

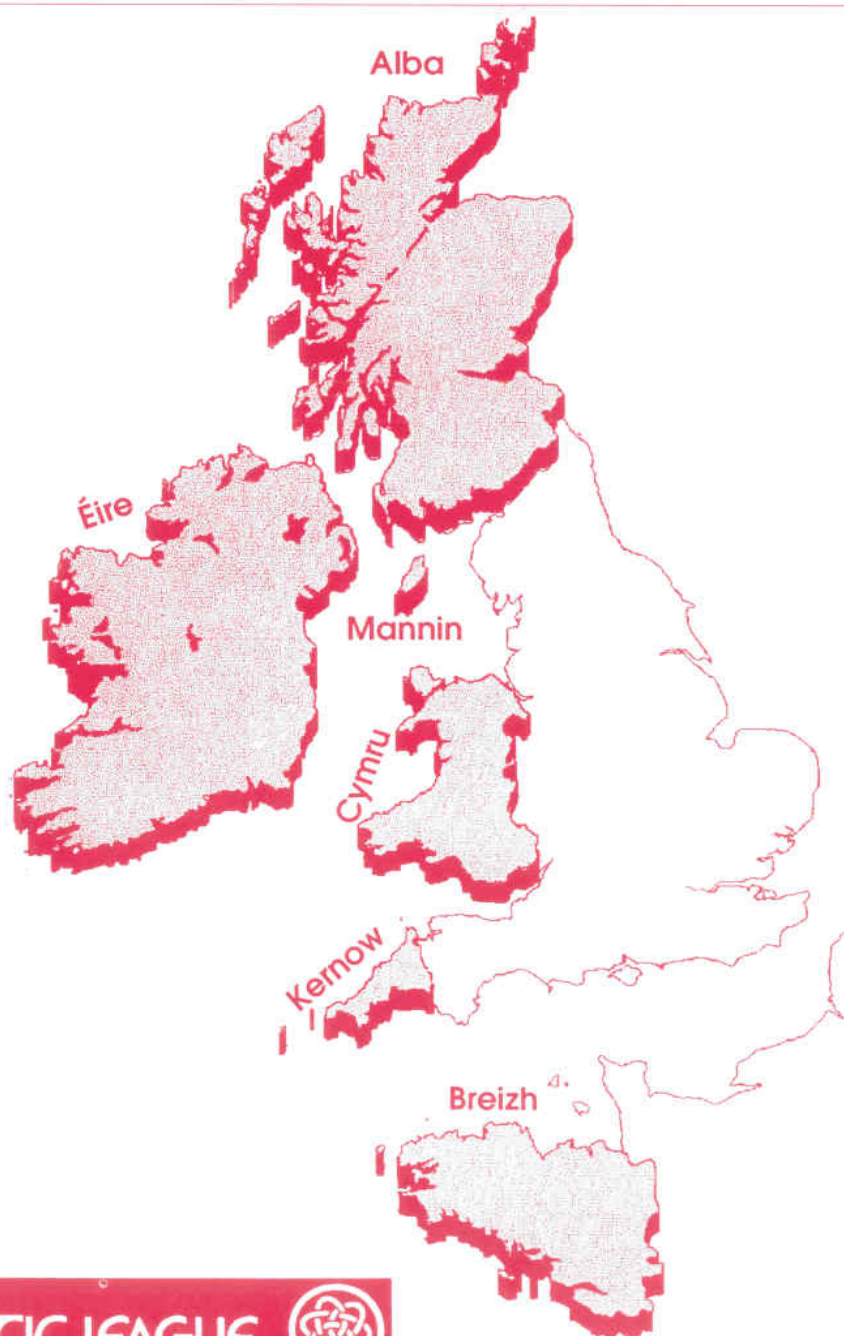
comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 122

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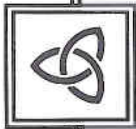


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CELTIC LEAGUE



ALBA: COMANN
CEILTEACH • BREIZH: KEVRE
KELTEK • CYMRU: UNDEB
CELTAIDD • ÉIRE:
CONRADH CEILTEACH •
KERNOW: KESUNYANS
KELTEK • MANNIN:
COMMEEYS CELTIAGH



Alba



TEAGASG TRE NA CÀNAIN AGAINN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary

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

Language News

SUPPORT FOR GÀIDHLIG EDUCATION

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

These include:

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

Mr Peacock said:

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

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

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

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

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

REGISTRAR BACKS DOWN IN DISPUTE OVER GÀIDHLIG

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

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

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

TEACH ME! GAELIC

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

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

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

BEUL-CHAINNT

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

LEARNING TO TEACH

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



cànan nàiseanta - a national tongue

Clì gus:

- ionnsachadh is inbhe nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh
- fiosrachadh air Gàidhlig is cùisean Gàidhlig a sgaoileadh
- beachd luchd ionnsachaidh is luchd labhairt neo-dhualchasach na Gàidhlig a chur an cèill



Clì to:

- promote the learning and national status of Gaelic
- disseminate information on Gaelic and Gaelic affairs
- act as the voice of Gaelic learners and non-traditional speakers

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

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NATIONAL LANGUAGES IN CARN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark Kermode

ROB GIBSON ELECTED TO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

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

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



Rob Gibson

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

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

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION MAY 2003

DISAPPOINTING RESULT FOR SNP

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

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

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

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

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



**Independent Scots read the
'Scots Independent'**

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Breizh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Courtesy Sue Bowen.

Gi Keltik

Summary

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

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

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

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

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



Kampagn skoazell Diwan 2003 evit dazont ar skolioù

LET'S KEEP BRETON ALIVE

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

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

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

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

HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET, SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRETAGNE

THERE'S NO BRITTANY WITHOUT BRETON

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

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

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

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

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

T.J.

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

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

T.J.

Can you tell us more on that Act?

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



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

T.J.

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

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

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

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

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

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

T.J.

What are your possibilities of action?

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

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

T.J.

Just a word about our political leaders?

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

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

Douarnenez Film Festival



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Come to Douarnenez and see!

Yves Jardin

For more information: 00.33.298.920.921 / fdz@wanadoo.fr / www.kerys.com/festival

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Seisnigo Siroedd Cymru

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robat ap Tomos

Summary:

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

Yr Wyddfa, not Snowdon!

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

Forestry Commission puts big business first

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

HALIFAX STILL SHOWING RELUCTANCE ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS

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

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

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

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

(Os oes darllenwyr Carn yn mynychu cangen leol o'r Halifax, efallai yr hoffech edrych pa mor wir ydyw'r gosodiadau uchod. Buasai ysgrifennudd cangen Cymru yn falch o glywed am yr hyn a welwch.)

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

RapT

Lack of Care Shown to Language in Health Sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cymuned News

Anti-colonisation concessions gained

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

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

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

Cymuned address United Nations forum

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

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY INTEGRAL TO EUROPE'S SUCCESS

Language activist addresses E.U. conference

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

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

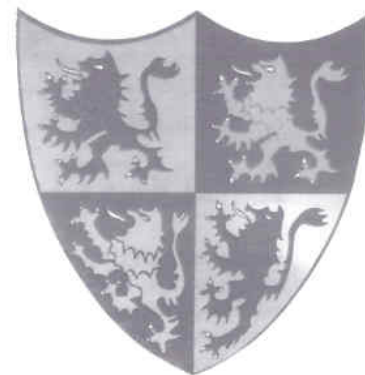
with state languages and not merely pigeon-holed or boxed away and forgotten. All the nations represented in the European Union are different linguistically, and have differing needs - but can all benefit because language planning is now a practical possibility.

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

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

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

R apT



Llysgenhadaeth Glyndwr

Embassy Glyndwr

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

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

Siân Ifan, C.E.O. Embassy Glyndwr

☎: 02920 307081

E-bost: sian@embassy-glyndwr.co.uk

Identity Crisis?

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

Stamps Commemorating Owain Glyndwr

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

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

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

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

Entertainment license protest in Bangor

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robat ap Tomos



Íomairt Cholm Cille cúlra

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

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

Comhdhéanamh

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

Cuspóirí

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

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

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

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

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

Is iad seo aidhmeanna oibre ICC:

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

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

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

Gníomhaíochtaí

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

Parlaimint na nÓg

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

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

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

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

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



Parlaimint na nÓg, a tionóladh ar Oileán Íle níos luaithe i mbliana

An Fóram

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

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

Tacaíocht

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

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

Guthán: Albain 01471 888590 Faics: 01471 888001

Ríomhphost:

sm00dam@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk

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

Ríomhphost: ccille.ultach@cinni.org

Michelle Ní Chróinín Údarás na Gaeltachta Na Forbacha Gaillimh Éire

Guthán: 091 503278 Faics: 091 503101

Ríomhphost: ccille@udaras.ie

TV APARTHEID IN THE AGE OF COMMUNICATION

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

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

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

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

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

Vivian Uíbh Eachach.

Summary

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

Irish Language Bill - still defective

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Caoimhín Ó Cadhla



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

uk silent on doctrine that sustained murder gangs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

Kernow



AN GELTYON OW FETHA MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, AMERIKA DEGHOW

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Southern Cross Pipe Band - Montevideo, Uruguay

Pella derivadow ow mires orth gwasva an goel. Splann ha teirythek yw an wasva (Spaynek, Sowsnek ha Frynkek) : www.festivalceltademontevideo.com.uy po orth info@festivalceltademontevideo.com.uy

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

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

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

Summary

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

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

newspaper "El País" have contributed to the success of the event.

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

José CALVETE

THE REASON WHY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dun ni yn mes y'n bys bras drog

Da o genev redya derivadow a'n pyth a veu unnverhes orth an guntelles vlydhennek.

Res yw porres dhe Gesunyans Keltek omdhyskwedhes avel korv gwir ha byw y'n bys politek.

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

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

Let us get out in the big bad world

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

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

Julyan Holmes

News in Brief

Election Results

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

The Reason Why (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot

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

Scrifa Kernewek

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

An Bennseythan Kernewek

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

The cost of two people sharing a room will be £340 and single/double rooms are available. Book early to avoid disappointment, by writing to Polin Prys, Skrifennyades an Kowethas, 1 Gyllyngvase Road, Falmouth TR11 4DH.

Just Cornish

A new website has been launched in Cornwall where Cornish goods can be bought over the Internet. Now books, art work, stickers, clothing and a great deal more can be purchased at www.justcornish.com and as pointed out on the website, all 12057 products are made in Cornwall.

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

Breton POW Demonstration

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

Cornish Representatives at the FUEN

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

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

American Branch

Internet Site

www.celticleague.org

A Cornishman as the Vice-President of FUEN

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

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

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

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

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

The Assembly also unanimously supported the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2003-04 (English version)

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



Dr. Nigel Hicks, Vice President of FUEN

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

For more information on the work of FUEN see www.fuen.org

An Allegory

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

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

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

the strength of China's commercial power.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter H. Edwards

LUNNIN - CRE NEEMAYD NISHTAGH?

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

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

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

Lurg paart dy hraa, hug y Chiarn-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary

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

Brian Stowell

REPORT BACKS USE OF MANX

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

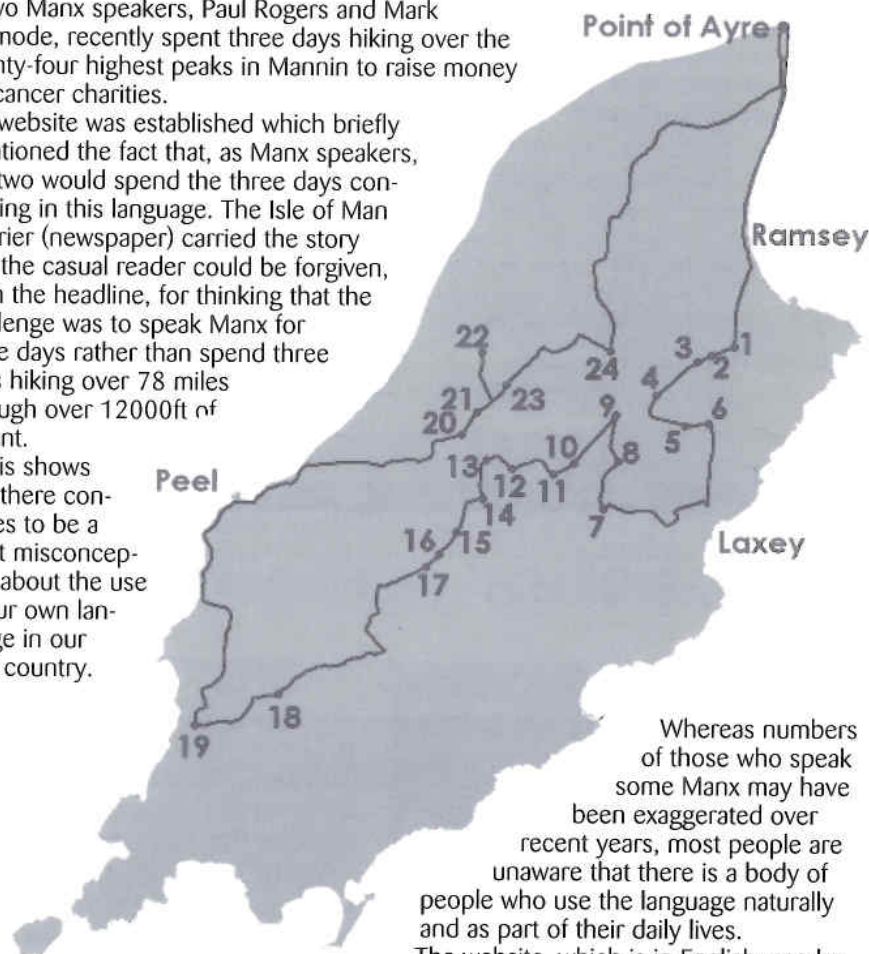
The Standing Orders Committee has now reported back and will seek Tynwald's approval to allow the use of Manx. The proposed change will allow any language to be used, but makes provision for the president to request a member to translate any phrase they use into English so as to avoid any confusion.

Hike over the highest peaks in Mannin

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

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

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



The website, which is in English, can be found at: www.manxman.co.im/24peaks

Mec Vannin News

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

reform the Legislative Council to be a popularly elected body.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANX LANGUAGE ACTIVIST WINS KEYS SEAT

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

CREATIVE JOURNALISM AND EXPOSÉ - DID IT EVER EXIST?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

International Branch Internet Site

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

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New Manx Language teacher appointed



Paul with his Manx wife, Simone

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

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

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

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

Mark Kermode



Cultivating Failure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter H. Edwards

celtic league press releases

Those who would like Celtic League press releases via Electronic Mail can subscribe (free of charge) to the mailing list at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league

BASQUE VOTE SHOWS CONTEMPT FOR AZNAR REPRESSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

FRANCE 'IN THE DOCK' OVER BRETON LANGUAGE

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

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

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

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

Bernard Moffatt

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celtic league AGM 2003

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

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IRISH DEMOCRAT

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