Related Manuscripts" is written by editor of *Garm Lu* Sonja Johnston who adeptly provides a comparative study of the connections between selected Medieval illuminated manuscripts such as the Book of Armagh, and the Gospels of Echtermach, Lindisfarne and Durham.

For those with an interest in the history of the Modern Irish language, Secretary to *Bord na Leabhar Gaelige*, Seán de Fréine's "A Reassessment of Language Shift in Nineteenth Century Ireland" is a good overview of a period during which many people existed between languages, losing their own Gaelic and falteringly taking on English. De Fréine suggests that, as the Great Famine was a case of extreme social

upheaval in the lives of Irish people, so too was the tragic uprooting and dissociation of the Irish language from the mouths and consciousness of its speakers.

It is pleasing to see the support given in *Garm Lu* to language. There are several submissions written in four Celtic languages: poetry, a short story ("An Fhuinneog") and literary criticism in Irish, poetry and linguistic commentary in Scots Gaelic and an inventive short story ("A Celtic Trilogy") written in three Celtic languages, moving from Scots Gaelic to Breton to Cornish and back again to Gaelic.

*Garm Lu* is a labour of love by and for those interested in Celtic Studies and the literature and culture of the Celtic peoples. It is encouraging to find an annual of this quality and longevity published in the Toronto community.

David Livingston-Lowe

## Political Correctness for Celts

### International mail

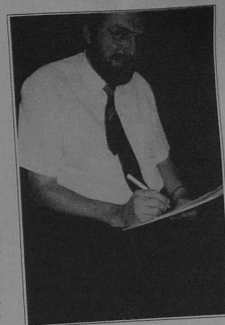
There is a saying "Act as if you were already free and all the sooner you will be free."

When a letter is posted from one country to another it is normal to write the name of the destination country as the last line of the address. When the destination of a letter is in the same country the name of the country is usually left out. It follows from this that Celtic nationalists should, when posting a letter from Scotland to Wales, or from Wales to England etc. always finish the address with the name of the country just as if it was being posted to the other side of the world, even though the English post office might consider this unnecessary.

As a matter of political correctness people from outside the Celtic countries sending mail to one of them should always mark the letter 'Scotland', 'Wales', 'Brittany' etc. (normally written in the language of the country in which the letter is posted), and NOT mark the letter 'France', 'Great Britain' (or even worse 'UK'). If it is thought that the local post might not know where a particular Celtic country is, then 'European Union' can be added underneath!

Robat ap Iomos

## World Conference on Linguistic Rights Implement Declaration Now!



Cathal Ó Luain signing the declaration

A large number of linguistic associations and specialists have been working throughout the past three years to produce a Declaration on Linguistic Rights. This group acknowledges the fact that, traditionally, colonising languages have marginalised and oppressed languages spoken by indigenous peoples absorbed by the expansion of political entities. This group further acknowledges that it is the right of everyone to use and maintain their own language in their territory, irrespective of whether or not this territory lies within or is divided by other political territories.

It is accepted that there are, even yet, well over 6,000 languages still spoken in the world today. Around 80% of these are considered threatened. According to a representative of the Summer Institute of Linguistics more than three thousand languages have no written form.

These facts, together with the acceptance that cultural and linguistic diversity is an essential part of human existence, led to the drafting of a Declaration of Linguistic Rights in 1995. This draft was then circulated to interested groups internationally, including the Celtic League, for comment and amendment. From the 6-8 July over 300 delegates gathered in Barcelona to ratify formally the Declaration at a World Conference on Linguistic Rights.

The conference was hosted by CIEMEN (Mercator: Law and Linguistic Legislation) and International PEN (Committee for Translation and Linguistic Rights) with moral and technical support from UNESCO. The City of Barcelona also gave its support. The delegates representing several thousand languages heard the Declaration proclaimed in the Assembly Hall of Barcelona's University, and then signed it. Representing the Celtic League, were Chairman, Cathal Ó Luain (Éire) and Assistant General Secretary, Mark Kermode (Mannin).

Throughout the next two days, delegates discussed the implementation of the Declaration and heard submissions from representatives of UNESCO. It was the unanimous wish of the conference that the Declaration be submitted to UNESCO to be introduced as an International Convention on Linguistic Rights. Unfortunately, UNESCO has no power to

act upon its own volition, requiring instead, a mandate from the appropriate National Committees of the UNESCO. It is the intention of the Celtic League to involve as many organisations as possible in the Celtic countries in lobbying their respective governments to give UNESCO the necessary mandate and to honour its intent, which is unquestionable.

The following statement was given to the conference on behalf of the League:

"We would like to say a few words on the situation of the Celtic Languages from the perspective of the Celtic League. The C.L. regards the Celtic languages as essential elements in maintaining the Celtic identity of each country. The present position of each of the six Celtic languages varies considerably. The language of one of the smaller countries, Cornish, was considered eradicated well over a century ago but nevertheless in recent decades a revival is under way, a revival with limitations of course but nonetheless a revival. On the Isle of Man, which has an autonomous government and where despite neglect the historical continuity of the language was maintained, the teaching of Manx in schools has been introduced in recent years and demand is buoyant.

In Scotland while Scottish Gàidhlig is marginalised significant gains have been made in regard to education and communications, particularly TV. The case of the Irish Republic, the one Celtic country with full sovereignty (if not over its full territory) illustrates well the difference between theory and practice. One could say between a declaration and implementation! The Irish language is the first official language of the state according to the Irish Constitution yet the number of native speakers has declined steadily and Irish speakers in Ireland could hardly be said to enjoy full linguistic rights. In the north of Ireland under British rule they hardly exist at all and if a final political settlement is arrived at, the guarantee of linguistic rights must be an integral part of any such settlement.

The position of the Welsh language is seen to be the strongest and this is through the efforts of the Welsh language community themselves where major gains were made in administrative, legal and communication areas in recent decades. The position in the French State has been referred to earlier and the Breton language

has suffered badly with a severe decline in the number of native speakers and no assistance for Breton medium schools. Has anything really changed from the time when in public places signs in Brittany read *Defense de Cracher et de parler Bretonne?*

The Celtic League feels that the long periods of colonisation and enforced cultural assimilation endured by the Celtic countries must be taken into account when addressing the situations of the Celtic languages today.

With regard to the Declaration it was the very definition of language specific to a territory which allowed us to sign the Declaration as it made it applicable to the varying situations in the Celtic countries. To ensure the positions of the Celtic languages they must have a place in the legal, administrative systems and mass media of their countries. The Celtic League will be working at the implementation stage to ensure this crucial definition is maintained."

## CELTIC HISTORY REVIEW

A biannual magazine dealing with the histories of the six Celtic countries from a national and inter-Celtic viewpoint.

Price £1.50 per issue.

Annual Subscription £3.50 from 216 Falls Road, Belfast 12 6AH, Ireland.

# Peace & Neutrality Alliance



The Peace and Neutrality Alliance was established because of the threat to Irish Neutrality.

PANA outlines its objectives as:

- 1 It is within the OSCE and a reformed United Nations, and not the EU, that Ireland should pursue its security concerns.
- 2 Ireland should pursue a positive neutrality and independent foreign policy and not join or form an association with any military alliance, such as the WEU or NATO.
- 3 Ireland should seek to promote European and International security through a policy of disarmament and demilitarisation and should therefore oppose the militarisation of the EU.
- 4 Ireland should refuse to cooperate with or condone in any way policies or military groupings which maintain nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction.
- 5 Irish troops should only serve abroad as peacekeepers under the auspices of the UN.

It called a meeting on the 2nd of May of groups that have an interest in defending Irish Neutrality and/or have an interest in foreign affairs.

Some of the main points agreed were as follows:

Membership or affiliation to PANA would be open to all groups or individuals who agree with its objectives regardless of disagreement on other issues.

Groups that affiliated (affiliation fee is £20) would appoint an individual to liaise with PANA, and inform the media of their support for its objectives.

Members and groups would seek sponsors, people who would be known in public from all walks of life, who would agree to publicly support PANA.

The Councillors for Peace and Neutrality had already been established and is Chaired by Cllr Colm Breathnach, 15 Woodland Park, Cabinteely, Co. Dublin. Councillors willing to support PANA should contact Colm directly. It is the objective of PANA to contact every Councillor in Ireland to gain their support.

The Government has, since the meeting, agreed to cooperate even more with the nuclear armed military alliance, the WEU. This 'quicksand strategy' will continue unless people are willing to take an active role in defending Irish Neutrality. The President of the EU has openly called for a single European Army, and a single Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Chair of the EU Commission has again called for

the merger of the EU and the WEU. PANA needs your support now.

**Roger Cole  
Chair**

*For further information contact:*  
PANA, 113 Springhill Avenue,  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland,  
E mail; vmacdowe@iol.ie

## Low Altitude Flight Noise

The Celtic League is to continue to press the British military authorities in the North of Ireland for information on the health impact of operations by military helicopters around several bases in the North.

The League had written to both the Northern Ireland Secretary and HQ British Army in March expressing general concerns and also a specific concern about apparent plans to site a heli-pad at a new Police base in the Springfield area of Belfast.

In a reply the military authorities have indicated that no landing site is to be included at Springfield Road and whilst admitting to noise problems around several bases (Bessbrook, Crossmaglen and Forkhill) disappointingly they reject requests for specific noise pollution information saying 'it would not be practicable to supply meaningful information'.

The attitude of the military in the North of Ireland contrasts sharply with the MoD in the UK who not only have responded positively to queries from the League about military aircraft noise pollution (over mid-Wales) but have promised that a report into the problem should be available later this year.

Meanwhile new research published in April in West Germany supports the long held contention of campaigners, like the Celtic League, that there is a causal link between low flying by aircraft and helicopters and health problems, particularly hearing problems (tinnitus) in young children.

The Celtic League will also be pressing the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to recognise that the people in the North have the right to have this problem considered on a par with other areas where military low flying is a problem.

**J.B. Moffatt**

## Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership fee (including *Carn*) and subscription rates are IR£10; Stg£10; 90FF or US\$20.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe Stg.£10 and airmail outside Europe Stg.£13.00.

For information about the Celtic League, applications for membership, subscriptions, etc. write to any of the following secretaries:

**ALBA Mairi Denovan**, Old Mission House, Nth. Erradale, Ross-shire IV21 2DS.

**BREIZH Youenn Craff**, 145 Straed Talbodek, 29300 BEI/BAYE, Brittany.

**CYMRU Jina Gwyrfaï**, 3 Croes Y Waen, Waenfawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

**ÉIRE Subscriptions:** c/o 33 Bóthar Bancroft, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24.

**KERNOW Martyn Miller**, 10 Trewartha Court, Pound Street, Liskeard.

**MANNIN Cristl Jerry**, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel.

**LONDON BRANCH Robat ap Tomos**, "Dyffryn", Gretton Fields, Gretton, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5HH, England.

**USA Stephen Paul de Villo**, 313 East 201 Street, Bronx, New York 10458.

**INTERNATIONAL BRANCH Alan Heusaff**, Seana Gharráin, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, Éire.

**CEAP BREATAINN Frangag Nic Eachainn**, Box 179, Mabou, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada BOE 2WO.

The **General Secretary** and **PRO** of the Celtic League is **Bernard Moffatt**, 11 Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan, Mannin.

The **Editor** is **Ms P. Bridson**, 33 Br Bancroft, Tamhlacht, BÁC 24, Éire.

Our next deadline for material for *Carn* is 1st August 1996. Materials sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims, and should be typed. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor nor of the Celtic League.

E-Mail: mkermode@enterprise.net

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