

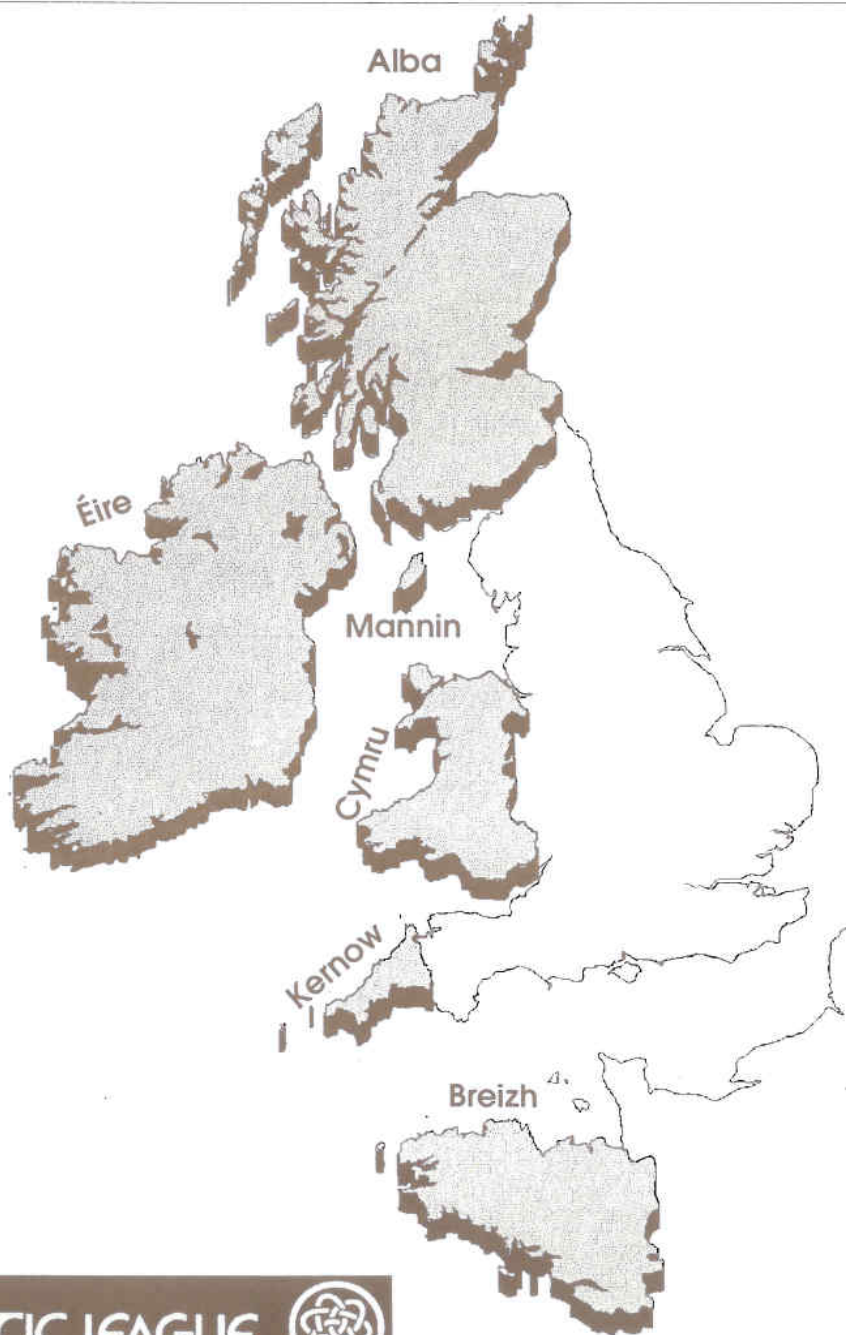
# comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 123

Autumn 2003

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- Ambition for Reunited Brittany
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE







# MO MHÀTHAIR . . .

Seadh, Hans Hoffman à Berlin, prìosanach-cogaidh agus Gilleasbuig MacLachlainn, Albannach, le cheile, tiugh, reamhair no, mar a theireadh iad sa Bheurla "big boned" (le cnàmhan mòrs).

"Hans, a bhalaich, " dh'fhaighnich Gilleasbuig de'n phrìosanach-cogaidh, " an d' rinn an Cogadh cron maireannach ort?"

"O gun teagamh sam bith," fhreagair e, "Bha mi tana seang gus an d'fhuair mi an t-òrdugh a dhol a-steach don Wehrmacht no an t-Arm Gearmailteach! Ach seo agad sgeulachd fhada. Rugadh is thogadh mi ann am Berlin, faisg air an Tiergarten no zoo/sutha.

"Nuair a bha mi nam oileanach aig Oilthigh Berlin lorg mi nach robh e doirbh coimisean mar oifigeach fhaighinn.

"Latha de na làithean, cò rinn òraid riutha- ach bodach aosda liath le stais coltach ri Kaiser Wilhelm den Chiad Chogadh.....seann shaighdear..." Nach fortunach sibh, anabarrach fortunach, taing don fhoghlamaiche-airm an oilthigh (the university army cadet force) 's urrainn dhuibhse," arsa am bodach,"Coimisean fhaighinn mar oifeagaich san rèisearnaid ro chliùiteach..... na Brandenburgers!"

Bhruidhinn am bodach ris a h-uile oileanach san fhoghlamaiche- airm; se sin ri ràdh Hans cuideachd.

"Nach fortunach thusa, a bhalaich, bithidh do mhàthair cho toilichte gum bheil thu a' dol a-steach do na Brandenburgers!" arsa am bodach.

Ach dh'innis Hans ris an Gàidheal, MacLachlainn, an sin nach robh echo cinnteach gum biodh a mh'athair toilichte idir .agus bha e ceart.

"A mhic," arsa ise, "Co muad sùilean a tha aig ar nabaladh?"

"Aonan," fhreagair a mac, Hans.

"Aì chài" e tè aig Ypres! Co meud casan aig an grosair?" arsa ise.

"Aonan."

"Aì, chaill tè aig Mons! Uill, a mhic, fhad's a bha mi gad ghiùlain gu sona, fad naoi mìosan gum bhiodh mo leanabh beo nuair nach robh mise. Ach ma bhios tu a' dol a-steach do na Brandanburgers a dh'aindeoin na thuirt mi, lionaidh mi do mhàileidean. Thilgidh mi iad san t-sràid, putaidh mi thusa mach as an doras. An sin, bithidh e glaiste agus a màireach chì mi am fear-lagha agus chan fhaigh thu pfennig/sgillin mar oighreachd."

"Ach, mhamaidh, chan eil mi dèidheil air na Brandenburgers. Chan eil mi ach a' sireadh bhuir comhairle," arsa Hans."

"Thoir mathanas orm, ach chiall mi d'athair taing do na lotan a fhuair e sa Chiad Chogadh".....bha drsasa dubh is ad dhubh oirre mar bhantrach, mar a bha i....."Bha eagal orm gum biodh thusa a' faighinn bàs agus bhithinn nam aonar. Mo chomhairle? Bi far am bi biadh agus bithidh tu sàbhailte gun acras. Seo agad ri ràdh a màireach....."

"Bhiodh do mhàthair fìor thoilichte, "arsa am bodach liath, "agus thusa a' dol a-steach do na Brandenburgers?"

"Dh'aontaich mi leis am Fuerer, Adolf Hitler, "fhreagair Hans.

"Ceart gu leòr, "arsa an seann shaighdear. "B'fheàrr leam a bhì nam chocaire!" arsa Hans.

Chuir sin clisgsadh air an seann Bhrandenburg ach cha d'fhuair e smid.

"Mata," arsa Hans, "dh' fhàs mi nam chocaire anns an Afraga Corps. Bha mi ann an Libya agus a-nis ann an Eiphit, cuide riutsa," arsa Hans le blas Berlineach.

"An robh thu ann an droch staing riamh?" dh' fhaighnich Gilleasbuig MacLachlainn.

"O bha, bha...bha fuaim uabhasach a' dol a-muigh...brag, brag, brag agus theab nach do bhiath sinn mu coig ciad de na gillean againn nuair a dh'fhosgail an do-as agus theab nach do bhiath sinn mu còig ciad de na gillean againn nuair a dh'fhosgail an doras agus cò thàinig a-steach ach màidsenar Sasunnach agus dè thuirt e rium, sa Bheurla, ach..."

"I say, I say, bheil Beurla agad?"

"Tha," fhreagair a.n t-oifeagach-cocaire Hans Hoffman, "dh'ionnsaich i aig an sgoil agus lean mi oirre."

"Tha còig ciad duine agam agus an t-acras gan tolladh," arsa am màidsenar Sasunnach sa Bheurla.

"Chan urrainn domh sin a dhèanamh air ball. A reir na riaghailtean leighidh sinn anail a-nis."

"Gun teagamh riaghailtean an Airm Gearmailteach?"

"Seadh."

"Mata, dh'ionnsaich sibh Ladain aig an sgoil is lean sibh oirre?"

"Ceart, ceart."

"Uill, dè tha vae victis a.' ciallachadh?"

"Dèan trocàir air na daoine ceannsaichte!"

"Ceart mata," fhreagair am màidsenar, "cheannsaich sinn Tobruk an diugh agus abair gum bheil mo ghilleach acrach, acrach!" arsa am màidsenar Sasunnach, le toiseach a' mhaide aige na laimh agus an cùl fo'n uileann aige.

"Dh'aontaich mi gàire aig nach robh mòran tlachd." arsa Hans, Seo agad an latha am bu mhisde agam feadh àm a' Chogaidh."

"O fada, fada nas miosa," arsa Hans, "latha de na làithean thainig i suas bhon Mhetro, far an robh i sabhailte fon thalamh, mar as àbhaist dhi fhad's a bha na bomaichean a' tuiteam agus bhon a chreach seachad chaidg I suas. Ach dè bha a' coiseachd air fad an t-sràid ga h'ionnsaigh ach leòghann ... is docha gun do dh'fhosgail bom a' chèidsa/cage aige. Fuirichidh sinn faisg air an Tiergarten no zoo/sutha.

Theab nach do ruith I ach chuimhnich I don chiad latha aig an sgoil aice. Nochd a bhean-teagaisg an clas dealbh coin ag ràdh ...

"Seo agad cù, bithidh e ag ràdh, "bu u",

"Seo agad cat, bithidh e ag ràdh, mi a o",

"Seo agad leòghann, bithidh e ag ràdh, "gr a o". Na ruith o leòghann, air neo ithidh e thu!"

"Sheas mo mhàthair gun ghluasad agus choisich an leoghan seachad oirre," arsa Hans, "agus tha sinn le chèile beo fhathast." Cola-deug thill am Berlineach a' crathadh litreach.

"Leugh seo," dh'eigh Hans.

Cha do thuig an t-Albannach aqch 'Archiv' agus "mutter/màthair" bhon nach robh a' Ghearmailteis aige.

"Sgrìobh mo màthair do Chunntasas/ Ardhives an Airm Ghearmailteach" arsa Hans gu h-aobhinn, "dh'fhaighnich I co meud daoine a bha a' mairsinn beo a-measg an fheadhainn a thug a-steach do na Brandenburgers nuair a bha mi nam oileanach.

Seo an fheagairt aca ... tha a' mhòr chuid de co-aoisean san Oilthigh a chaidh a-steach do na Brandenburgers ... fhuair iad bàs! 'S docha gun do shbail mo màthair mo bheatha taing don chomhairle aice! Hurrah!

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich**  
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

## Summary

*This tale tells a true story affecting a mother and son in the 30s and 40s. It is that of a mother who dissuades her son from going into the Brandenburgers a crack German infantry regiment but rather as a cook, commissioned or not. His worst day was when Tobruk fell to the Allies and with her when she had an encounter with a lion! This story comes to its full cycle when we find that Hans' mother, Frau Hoffman, wrote to the German Army Archive after the War on how many survived on the intake that her son, Hans, might have been on. She felt thoroughly justified in dissuading her son from joining the Brandenburgers because very few survived..*



## Scotland's Labour and Tory Unionists in Decline

As the Celtic League was holding its AGM in Dublin the press in Scotland were releasing the latest System Three Poll for the Herald newspaper, which put the Scottish National Party level with Labour on the first vote intentions for the Scottish Parliament, but ahead by a point on the second vote. The poll reveals Labour has dropped four points since the May elections.

The poll also shows growing support for the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP) and the Scottish Green Party who were up two points and one point respectively in the second vote intentions. The Tories have dropped on both votes while the Lib/Dems are hanging on to their 15% share in the first vote and up four points in the second.

The SNP is the thorn in the side of Labour's First Minister, Jack Mc Connell, and John Swinney has proved to be a fine Leader of the nationalist opposition, which holds 27 seats. It should be noted in the main analysis that, with the exception of the 18 Tories all the other remaining opposition seats are held by parties that have independence policies (6 SSPs) 7 Greens) (4 Independents) Thus the labour Unionist administration depend on their Liberal allies to prop up their government. Without the Lib/Dems' 17 seats their own 50 couldn't face a united opposition vote.

We can only hope that this opinion poll keeps its trend and freedom through independence will soon become a reality. We also congratulate John Swinney on his recent marriage to BBC journalist, Elizabeth Quigley. Let's hope this union is more fruitful than the disaster of 1707.

Iain Ramsay

## Inaccurate Reporting of Scottish Election Results

Reports in the press and on television after the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2003, gave an inaccurate picture of the situation here in Scotland. The general impression is that the Scottish National Party, and therefore the independence movement has lost ground.

In fact there is now greater support for independence among members of the Scottish Parliament than there was before, but now it is split between three parties.

The Scottish national Party has 27 MSPs (as against 35 previously), but there are six members of the Green Party, five Scottish Socialists and two independent members (Margo MacDonald and Dennis Canavan), all of whom support independence. Almost for the first time Glasgow is represented by MSPs committed to independence. It should also be noted that some members of the Unionist parties (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat) favour the expansion of the Parliament's powers, especially by greater financial control.

The future is brighter than generally painted, but will depend on recognition by the three independence parties of new political alignments and of the need to co operate on issues furthering independence.

Ronald S. Matheson

## Pàrlamaid na h-Alba Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament's Gaelic Information and Outreach service has just released its 2002-3 annual report in Gaelic along with other miscellaneous materials. The outreach service offers a range of information on the Parliament in Gaelic. This includes providing information, answering questions and arranging visits to the Parliament. Visits to schools, colleges or groups to talk about the Parliament and its work can also be arranged.

The number of staff has recently expanded with the appointment of Sarah Grundy as Gaelic Information Officer joining Alasdair MacCalium, Gaelic Outreach Officer. For further information visit their website: [www.scottish.parliament.uk/gaidhlig](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gaidhlig)

## IRAQ – UK Government Condemned

This AGM condemns the UK Government under Blair for perpetuating the lies that Iraq was attacked on the basis that it possessed weapons of mass destruction; Condemns the practice of recruiting and using Celtic nationals into what is still an imperial army.

The Celtic League General Secretary has written to Mr A Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to express the League's concerns that the justification for the War on Iraq was not soundly based. The resolution which was moved by the Scottish branch of the League provoked vigorous debate not least because within the League, as within many other organisations, there is a concern that the reasons advanced by the UK government for pursuing military action in Iraq appear not to have been soundly based.

Whilst there are few reasonable people who would support the regime in Iraq (that



Ronald Matheson and Iain Ramsay, two of the Scottish delegates at the CL AGM.

has subsequently been ousted) the objectives outlined by Mr. Blair at the outset of the conflict and on which the UK government based its justification for taking the country into a war that has cost the lives of many have clearly not been vindicated by subsequent events.

Turning to the second part of the resolu-

tion the General Secretary pointed out that the League continued to have reservations about the recruitment of nationals from the Celtic countries into the armed services. We also are concerned that current age levels for admission to the British Armed Forces are not in compliance with United Nations Conventions.



# Breizh

## UN DRO ER BROioù KELTIEK!!!

Setu ur wech muioc'h on bet oc'h ober un dro dre ar broioù keltiek e touez hon kerent kelt. Gwir eo abaoe ugent vloaz on kustum da vont d'ober veajoù tramor, hag atav gant kement a blijadur. Blaman adare edo war dro gouelioù Pask. Setu evel pevar bloaz-zo a m'eus gwelet ha bevet a dost ar voterez evit ar 'Welsh Assembly' hag ar 'Scottish Parliament'! Ya ha pebezh nozvezh evit kentañ devez eus miz-Mae!

Lavarout a ran dioustu eo bet dishenvel kentañ an traoù! Ha perak ta?

Sonjal a ran, pevar bloaz-zo, evit ar C'hembreiz hag ar Skoziz a voterez a oa bet gwelet e-giz un 'Nevez Amzer' evit pobloù an div vro, gouest da gaout evito hag evit o bro ur galloud nevez: bezañ e karg eus dazont o bro. Setu pezh a oa un esperans ken bras ha ken kaer!

Dalc'homp sonj eus vot tud Bro Skos evit kaout ur Parlamant nevez: ya evit 75%!!! Ha bemdez war an tele ha war radio edo bet graet ul labour a zouare gant ar SNP hag ar Plaid Cymru dre o renerien Alex Salmond ha Dufydd Wigley gwelet alies o stourm a-gevred.



John Swinney, MSP, SNP.

An dra-se a oa bet a bouez kentañ!!!

Gwir eo ivez an dro-mañ an daou zen e penn ar SNP hag ar Plaid Cymru n'int ket bet gwelet gwall alies assemblez ha gwir eo ivez n'int ket evit c'hoazh ken brudet hag anavezet eget an daou all. Kredab eo led da John Swinney ha da Teuan. W. Jones kaout amzer da vezañ muioc'h anavezet.

Un dra all a zo bet ivez a bouez kentañ. Bemdez war an tele e veze kalz trouz diwar-benn ar brezel en Irak ha nebeut a dra diwar-benn ar voterez e Kembre ha Skos. Lavarout a c'hellan:

An 'ambiance' n'edo ket envel. Setu ivez ez 'eus bet kalz nebeutoc'h a dud o votiñ.

E Kembre ar Plaid a zo bet dipitet kentañ en ar goll pemp post (12 e lec'h 17). Med lod en deus graet labour vat kentañ ha labourer kalz e touez ar bobl evel an hini yaouank (31 bloaz) Llyr H. Griffiths e Caerfyrddin-West. Digor eo an hent evitañ evit kentañ tro...

Ar c'hontrol eo bet e Bro Skos e lec'h man eo aet ar maout gant un den a zouare anvezet mat ivez e Breizh: George Reid (63) hag edo bet e karg eus digoradur Parlamant nevez Dun-Giclan-Edinburgh e 1999. Memestra kollet eo bet meur a bost gant an SNP...Skozis a zo bet gwall zipitet gant, re nebeut al labour graet gant ar grambr nevez.

Setu e weler ez eus adare kalz labour da lakaat war ar stern evit hon kerent kelt e Kembre hag e Skos. Met arabat falgallonin!!! Stourm a ran komp atav hag evit hir amzer!!!

Ha ni amañ e Breizh petra-ta vo graet evit a voterez da zont bloa-zeu!!! Un dra zo freaz: poent bras vefe kemer un tamm skouer war hon kerent kelt e Cymru, Alba hag Eire, eveljust...

Met se zo un afer all!!!

### Précis

*This article discusses this year's elections to the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly.*

Yann JESTIN  
Eil-MAER-Lesneven  
Penn FORUM-BZH.

## KELEIER EUS KELTIA

### Prescott a lavar "nann" d'ur vodadeg vroadel evit kernev veur.

Tra ma'z eus ur c'houlenn kreñv evit emrenerezh e Kernev Veur, ret eo dimp kaout soñj eus ar c'houlennadeg sinet gant mui a 50,000 den, an Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott a gomzas e mis Mezheven diwar-benn youl Kernev Veur da gaout ur Vodadeg Vroadel evel e Kembre pe e Bro Skos. Ar C'huzulier Bert Biscoe a respontas e veze ar c'houlennadeg ur goulenn evit kaout ur Vodadeg Vroadel da respontiñ da youl pobl Kernev Veur. Koulskoude Westminster en deus divizet da grouiñ ur ranndir nevez anvet South West gant e vodadeg e-unan ha Kernev Veur a veze rann ar ranndir faos-se. Eveljust Westminster ne anavez ket Kernev Veur evel ur vroad!

**Summary:** In spite of a petition with 50,000 signatures calling for a Cornish

*Assembly, Westminster refuses to recognize Cornwall as a nation and to give Cornwall a National Assembly as in Wales or Scotland preferring to include Cornwall into an artificial South-West region and denying it any form of devolution.*

### Ar c'hembraeg war greskiñ.

Ur c'hresk a 2% etre 1991 ha 2001 a zo ar c'heloù mat roet gant ar memes niveridigezh a zo bet graet e 2001. Bremañ ez eus 20.5% eus an dud o chom e Kembre a oar ar c'hembraeg. Ret e vefe bremañ liammañ ar c'hresk-mañ gant ur politikerezh a-zoare a zifennfe kreñvlec'hioù ar yezh evel Gwynedd ha Credigion.

**Summary:** The number of Welsh speakers increased by 2% between 1991 and 2001. It would be necessary

*to link this increase with a good language policy strengthening the language in its traditional strongholds.*

### Ar c'hembraeg e Patagonia anavezet gant Bodadeg Vroadel Kembre.

Anavezet eo ar c'hembraeg e Patagonia gant Bodadeg Vroadel Kembre. Roet e vo ur skoazell a £ 105,000 e-pad an tri bloaz a zeu d'ar c'humunioù ma chom bev ar c'hembraeg e Patagonia evit ma c'hell beajiñ da Arc'hantina kelennerien war ar yezh ha gwiadiñ darempredoù etre Kembre hag Kembre Patagonia ha stummañ kelennerien all war al lec'h.

**Summary:** The National Assembly of Wales has recognized the Welsh language as a community language in Patagonia by granting money to enable teachers to travel to Argentina and also to train local teachers.

José CALVETE



# DIWAN: A Reinforced Presidency

At the annual general meeting, held in Ploemeur at the end of April, Anne le Corre and her team put an end to the crisis that had been shaking Diwan for months. The association pulled through by confirming its pledge to immersive pedagogy, its militant commitment and the search for a transformed public status. If Diwan has come back to its roots and its cultural pluralism, it needs €400,000 to ensure the future.

## A real plebiscite

Following months of uncertainty and questioning, members widely supported and legitimised the outgoing team. If their motion "Diwan da gentañ" made 60% of the vote, one must take good note of the fact that 80% of their roll was elected. This plebiscite reinforces the president's convictions. However, she and her team are more inclined to garner energies rather than be triumphant over their large success.

At this moment, given the young history of Diwan, one must take off one's hat to those bodies that had said "diwallomp" to the plan to integrate the school into the National School board. The State Council admitted they were right! Today, parents confirm this pragmatic view of reality. The analysis of the first ballot of the elections shows the parents' desire to turn their back on the defenders of a square monotheistic philosophy.

That is why the "Diwan-kozh" only placed three candidates. What's more, they are all close to the field and not interested in ideological fights. In a sense, these women strengthen the president and remind us that Diwan is a school and not a political game field. It is still too early to tell whether the lesson has been learnt ...

## Immersion - The pedagogy of success

Preparatory work for the general meeting allowed the committee to re-establish its base of support and to draw in those on the outside. This move has allowed the Herve -Le Corre team to refocus on what makes the wealth of the educational project: immersion teaching.

Bolstered by its first successes at the *Baccalaureat*, parents and elected representatives' opinions were reinforced. Today, it constitutes the cornerstone of a non-negotiable educational system. It is on this clear basis that they will have to elaborate a public status adapted to the specifics of multilingual regional schools. The establishment of a study committee is on the way. It will be advisable to ensure that this committee works with

the all institutions at a regional, national and European level.

Money, money, money...

Bolstered by the decision of the State Council, the National Board of Education denied Diwan €200,000. Considering its natural opposition to decentralization, there is little hope that they will turn around. However, the mini-plan for decentralization initiated by the Raffarin Government may be in favour of a commitment by the Region to level with the requested €577,000. The new representatives have taken the first steps in that direction. With the aim of ringing every doorbell, they have appealed to the

1,500 Breton communes, that is to say four million Bretons, for up to €15 per inhabitant. Will the 15,000 demonstrators of March 22nd and the regional elections press the representatives into action? In other respects, Diwan, looking back to its support base, knows that it must especially count on the militants. That is why the schools were invited to increase the number of festive and ... lucrative events. Other actions are planned regarding their economic and social partners. A quick return to a financial balance is necessary to assure the new school year. Moreover, if Diwan does not want to stop its expansion, it is important that it restores its reserves, as soon as possible ... With this general meeting, Diwan has returned to its roots and from there it has instigated a positive process to solve its current difficulties.

**Gi Keltik**

## Possible Boycott of French Language Courses

This Celtic League Annual General Meeting deplores the decision to put an end to Breton courses in Nantes University and calls for a reversal of this decision. This action, coming on top of the continuing refusal to recognise DIWAN as part of the state schools system (as the French language is the only language of the Republic), leads the Celtic League to actively consider participation in the possible boycott of French language courses (schools, colleges and universities) in the Celtic countries which is under discussion by the Canadian branch of the ICBL (International Committee for the Defence of the Breton language).



**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/>



# Campaign for Breton Political Prisoners



*Celtic League demonstration at the French Embassy, with Bretons and instigator of the protest, R. Tal-e-bot (centre), to the forefront.*

## **This AGM:**

Expresses its continued concern at the unreasonably protracted nature of the detention of six Bretons by the French authorities.

**Calls on the French authorities in view of the period that has elapsed since the initial detention of these men to release them without delay.**

**Calls on all National branches of the League to initiate separate solidarity action in support of the prisoners. Such solidarity action to include protest(s) at French trade exhibitions and legations, the raising of funds for the prisoners support groups and direct protest to the French Embassies in London and Dublin and the Justice Ministry in Paris.**

A demonstration took place outside the French Embassy, Aylesbury Road, Dublin immediately after this year's AGM in Dublin.

Over twenty members of the Celtic League from all six Celtic nations demonstrated outside the French Embassy, in protest at the continued detention of six Breton prisoners, in contravention with international laws. All of the prisoners are being held without charge by the French authorities for their involvement in Breton cultural and political organisations and some have been detained for almost four years without trial.

During the demonstration, which was organised by the Cornish Branch, a French security guard approached the Cornish Branch representatives and advised that two delegates from the Celtic League could meet with Embassy representatives, to take place later on in the week.

The Chairman of the Celtic League, Cathal Ó Luain and Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, Cornish Branch Convenor were invited to meet the

Charge d'Affaires to the Republic of Ireland later that week.

During the meeting the delegates asked the Charge d'Affaires for the immediate release of the prisoners. They stated that the Bretons regarded the men as political prisoners. The long duration without charge indicated a lack of evidence. However, if they were not released they should be returned to Breizh. The Charge d'Affaires promised to make a full report to his government stating our concerns.

The Celtic League demonstration coincided with a larger demonstration that took place in Lorient, Brittany, attended by over 200 people demanding the immediate release of all six Bretons.

## Updated addresses for Prisoners

### **\*Jérôme BOUTHIER**

Prisonnier Politique Breton,  
279 896 K - B 129,  
M.A.H.  
42, rue de la Santé  
75674 PARIZ Cedex 14  
(France)

### **\*Kristian GEORGEAULT**

Prisonnier Politique Breton  
276 024 - A 234  
M.A.H.  
42, rue de la Santé  
75674 PARIZ Cedex 14  
(France)

### **\*Paskal LAIZÉ**

Prisonnier Politique Breton  
274 740 F - D 2 / 247  
M.A.H.  
42, rue de la Santé  
75674 PARIZ Cedex 14  
(France)

### **\*Stefan PHILIPPE**

Prisonnier Politique Breton  
317 768 A - G243 Bât. D2  
M.A.H.  
7, avenue des Peupliers  
Fleury-Mérogis  
91705 SAINTE-GENEVIEVE-DES-BOIS  
Cedex 14  
(France)

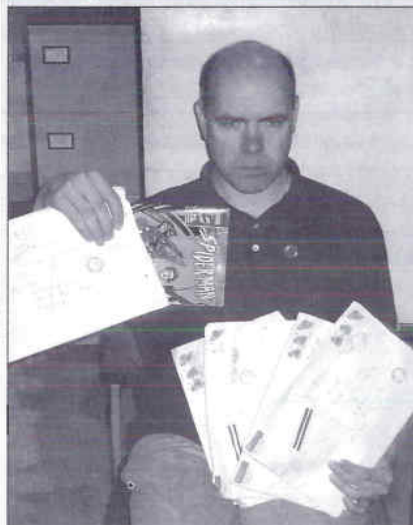
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## MAIL REFUSED BY FRENCH PRISONS



*Mark Lockerby with copies of returned mail.*

On the 22nd May the Celtic League International Branch posted some comic-strip magazines to the six Breton prisoners. The comics seemed a good way of avoiding language difficulties, as for the most part the stories are told in pictures. Almost every one of these packets have been opened and resealed and returned to the Branch marked: "REFUSÉ" and "N'HABITE PLUS A L'ADRESSE INDIQUEE" or "ADRESSE INCOMPLÈTE RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR".

This is not the first time that mail sent to the Bretons has been rejected by the French prison authorities and returned to the Branch. It is odd that these packets of innocuous reading materials should be rejected when they are clearly and correctly addressed.

This Branch will be complaining to the French Government. The magazines will be posted again.

**Mark Lockerby**



# A Nantais' ambition for Brittany

*a géo-political project by Yves Lainé*

Published : March 2002 by Editions du Petit Véhicule, 20 rue du Coudray F44000 Nantes  
<http://www.petit-vehicule.asso.fr> mailto:  
epv2@wanadoo.fr 180 pages-Illustrations

Thirty years after the first decentralization laws in France, a new step is proposed by the Raffarin government. To make the most of it, the Bretons still have to re-unite their territory.

As a kingdom, as a dukedom, later as a province of the French kingdom, Brittany remained united within the same boundaries and included Nantes as a major port and city. Over many centuries Nantes was to be the political capital of the nation until the French power by the treaty of Union (1532) nominated quieter Rennes as a substitute.

Since the French revolution, the sole idea of a "province" was abolished in France. Eventually in 1969, revolutionary regional institutions were proposed by general de Gaulle, who declared: "the multi-secular effort to centralize France in no longer required". But the French rejected his referendum awkwardly linked to a senate reform, and he had to quit.

The project, reduced to its tenth, was shyly enforced by Pompidou in 1972, and then boosted by Mitterrand in 1982, although applied to a reduced territory. The Loire-Atlantique département, with one third of the Breton economic potential, its biggest port and industrial sockle was put apart and included in a phoney Pays de Loire puzzle mad of other "leftovers".

In 1972, in 1982, few people cared: régions had almost no power. Even last year, in 2002, a French region, in terms of financial means and competence was still to be qualified as a dwarf if compared to those of Germany, Italy, Spain and the new devolutions in the UK...

Until some fresh air started to blow with Jean Pierre Raffarin's scheme. The new 2003 French constitution, reshuffled, now stipulates (Title I) that: "its organization is decentralized". Raffarin declared: "We are not the ones to take scissors and decide from the top". The regions are to be allowed larger means and competence, which is more in line with the European "subsidiarity" concept.

Moreover, they have, from now on, "the right to experiment". In broad terms the right to have a regional, specific, project and, why not a dream? Right now, Bretons have just two of them: save their language, unite their territory. Well, according to Gallup polls, well over two thirds of them.

Whole books have long been written about this reunification theme which, in theory, allows Brittany to reach a high ranking place among European regions. Its GNP

(1998) rises from 52 to 76 Billion Euros and Brittany becomes number one among the 30 regions of the Atlantic Arc. With an overhead level comparable to the Irish Republic, Tuscany, or the Land of Berlin..

The second advantage is its geographical situation as such. The position of Brittany, right in the middle of two worlds, the northern Celto-anglo-saxon, the southern Celto-iberico-latin, is that of that of a neutral zone that may play a decisive role as a middleman for the promotion of the Atlantic Arc and



Yves Lainé

work to compensate a drift of Europe to the east. It could be a new ambition for Brittany to help revive a new Atlantic Spirit, a concept, a lobby, together with a close technical relationship in terms of infrastructures, and liaisons with the private industry in this area.

Nantes' ambition is not to be a sterile fight to replace Rennes, the official capital. Its concern is wider: using the Breton solidarity, identity and tenacious qualities to reveal an international ambition, compatible with the globalization challenge and help promote the whole of the Atlantic Arc with the Celtic nations as bridgeheads. To this end, gathering and centralizing the necessary expertise in terms of networks and logistics is a preliminary.

The books' scope is wider than the sole economy: it depicts the cultural and social assets that, according to the author could help the dream come true. Links with democracy and environment, as the ones connected with the construction of Europe, its new constitution, the new regional political framing that no doubt, according to him, are to follow.

Yves Lainé was born in Nantes en 1937 – A rather atypical turn of mind, away from university or political patterns. He graduated the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce, then the

School for Oriental Languages in Paris. He retired after a long business career in the transportation sector in many countries of three continents. He is fluent in seven languages. His first assignment was at Air France, his last in the staff of Brittany Ferries in Roscoff. He was a member of the CELIB (Comité d'Etudes et de Liaison des Intérêts Bretons) that published his first book «Europe rends nous la mer»(1976) He continues to campaign for the promotion of Brittany in different structures.

**United Brittany is, in terms of economics in Europe, virtually equal to a number of states such as Ireland Portugal or Finland. In France itself Brittany now ranks 7th for its GNP and number of industries. Once re-united Brittany will be n°4, behind Ile-de-France, Rhone-Alpes and Provence/Côte d'Azur.**

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## Call for Devolution and a Reunited Brittany

This AGM of the Celtic League calls on the French prime Minister, J. P. Raffarin, to progress the process of devolution for a reunited Brittany and to at least go forward in the same manner as other European States (Britain, Spain) with regard to financial, political, cultural and linguistic affairs.

Constitutional parity was the theme of a Breton resolution to the AGM which calls on the French to match change in other Celtic countries in respect of devolution.

It was however made very clear during the course of our discussion of these issues that the Celtic Leagues ultimate objective remains the same. We seek independence for all the Celtic countries as a precursor to their co-operating fully on cultural, political and economic issues.

Discussion in the meeting ranged across the devolution models currently available in Europe and it was generally concluded that those adopted by the United Kingdom and Spain showed the greatest promise.

In adopting the resolution set out above we did not however lose sight of our stated objectives. Whilst effective devolution is welcome, true independence is the ultimate goal that the Celtic countries should all aspire to. This motion was also given at the meeting with to the Charge d'Affaires in Dublin.

**Secretary General**



# Cymru

## Seisnigo Siroedd Cymru (parhad)

Yn 1996, gwnaed ymdrech fwriadol i Seisnigo enwau siroedd Cymru wrth newid llywodraeth leol Cymru o gynghorau sir a dosbarth i gynghorau unedol. Yn yr hen sustem, a sefydlwyd yn 1974, enwyd siroedd Cymru ar ôl hen deyrnasoedd y Cymry - Gwynedd, Powys, Dyfed, Morgannwg, Gwent - ac eithrio Clwyd y rhoddwyd enw afon arni oedd yr un mor hynafol a chynhenid. Yr oedd enwau llawer o'r dosbarthau y rhennid y siroedd iddynt yn draddodiadol Gymreig hefyd fel Arfon, Ceredigion, Dinefwr. Nid oedd yn arfer defnyddio ond enwau Cymraeg i gyfeirio at y siroedd hyd yn oed yn Saesneg (ac eithrio tair sir Morgannwg/Glamorgan) er bod enwau Saesneg i Ddyfed (*Demetia*) a Gwynedd (*Venedotia*). Ond o dan ddylwanwad yr ysgrifennydd gwladol Toriaidd David Hunt, Sais, adferwyd sustem o enwau gwladychol ar gyfer yr awdurdodau newydd. Ail-grewyd siroedd â'r enwau Sir Ddinbych a Sir y Fflint, er nad oedd ffiniau'r siroedd newydd yn cyfateb i ffiniau'r siroedd â'r un enwau a fodolai cyn 1974. Seisnigwyd Ceredigion i Cardiganshire, a chreuwyd sir yn y Gogledd Orllewin o'r enw Caernarvonshire & Merionethshire, nad oedd yn cynnwys holl diriogaeth y ddwy sir gynt o'r un enwau. (Ar ôl ethol cynghorau i'r ddau diwethaf yma newidiodd y cynghorau'r enwau yn ôl i Ceredigion a Gwynedd). Mae'r newidiadau

hyn yn mynd â ni yn ôl i sustem y *shires* a greuwyd gan Edward I ar ôl concro Cymru yn 1283 ac a orffenwyd wrth ymgorffori'r Gororau yng nghyfundrefn gyfreithiol Lloegr dan y Deddfau Uno yn 1536. Ond cafwyd enwau nad oedd cynsail iddynt hefyd. Dilewyd yr hen enw Maelor o enw bwdeistref Wrecsam Maelor i greu sir newydd o'r enw Wrecsam sy'n ymestyn o Ddyffryn Ceiriog i Faelor Seisnig, a chreuwyd siroedd yn y De fel Abertawe a Chaerffili (neu 'Caerphilly') - ardaloedd oedd yn ehangach o lawer na'r trefi y'u henwyd ar eu hôl nad oedd traddodiad o arfer yr enwau ar eu cyfer. Creuwyd mwy o gymhlethdod dwyieithrwydd drwy roi fersiynau ar wahân i'w defnyddio yn Saesneg ar yr awdurdodau newydd. O'r 22 awdurdod yng nghynllun Hunt, dim ond pedwar (Powys, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tudful, Torfaen) oedd heb enw Saesneg ar y dechrau. Ail-fedyddiwyd Gwynedd, Conwy (oedd yn 'Aberconwy and Colwyn'), a Cheredigion gan y cynghorau eu hunain. Ac mae cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf, lle mae Plaid Cymru yn rheoli ers 1999, newydd benderfynu stopio defnyddio'r ffurf 'Rhondda Cynon Taff' yn Saesneg dan arbed cryn gost drwy orffen yr arfer wirion o ysgrifennu'r ddau fersiwn o'r enw hwnnw. Ond eithriadau ydyw'r cynghorau sydd wedi ail-gymreigio'u henwau. Nid ydyw cyngor Môn wedi trio peidio ard-

del 'Anglesey' er mai Ynys Môn ydyw enw'r etholaeth seneddol ers yr wythdegau. At ei gilydd llwyddo i Seisnigo map Cymru ddaru'r Toriaid ym 1996.

Un fantais i'r iaith a ddaeth allan o newidiadau cynghorau 1996 oedd iddynt gael cyfle o'r newydd i benderfynu pa iaith ddeuai yn gyntaf ar arwyddion ffordd ac arwyddion eraill. Dim ond Gwynedd a Dyfed oedd yn rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf dan yr hen sustem. Cadwyd yr un drefn dan gynghorau newydd hen Wynedd a Dyfed, ond penderfynwyd rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf hefyd gan gynghorau Sir Ddinbych, Conwy (dim ond ei hanner gorllewinol oedd â'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf o'r blaen), ac, yn fwyaf arwyddocaol, gan Bowys, sir fwyaf Cymru sydd â rhan sylweddol o ffin Lloegr. Mae rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf yn meddwl bod y Cymry a'r di-Gymraeg yn cael y neges yn eu hieithoedd, gan fod y Cymro yn gweld y Gymraeg yn gyntaf, ond hefyd mae'n Cymreigio edrychiad gweledol Cymru yn sylweddol a hyn yn digwydd erbyn hyn dros y rhan fwyaf o wyneb Cymru. Am fod Powys yn rhoi'r Gymraeg yn gyntaf, dros tua hanner hyd y ffin mae statws amlwg yr iaith yn taro rhywun wrth groesi'r ffin o Lloegr. Dim ond ym Morgannwg a Gwent yn y De, ac yn Sir y Fflint a Maelor (Wrecsam) yn y Gogledd mae'r hen arfer sarhaus yn parhau.

Robat ap Tomos

**Summary:** *The Tories anglicized the map of Wales in 1996 through the introduction of new unitary authorities, some with colonial names and most with separate 'English' versions e.g. Sir y Fflint/Flintshire, to replace the old county system named after native territorial units e.g. Dyfed. However an unforeseen consequence was that over most of Wales (i.e. all except Glamorgan, Gwent and the North East corner) road signs and others erected by the councils now show the Welsh above or on the left (i.e. first), thus significantly enhancing the visual status of the language.*

## LANGUAGE IS STILL UNDER THREAT

The Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, the government's language quango, has admitted that the picture of the health of the Welsh language provided by the results of the 2001 census, the first ever to show an increase in the number of people in Wales with an ability in Welsh, is not as positive as claimed by the supporters of the quango, and the media.

In his foreword to the Board's Annual Report for 2002-3 Rhodri Williams says:

"Even though the figures show an increase in both the numbers and percentage of Welsh speakers, it is impossible to ignore the importance of language use, and there is a gap in the data so far as this aspect is concerned. That is why the Board intends to commission a number of research projects to assess how many people use Welsh in different situations. This is the only way that we can dis-

cover the true position of the language, in order to plan our work over the next few years on the basis of the results of such research.

"And even though the National Statistics Office claimed when the initial data were first released that the results of the 2001 Census show an increase in the use of Welsh, this cannot be proven, since the Census does not ask any questions on language use. This was an unfortunate misinterpretation, and further proof of the need to appoint a Registrar General for Wales before work begins on the next Census in 2011. This would allow us to ask questions which are of particular interest to Wales, and would mirror the arrangements which are already in place for Scotland and for Northern Ireland. The ability to ask questions about the use of Welsh would assist us and others to formulate policies on a sounder basis," he added.



## GOVERNMENT ADMITS

### - *laith Pawb* is empty words

Alun Pugh, the assembly government minister with responsibility for the language, has stated that the government will not be acting in full on the recommendations in *laith Pawb*, the government policy document published earlier this year which was greeted with enthusiasm by the media but with disappointment about its weakness by language organizations. *laith Pawb* includes the statement "We want ... a country where people can choose to live their lives through Welsh or English". Pugh told a Cymdeithas yr Iaith delegation in July that he would not support legislation to allow the above to be put into practice (the Language Act for which Cymdeithas have campaigned for decades), that the government had no timetable for effecting the recommendations in *laith Pawb*, and that it was not possible to persuade every private company to make use of Welsh. In effect, *laith Pawb*, with all its talk of a bilingual Wales and the right of language choice, is no more than hollow words.

Huw Lewis, Cymdeithas chairman, said after the meeting:

"It is obvious that every Labour Party promise about the language is empty. In ... 1993, Rhodri Morgan said Labour would introduce a Welsh Language Act when in power. He went back on his word. Now here is a Labour minister admitting that he will not fully enact a promise that was only given a few months ago."

## AGM Supports Cymuned Campaign

Mae'r Undeb Celtaidd yn cefnogi'r ymgyrch bresennol yn erbyn defnyddio'r enwau "Snowdon" a "Snowdonia" am "Yr Wyddfa" ac "Eryri", fel y mae brodorion gwledydd eraill yn y byd yn dechrau gwrthwynebu enwau gwladychol fel "Mount Everest". Gwahoddir y canghennau cenedlaethol eraill i gynnig esiamplau o enwau hynod o wladychol yn eu gwledydd y buasai'n werth ddechrau ymgyrchu yn eu herbyn hefyd.

*The League supports the present Cymuned campaign against the use of the names "Snowdon" and "Snowdonia" for "Yr Wyddfa" and "Eryri" respectively, as natives of some other countries in the world are starting to oppose colonial names like "Mount Everest". The other national branches are invited to propose examples of particularly colonial names in their countries against the use of which it would be worth starting a campaign.*

## Côr Cochion Caerdydd - 20 years old:

Since 1983 Côr Cochion Caerdydd, "Cardiff Reds Choir", have been singing on streets, demonstrations and picket lines in support of a wide variety of national, civil and human rights causes. The 20th anniversary this year of 'Wales's first campaigning socialist choir' was celebrated with the publication of a history and song book. Information about the group may be seen on [www.corcochion.unisonplus.net](http://www.corcochion.unisonplus.net)

Robat ap Tomos

## Station announcements in Welsh

Announcements about train departures over the microphones at Cardiff Central railway station, Wales's biggest station, are at last being made bilingually by the company that now runs the station, Wales & Borders Trains, many years after language campaigners first suggested to the then British Rail that this should be done and were told that it was not practical. The announcements are in Welsh first followed by an English translation so that Welsh-speakers and non-Welsh-speakers receive the message in their own language. This is part of the language policy of Wales & Borders nationally, and bilingual announcements are now heard at many other stations too.

Unfortunately the anti-Welsh lobby, mainly through the local paper the *South Wales Echo*, has started a campaign against this extension of the use of Welsh. The *South Wales Echo* has long had a generally hostile attitude towards the language, and on this occasion tried to drum up anti-Welshness through a phone-in poll on the question of whether Welsh or English should be first in the announcements.

It was announced in August that the new franchise for running trains throughout Wales (including the North coast which is not currently controlled by Wales & Borders) had been awarded to the Arrival travel group, who do not presently operate trains in Wales at all. They will take over from Wales & Borders from the end of 2003, and while it is feared that some recent advances made in language policy on the trains may now be in jeopardy, the change will also be an opportunity for language supporters to press for more improvements, for which there is room for plenty.

Robat ap Tomos

## Carmarthenshire UDP - worse than Ceredigion!

While the colonisation-encouraging Unitary Development Plan of Ceredigion council has received much adverse publicity, an even worse plan has been adopted by neighbouring Carmarthenshire, the county with the highest number (but not proportion) of Welsh-speakers. The plan involves building 11,771 new houses with a view to increasing the county's population by more than 27,000 (over 16% of the present level). Cymdeithas yr Iaith used toy pandas in their protest at the adoption meeting in July to show that if this plans go ahead "Welsh-speaking communities in the county will be rarer than the panda!"

Labour-dominated Carmarthenshire council seem to be excelling all others in their desire to anglicize their county. While Ceredigion intend to build 'only' 6500 new houses, Carmarthenshire want more than 11000 and some 27000 mainly non-Welsh-speaking incomers.

Cymdeithas publicity states:

What is the point in including apparently positive Welsh-language policies in council documents if the main proposals of the same documents lead to undermining Welsh communities in the county?

What is the point in modelling development plans on those of English counties (e.g. in this case Norfolk) instead of considering local community needs?

What is the point in the National Assembly directing county councils to consider the language as a factor in planning, if the county councils have no will to do this?

What is the point in Plaid Cymru opposing this type of UDP when in opposition, as in Ceredigion, if they will not follow the same principles when part of the governing group as in Carmarthenshire? (The Plaid group's lack of will in this county is particularly disappointing.)

What is the point, indeed, in having Plaid councillors at all if they are as naive as independents and will not stand up for Welsh-speaking communities?

What is the point in having councillors if they will not question the decisions of beaurocrats? It is understood that unelected beaurocrats are responsible for the rejection of the calls to take the language into consideration.



# WALES IN BRIEF

## A Mayor for Ceredigion?

Cymuned, together with the group Cant Ceredigion, are trying to collect the signatures of 10% (5300) of the electors of Ceredigion on a petition asking for the appointment of a mayor to lead the county council. It is believed that this could be one way of replacing the present council leadership and being rid of their Unitary Development Plan (UDP) including the building of 6500 new houses in Ceredigion with highly detrimental effects on the Welsh-speaking community. Meanwhile on the 1st July, a number of members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith set up a protest camp on a field belonging to Cllr. Dai Lloyd Evans, the leader of Ceredigion Council, outside Tregaron. The land is earmarked for planning permission for some of the 6500 houses, and if the UDP is passed, Evans stands to make a substantial profit from this land.

## BBC blacklist filmmaker

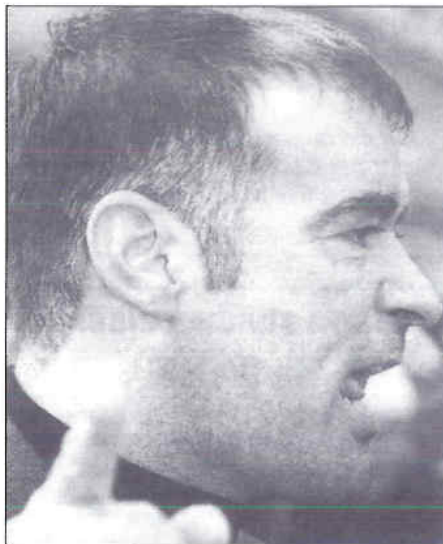
It seems that a leading Welsh film-maker is being blacklisted by the BBC and other media for political reasons. Kenneth Griffiths won a top broadcasting press award in 1999 with a documentary film about the Boer War which drew attention to the English concentration camps and other atrocities against the Boers, and has made several documentary films on Ireland that have been equally unacceptable to the Brit establishment. In recent years there has been reluctance on the part of BBC Wales and others to broadcast or support his work, and a campaign group has been set up to publicise this censorship.

## Cymdeithas / Cymuned joint protest

It was a welcome sight to see Cymdeithas yr Iaith and Cymuned organize for the first time a joint rally, outside the National Assembly stand on the National Eisteddfod field in August, against the government's decision to stop funding the Homebuy scheme, which had been set up with the aim of helping families to buy homes in their own communities. Cymuned and Cymdeithas said that by not providing more finance for this scheme, the assembly has refused to take one of the simplest possible steps towards easing the housing crisis in Wales and this shows a lack of support for the future of Welsh-speaking communities. They also called for steps to ensure that rented housing is available in rural communities.

## Welsh Socialist Party?

Tommy Sheridan MSP, the most prominent Scottish Socialist Party member of the Scottish Parliament, was a speaker at a conference hosted in Wreccsam on August 9th by the supporters of John Marek AC, the independent Assembly Member for Wreccsam. "Red, green and



Tommy Sheridan MSP, SSP.

radical - building a left alternative in Wales" was the title of the conference which seemed to be geared towards the formation of a new political party corresponding to the SSP in Scotland. A lot of the participants appeared to be inclined towards the far left, though there was a mixture of attitudes to self-government for Wales and talk of a new party being 'neutral' on the constitutional question. Over all, a rather strange mixture. Marek, the leading speaker, who would still be a New Labour AC if he had not been deselected by his local Labour party, is a unionist with a dubious attitude towards the language. He may be looking for a political party to increase his chances of

holding his seat next time. Few of the other participants from Wales appeared to be of the same inclinations as the SSP. It is not obvious what, other than vote-splitting at elections and thus helping the Right win marginal seats, the proposed new party is likely to achieve.

## Tories support Welsh communities

The Conservative Party in Wales announced during the National Eisteddfod week in August that they supported measures to help local people in impoverished rural areas beleaguered by colonisers, Welsh Wales in particular, gain access to housing. They revealed their policy on the matter, to which Cymuned gave their approval. Though traditionally the party of the Union and the 'English cause', some elements in the party have been more supportive of the language in recent times. The Assembly members David Davies, AC for Mynwy/Monmouth, and Glyn Davies on the Mid & West list, who have both learnt Welsh since being elected, are much more supportive of language issues than any Labour members. (There are still elements in the Tories that are viciously anti-Welsh, though.).

## Leeds & Holbeck snub Welsh

The need for a new language act was again illustrated clearly on 16th August when the Leeds & Holbeck Building Society opened a new plush branch in central Cardiff. There was not as much as a single word of Welsh to be seen on the signs and leaflets. A spokesman told a Celtic League enquirer that they "did not have the expertise" to produce material in Welsh. Cymdeithas yr Iaith took note of the situation with a view to taking further action.



Cymdeithas Supporters protest at the National Eisteddfod field in August against the government's decision to stop funding the Homebuy scheme.



# Cymuned Annual Conference

Cymuned held their second annual conference in Harlech in July. Attended by around 100 members, the motions passed extended the movement's remit somewhat, with motions urging action to strengthen the Welsh-speaking communities, rather than just steps to slow the inflow of English colonizers into Welsh-speaking Wales. The motions passed included one to campaign for the Post Office to end its new policy of taking all post posted in North Wales to be sorted in Chester (NW England), even if it is for a North Wales address, the absence of a sorting office in North West Wales costing local jobs. A motion expressed appreciation of the picketers who have been picketing estate agents' offices in towns in Gwynedd. By now the Pwllheli picket has been going on every Saturday morning for more than a year. Another motion condemned the misuse of bilingualism where it serves to undermine the position of Welsh in a Welsh-speaking community e.g. in the organization of local events or in the naming of new streets.

The overall picture was of a developing and vigorous movement. Attention was drawn to the large amount of lobbying and background work that has been carried on without attracting the media attention of



*Simon Brooks of Cymuned*

the public protests, and which has had an effect in moving government policy towards safeguarding Welsh communities. However, there were also disturbing tendencies within the membership. One motion on the agenda would have put Cymuned on the path towards becoming a political party that contested elections as such. Such a step

would radically change the nature of the organization, making the size of its vote a measure of the validity of its demands, and would make Cymuned competitors with the politicians it has up to now been able to influence to a degree. Fortunately, this motion was defeated. Another equally damaging motion called for a policy of (illegal) direct action against English-only signs in Welsh Wales, such as the colons frequently erect. While much has been achieved by the direct action of Cymdeithas yr Iaith over recent decades, it has been at the cost (often worth while) of alienating a section of the language's supporters and handing to opponents, especially the media, the use of terms like 'extremist' and 'vandal' to tarnish the movement and the campaign for the language. Cymuned's successes have come through working through the 'system' and this proposal, which was fortunately defeated, would have put much in jeopardy through handing to Cymuned's already vocal enemies powerful ammunition to vilify the anti-colonisation cause. It was notable that the supporters of direct action did not give any reason why they could not effect the course of action they wanted through Cymdeithas.

Cymuned will be working with the Celtic League to organize further inter-Celtic meetings on colonization following the successful public meeting in Penzance last year.

**Robat ap Tomos**

## Labour successfully denigrate Assembly

Labour's uninspired leadership of the National Assembly since it was set up has frequently brought the institution into disrepute, but the public perception of the Assembly hit an all-time low in July when an entire week was dominated by arguing over seating arrangements in the Assembly chamber and hours of debating time were wasted on this matter with numerous issues relevant to the Welsh public pushed aside. The Labour group, and in particular their assembly business manager Karen Sinclair, AC for Clwyd South, seem to have been responsible for making seating into a controversial issue and orchestrating a full-scale debate on the subject. Sinclair is believed to be covertly anti-Welsh and anti-devolution. The Assembly was lambasted in the press both in letters columns and editorials, with frequent references to the inflated salaries of the assembly members, recently increased, and their long holidays, and the condemnation was accompanied as usual by calls for the Assembly to be abolished or a referendum on its continuation to be held. It is significant that while condemnation of the behaviour of a local authority or, indeed, Westminster is often accompanied by calls for a change in the government of that institution, criticism of the National Assembly in the press is

accompanied not by calls for a new government in Cardiff but for the abolishment of the Assembly. It is one of Labour's successes that their failures in office in Cardiff are blamed by the public, encouraged by the Labour-supporting press, not on Labour but on the Assembly itself so that the poor performance of the Assembly's first four years resulted not in electors voting out Labour but in general apathy towards the second election.

It seemed no coincidence that in the same week as this farce, the former and last Secretary of State, Peter Hain, speaking for the London government, announced that there were no plans to give further powers to the Assembly. The Assembly Government's misconduct certainly reduced the complaining about such a statement. And also in the same week the leader of the association of local councils in Wales, Russell Goodway, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, said that no further powers should be given to the Assembly for at least twenty years. Goodway is one of the most prominent of Labour's covert anti-devolutionists who work against the Assembly but who do not publicly oppose its existence.

It is unlikely, however, that the mainstream Labour Party really want to see

the National Assembly abolished. As long as the public see the misdemeanours of Labour in office as the fault of the institution, not the party running it, the whole principle of Welsh government is discredited and Labour can, while enjoying the benefits and perks of running the Assembly, successfully use its inefficiency as a means of persuading the Welsh public against supporting any extension of self-government in Wales.

**RapT**



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# Éire



## Ullmhú an Choirn le haghaidh Ré an Eolais

Faoi dheireadh thiar tá institiúidí AE ag tabhairt aitheantais oifigiúil do thábhacht an oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil san fhoghlaím shaoil. Glacfaidh sé tamall sula mbeidh tuiscint ag rialtais stáit na hEorpa ar an bplé seo agus sula dtabharfaidh siad lánataíocht don oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil. Dá mba rud é go raibh léargas dearfach ag rialtas na Ríochta Aontaithe ar an bplé d'fhéadfai sárú a dheanamh méid áirithe ar an bhfadhb a eascraíonn as gan ach eolas oifigiúil agus roghnó d'éanta air a bheith á mhúineadh i scoileanna an Choirn. D'fhéadfadh go gcuirfeadh cúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil barr maise ar oiliúint scoilbhunaithe amach anseo. Tá gá leis sin sa Chorn ó teipeann ar scoileanna téamaí a mhúineadh a bhfuil tábhacht leo do mhuintir an Choirn leis na glúnta anuas. Mar shampla, cá háit ar an gcuraclam scoile a bhfuil spás ann don Choirnis nó do tharlúintí tábhachtacha i stair an Choirn?

Bionn deiseanna ag múinteoirí ar ndóigh cuid den eolas seo a thabhairt uathu, ach tríd is tríd níl difríocht idir an t-oideachas a bhfaigheann gasúr sa Chorn agus gasúr i Sir Eabhrac, mar shampla.

Tá cuma áiféiseach air seo nuair a chuirtear san áireamh go bhfuil sa Chorn líon mór daoine a mhaíonn féiniúlacht náisiúnta a bheith acu thar mar a bheadh ag muintir Shasana, idir Chornach-Bhriotanach, Chornach-Shasanach agus Chornach go lom. Bionn an t-eolas a dtugtar i scoileanna – agus a mbítear ag súil lena thabhairt – easnamhach ó ní bhíonn an ghné Chornach san áireamh. Tugtar oideachas Sasanach i ndáiríre do ghasúir sa Chorn in ainneoin go bhfuil difríochtaí bunúsacha idir féiniúlachtaí daoine sa Chorn agus i Sasana. Ba cheart go mbeifí ag súil leis go múnfeadh múinteoirí sa Chorn “an fhirinne, iomlán na fírinne agus dada seachas an fhirinne” dá ndaltaí agus chuige sin bheadh orthu curaclam náisiúnta Chornach a chur i bhfeidhm ach, faraor, níl a leithéid ar fáil dóibh i láthair na uaire. Fágann sé sin nach mbíonn muintir an Choirn ach leatheolasach maidir leis an sochaí ina maireann siad.

Ach tá stáit uile na hEorpa ar an ndícheall sochaí eolasbhunaithe a bhaint amach. D'fhéadfadh páirt shuntasach a bheith ag an oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil i mbaint amach an chuspóra sin. Tuigeann an chuid is mó de na stáit na buntáistí a ghabhann le sochaí eolasbhunaithe agus aithníonn cuid acu go bhféadfadh páirt as cuimse a bheith ag an oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil ina cruthú. Mar shampla, is féidir le Danmhargaigh leas a bhaint as córas oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil

na nArd-dhaonscoileanna atá státmhaoinithe ach neamhspleách agus atá luaite agus cosanta i mbunreacht na Danmhairge. Is amhlaidh in ainneoin nach gcuireann an t-oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil iallach ar dhaoine dul faoin scrúduithe nó pas a bhaint amach iontu. Mar sin féin tá an mhithuiscint forleathan i measc mhuintir na hEorpa trí chéile nach fíoroidheachas nó oideachas cóir é an t-oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil. Ní chuirtear an luach céanna le hoideachas neamhfhoirmiúil ar an margadh saothair is a bhíonn ag an oideachas coinbhinsiúnach ó is beag aitheantas a bhfaigheann cúrsaí dá leithéid ón Stát. I gcás na Ríochta Aontaithe de ní thugtar aitheantas do chúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúla ó tá siad taobh amuigh den earnáil stáit ag tráth a bhfuil tíochar rialtas stáit ar an oideachas ag buaicphointe. Ar an gcaoi sin baintear an bonn den oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil, in ainneoin gur comhpháirt riachtanach é den sochaí agus den gheilleagar eolasbhunaithe agus go gcuireann sé go mór leo. Má tá rath le bheith ar an bhfoghlaim shaoil ní mór aitheantas níos mó agus stádas oifigiúil a thabhairt di. Go hachomair, caithfear coincheap foirmiúil a dhéanamh den oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil in intinn na ndaoine. Ach ní tharlóidh sé sin go dtí go gcuirfeadh an fhoghlaím shaoil chun cinn go gniomhach. D'fhéadfadh rialtas na Ríochta Aontaithe féin fiú leas a bhaint as sochaí eolasbhunaithe an Choirn.

Faoi mar a bhéimigh Conclúidí Uachtaránacht na Comhairle Eorpaí:

“.....is iad na daoine príomhshochmhainn na hEorpa agus ba cheart gur orthusan a ndíreofaí polasaithe an Aontais.....is polasaí riachtanach i an fhoghlaím shaoil d'fhorás na saoránachta, an chomhtháite shóisialta agus na fostaíochta.”

Má tá rath le bheith ar an bhfoghlaim shaoil (agus is gné mhór di sin an t-oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil) maidir le forás na saorántachta, an chomhtháite shóisialta agus na fostaíochta ní mór do na Ballstáit tacú léi agus í a mhaíniú. Cuirtear le forás pearsanta, sóisialta agus gairmiúil trí pháirtíocht na ndaoine i gcúrsaí dá leithéid. Is ceart aird na ndaoine a thabhairt ar na buntáistí a ghabhann lena bpáirtíocht i gcúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil. Mar sin, ba cheart daoine a spreagadh le freastal ar chúrsaí dá leithéid agus luach saothair a thabhairt dóibh, le go mbeadh fonn orthu a bheith páirteach i saol eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta an Choirn agus na hEorpa agus go gcuirfidís leis an saol sin. Tá eagraíochtaí áirithe ann atá ag tabhairt faoin gcuspóir seo. Mar shampla, tá an Association of

Community Colleges (ACC), ceann de na heagraíochtaí neamhrialtais nach ndéanann brabús atá ag iarraidh an t-easnamh seo a leigheas. Is aidhm dó coláistí pobail a thógáil ar fud na hEorpa le plé a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn i measc na coitiantachta faoi cheisteanna coitianta. Tá coincheap na gcoláistí pobail bunaithe méid áirithe ar na traidisiúin Eorpacha maidir leis an oideachas foirmiúil agus tá fúthu díospóireacht thuisceanach a bhunú d'fhonn “ealain na maireachtála le chéile” a chothú faoi mar a thugann an socheolaí Polainneach, Zygmunt Bauman air.

Bealach réadúil é coincheap seo na gcoláistí pobail le tabhairt ar dhaoine glacadh leis an oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil agus le go mbainfeadh sé páirt lárnach amach i saol na ndaoine. Tugann an ACC agus eagraíochtaí mar é deis phraiticiúil do dhaoine a bheith páirteach in imeachtaí oideachais ag comhleibhéal Eorpach. Níl i gcúrsaí coláistí pobail den chineál seo ach sampla amháin den chaoi ar féidir cúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúil a reachtáil ach tríothu d'fhéadfai daoine óga sa Chorn a thabhairt isteach i bplé Eorpach ag leibhéal áitiúil. Ní hamháin go bhfoghlaiméidís rudaí nua faoi chultúr, threolaíocht, stair nó theanga an Choirn ach bheadh an deis acu an t-eolas sin a roinnt agus a cheiliúradh le daoine eile ar fud na hEorpa.

Ní mór an bhearna idir gach cineál léinn a líonadh agus é a thabhairt chomh gar don phobal agus is féidir le go mbainfi “Ré an Eolais” amach. Má tá sé sin le bheith ann caithfear athrú meoin a bhaint amach maidir leis an bhfoghlaim i ngach cuid den sochaí sa chaoi is go mbeadh an soláthar ar oideachas leathan saoil in ann an t-éileamh a shásamh. Is é seo ceann de na hathruithe is lú agus is téagartha a chaithfear a dhéanamh má táimid le traidisiún Eorpach folkeoplysning (tuiscianú pobail) a bhunú. Tá an traidisiún folkeoplysning seo riachtanach do mhuintir an Choirn agus do na náisiúin Cheilteacha eile, inar dá mhéad daoine atá aireach faoinár dtraidisiúin, is mó seans go mbeidh borradh orthu agus go mbainfidh siad tacaíocht agus maoiniú idirnáisiúnta amach. Is féidir le muintir an Choirn idir óg agus aosta, a bhraitheann go bhfuil easnamh eolais orthu in earnálacha áirithe faoi cheisteanna ar leith, teacht ar dhaoine eile trí chúrsaí oideachais neamhfhoirmiúla ceartmhaoinithe le sochaí eolasbhunaithe go fírinneach a thógáil, go minic taobh amuigh de theorainneacha cúnga an stáit.

### Summary

*(Non-formal education is an important part of life-long learning and is essential to the achievement of a knowledge-based society to which all European states aspire. The fact that the formal education system in Cornwall is identical with that of England and is bereft of a Cornish agenda leaves an information gap that may be bridged by the non-formal sector. One idea, which might be explored, is the non-governmental, non-profitmaking, community colleges system.)*

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot  
(Colm de Faoite a d'aistrigh)



# THE IRISH LANGUAGE ACT – FINALLY ENACTED

Whilst preferring a rights based Language Bill the Celtic League AGM welcomes the passing of the Irish Language Bill as a first step in moving towards guaranteeing the rights of Irish speakers. We call on the Minister to ensure the speedy implementation of the provisions of the Bill. Improvements need to be made with regard to the use of Irish in the Courts and amending legislation should be introduced on this. Schemes such as those for public bodies should be extended to the large private companies in new or amending legislation.

At last the Irish Language Act was enacted with the signing of the President on the 14th of July. It has been a long time coming, over

This act relies on two people to make sure it is effective, the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Minister for Finance. This is a rather dangerous aspect. If the money is not there fewer services will be provided in Irish, which will make the act ineffective. So you need two people in those key positions to be sympathetic to Irish to make the act effective. There is no doubting Minister Ó Cuív's sympathies to the language but what about the Minister for Finance. At the minute the minister is trying to cut back on most public services because of a downturn in the economy. I can't see the minister giving money for many jobs in the Irish language sector. Also there is going to be a change in government some time in



*Caoimhín Ó Cadhla and Aodhán Ó Puirseil, two of the Irish delegates at the CL AGM*

thirty years in fact. I wrote in the last issue of Carn that there were a lot of problems with the bill. I will go through the list and see what is fixed and what is not. Firstly I talked about the ambiguity of the bill in article 28 in which you could bring a public body to court if they failed in their duty to fulfil their scheme and then in article 32 you could not bring a public body to court if it fails in implementing it's scheme. That ambiguity has been cleared up and article 32 has been removed from the act. You now can bring a case against a public body if it has failed in its duty to implement the scheme personally or you can let the Coimisinéir Teanga (The Language Commissioner) take it for you.

You may have your case heard in Irish in court, but still the Judge can waive the right in criminal cases. This is not good; in fact that is the worst aspect of the act.

The Irish Language Act will still not come into operation for another three years. This is to give time for the public bodies to draft up their schemes, and to adjust to this scheme. They must have very slow typists. They should have been given no more than a year to draft a scheme. It is only delaying the inevitable.

which both of the ministers will not care about the act.

The constitutional status of Irish cannot be undermined by any act. Therefore any public notice that the public bodies produce must be in Irish only or bilingual. Also because of the constitutional status of Irish the name of the act had to be changed from Language Equality act to the Official Languages act so as not to undermine Irish.

Section 1(5) of the First Schedule of the Bill provides that the scope of the Act can be broadened in the future to other sectors of the economy like telecommunication companies, banks and insurance companies. Let's hope that they broaden it soon.

I am glad that the Irish Language Act has finally been enacted, but there are still problems. Most Irish language bodies are satisfied with it. It is a start, and only time will tell if it will succeed but there still needs to be amendments to the act to ensure effectiveness of the act. Let us see how much people will adjust to these schemes. A language commissioner will be picked soon and his/her offices will be based in Conemara.

Caoimhín Ó Cadhla

## PANA

The Celtic League AGM states its support for the reaffirmed aims of PANA [Peace and Neutrality Alliance];

To have Neutrality enshrined in the constitution

A role of a reformed UN in international affairs

A positive non-aligned role for the EU (opposing the development of the Rapid Reaction Force – RRF)

Any deployment of Irish Defence Forces or Gardaí to be through UN or UN mandated operation.

A PANA meeting held in June last was called to evaluate the organisation since its founding in 1997, clarify its aims and plan the organisation's agenda for the future.

The meeting expressed the need to focus on building an alliance to defeat the draft EU Constitution (Article 40), which obliges Ireland to spend more money on defence, and commits Ireland to mutual defence thus constitutionally destroying Irish Neutrality. In practice Irish Neutrality no longer exists since the current government participated in the illegal conquest of Iraq by turning Shannon Airport into a US airfare base. The meeting expressed its concern at the emerging EU nuclear armed super-state.

Reporting back to the Celtic League AGM Irish Branch representative, Aodhán Ó Puirseil, outlined the details of the meeting. The AGM reaffirmed its support for the redefined aims of PANA.

PANA plan a number of demonstrations in support of its aims. The first such demonstration, held at the end of September called for an end to the occupation of Iraq and Palestine.

## 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league)



# Irish Language news in Brief

## Broadcasting in Irish

In a new book\* published as the second in the series *Broadcasting and Irish Society* initiated in 1999 to commemorate 75 years of broadcasting by RTE the results of an in depth study (undertaken for a PhD) by Iarfhlaith Watson on the founding of TnaG (now TG4) are presented.



*Iarfhlaith Watson, author of Broadcasting in Irish, Minority language radio, television and identity.*

The difficulties the then Minister Michael D.O'Higgins had on getting his proposals for a TV station in Irish through cabinet against opposition from the Dept. of Finance civil servants and their withholding of monies agreed are outlined. The present Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, then Minister for Finance, comes out badly in this, appearing two faced on the issue.

The author believes TG4 has carved out a niche for itself with a loyal following and that it is helping to cultivate national identity. However Watson feels that not enough 'specialist programming' is provided (that is to say Irish language programming) but that the children's programming is a strong point. The book also includes a chapter on Radio na Gaeltachta inserted at the suggestion of the editor of the series Richard Pine.

\* *Broadcasting in Irish, Minority language radio, television and identity* Iarfhlaith Watson, Four Courts Press: €19.95

## Esat BT and Irish

In a small gesture towards Irish Esat BT issued a bilingual press statement (their first) stating that they intended contacting their customers to determine the level of language service they wanted with regard to billing, services or advertising. Bill Murphy, CEO,

an Irish American is stated to be behind this. The company provide a full service through Welsh in Wales.

## GAELTALK.NET

This Irish Language internet teaching service is based on Oileán Chléire (Cape Clear Island) off the west coast of county Cork. The island, Ireland's most southerly inhabited island, is mostly Irish speaking. There is one full time and three part time teachers meaning classes can be tailor made to the time zone of students. Tuition is offered 24 hours a day, for only €20 or so a month. Each lesson comes with a 'cultural capsule' which gives an insight into Irish tradition or island life. The founder, Tomás MacGearailt, a native speaker of Irish from Kerry also runs the Irish language bookstore [www.litríocht.com](http://www.litríocht.com) from the Kerry Gaeltacht. He has said he would like to see a Gaeltalk in each Gaeltacht. A lot of interest comes from those of Irish decent in the US and a secondary aim is to encourage students to visit the island.

## New English-Irish Dictionary

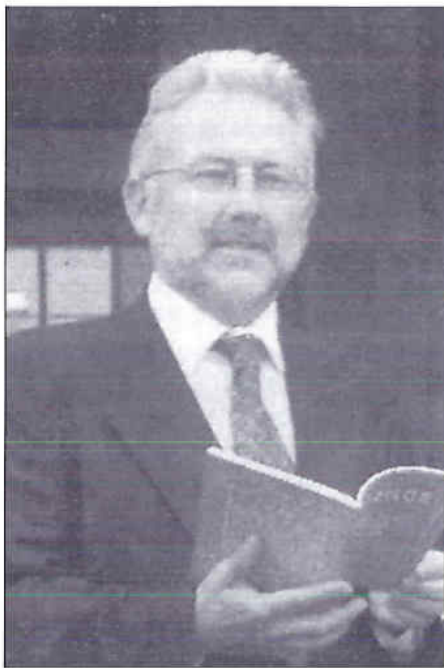
A contract was signed in mid summer between Foras na Gaeilge and Lexicography Master Class (Brighton, England) for the first stage of work on a new English - Irish dictionary. The present (De Bhaldraithe) English - Irish dictionary was produced in 1958. It is well dated and allowing for the time taken to produce such works commencement of work on a new dictionary is long overdue. The dictionary will be produced in print and electronic form. This phase of the work will concentrate on the layout and planning, the choice of word headings (about 50,000 will be used), the corpus of works to be used and the creation of a template for stage two - the actual writing of the dictionary.

Professor Donal Ó Baoill, head of the Irish Dept. in Queen's University, Belfast, is the Chief Irish Language Editor. The first stage is due to be completed by Oct. 2004 at a cost of €734,890. Development of a strategic and business plan for stage 2 will be part of this work also. As was done for stage one tender will be sought on the basis of an open competition.

## Gaelcholáiste Oirghialla - recognition but too late for some

The Irish language second level college planned for Monaghan for Sept. 2003 was refused recognition from the Dept. of

Education on the frail excuse that no decision could emanate until a report had been received by the Dept. from a commission set up on the provision of second level education in Irish. The move was fought by the parents and their support group who initiated a High Court action against the Minister for Education, Noel Dempsey. Eventually after a lengthy series of discussions the matter was



*Colm Ó Dúlacháin, Chief Executive of Gaelscoileanna, who supported the parents of Gaelcholáiste Oirghialla in their efforts to establish the second level college.*

settled outside court when the Dept granted recognition to the school from Sept 2004 - too late unfortunately for those leaving the primary level local Gaelscoil this year.

## Teaching Time for Irish Reduced

In a surprise announcement three days prior to the opening of the school year it was announced that the amount of time to be devoted to teaching Irish in primary schools was to be reduced from five hours to three and a half hours, a reduction of 30%. This is a severe blow to the position of Irish in the educational system and gives a very negative signal with regard to its status.

The move was stated to have been made to cater for the introduction of more subjects in the primary school curriculum such as science; however no reductions were made in time allocated to other existing subjects.

Were Foras na Gaeilge informed of this and what was their response? What about the INTO? What if any consultation was carried out? Why was there been a deafening silence from Irish language organisations at the time of the announcement?



# Raymond Crotty – Original Thinker

The corpus of work of R. Crotty (who died in 1994) was the subject of some very stimulating lectures and discussions at the 15th Desmond Greaves Summer School at the Irish Labour History Museum in Dublin in late August.

Ray Crotty, whose Supreme Court case led to the requirement for referendums on the ceding of Irish Sovereignty to the EU, was an economist and economic historian who had some highly original ideas on the world and Irish history. These were published posthumously in his major work, *When Histories Collide: the development of and impact of individualistic capitalism* (Almira Press, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, New York and Oxford, 2001)

Prof. Lars Mjoset of Norway outlined R. Crotty's theories in thirteen steps and said that even if one did not agree with his ideas his original thought and different focus caused one to re-examine orthodoxies and think afresh. This was a

theme returned to by Professor Joe Lee, (Gluckman Institute NYU), the session chairmen. In the course of his address Prof. Lee, commenting on development in Ireland, said that the economic success experienced by Ireland was heavily dependent on external factors and a unique combination of conditions which could not be repeated in the future. However young people now had a self-confidence which was new in Ireland. They had not encountered the economic, political, and cultural defeats which had affected previous generations.

The summer school also examined 'Robert Emmet in European Perspective' (based on the work of Ruan O'Donnell, *Robert Emmet and the 1803 Rising*) and 'The Left and Europe' Other works of interest of R.Crotty's are *Ireland in Crisis: A Study of Capitalist Colonial Undevelopment* (1985) and *Irish Agricultural Production* (1962).



Raymond Crotty

## STATEMENT ON THE NORTH *Republican SINN Féin Poblachtach*

It is our opinion that the continuing instability results from an ill-advised partition of our country, a continuance of English rule and the failure of the Stormont Agreement of April 10, 1998. This Agreement was destined to fail because of its inherent contradictions, as it promised a secure place in the United Kingdom to one group and an advance towards a free and united Ireland to another:

A stage appears to have been reached where the London governments will to govern the Six-County area may possibly already be broken and where the Dublin government is scared of taking it under its wing.

Much has changed since 1969 which bewilders and dismays the Unionists, as they perceive the sovereign authority of Westminster to be weakening and the influence of Leinster House to be increasing; joint authority, whether or not it is acknowledged as such, may be ahead of us.

The nightmare of the Nationalist community still endures: watchtowers, patrols and checkpoints still operate, prisoners are denied political status and sectarian attacks and killings continue.

Now, the Unionist community also experiences a sense of apprehension and insecurity, as the certainties of the past give way to uncertainty, confusion and bewilderment. There is likely to be continuing conflict as uncertainty about the future worries everybody in the Six Counties.

The setting up of the new Stormont assembly has not brought real autonomy, as the London government and, to a lesser extent, the Dublin government, are increasingly telling everybody what they may and may not do.

The partition of Ireland in 1921-22 was a mistake, in that it drew an artificial boundary, creating a Protestant state in the Six Counties and a Catholic state in the 26 Counties, thus stifling the potential of all. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Republican Sinn Féin holds dearly to the teaching of Theobald Wolfe Tone that an independent Ireland where Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter could work in partnership under the common name of Irishman and Irishwoman is the desirable end.

The Unionist people have been placed in a trying situation as the Nationalist population and vote continues inexorably to increase. This demographic trend hangs like the sword of Damocles over them and the humiliation long endured by the



Ruairí Ó Brádaigh,  
President, Republican Sinn Féin

Nationalists could well be experienced by the Unionists before too long. This can be averted by anticipating the likely result of the present trend and choosing a third way, neither London rule nor Dublin rule, but a new democracy in a new Ireland.

Republican Sinn Féin and its leaders were prepared in 1981-82-83 and again in 1986 to take a principled stand to preserve the Republican position which would "cherish all the children of the nation equally" and stood by an inclusive Ireland and structures of government which would give real power to all the people in a new Ireland. We have always been conscientious and straightforward in our dealings. We do not think in terms of a gain for us being a loss for others but seek only the welfare of all the Irish people.

We believe that neither London nor Dublin can guarantee the future welfare of the people of Ulster. Only the people of Ulster themselves can do that - and they can best achieve it by taking their rightful place, as equals, in the historic Irish nation, where their rights would be guaranteed by a new constitution and they would have access to real power.

As trust founders on all sides, we ask everybody to consider again our ÉIRE NUA programme for a four-province federal Ireland, with optimum devolution of powers down to community level. Even now, Unionists can still have a working majority in a nine-county Ulster, subject to the checks and balances of the new structures.

(Edited)

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For further information visit the website at [www.rsfi.ie](http://www.rsfi.ie)





## NOWODHOW BERR DHIWORTH BRETEN VYGHAN

Dhe'n 22 a vis Metheven yth esa a-dro dhe 5.000 den ow tiskwedhya yn Naoned (hanow Nantes yn Bretonek) rag unya Breten Vyghan arta gans y 5 asrann. An diskwedhyans a sewenas yn tien! Res yw dhyn perthi kov bos distruys unyans Breten Vyghan yn 1941 gans an Governans Vichy ow kesoberi gans an Governans Nazi. Res yw dhyn perthi kov ynwedh bos Naoned rann Breten Vyghan a-dhia Erispoe (IXves kansblydhen) ha pennsita an dhugeth yntra an Xlves kansblydhen bys an XVIves kansblydhen ha wosa henna rann Breten Vyghan bys yn 1941. Gans henna, Bretonek a veu kewsys bys yn derow an XXves kansblydhen yn asrann Liger Atlantel (hanow bretonek rag Loire-Atlantique yn Frynkek) y'n ranndir henwys Gwenrann (Guérande yn Frynkek). Y kevir lemmyn skolyow Diwan yn Naoned arta ha klywys yw hwath Bretonek yn stretow an dre. Lemmyn rann an ranndir Pays de Loire yw an Liger Atlantel.

Lemmyn an media frynkek a lavar nag yw rann Breten Vyghan asrann Liger Atlantel. Klywys yw ynwedh y'n media frynkek na via naturel unya asrann Liger Atlantel gans asran-now bretonek erell! Henn yw sklander! Henn yw erbynn istori Breten Vyghan hag erbynn istori Pow Frynk ynwedh!

Soweth lies esel an Governans frynkek, lywys gans Jean Pierre Raffarin a dheu dhiworth an ranndir Pays de Loire hag i a vynn mentena kammhynseth an dhibarth turansel ha rann beghys gans an stat frynkek. Res yw perthi kov bos an Liger Atlantel an asrann an moyha sewen an ranndir Pays de Loire!

Res vydh dhe'n Vretonyon synsi diskwedhyansow arta hag arta rag unya Breten Vyghan arta!

### Summary:

*A successful demonstration of 5,000 people took place in Naoned (Nantes) in June calling for the reunification of the Loire-Atlantique département to Brittany. This département was separated from Brittany in 1941 by the collaborationist government of Vichy. Naoned had been Breton for centuries and it was also the capital of the Breton Duchy. Now the French media are campaigning saying that it would be unnatural to reintegrate the Loire Atlantique into Brittan. The French State wants to maintain this injustice of arbitrary separation and division. The Bretons will have to demonstrate again and again to reunify Brittany!*

José CALVETE

## the celtic nation of devon?

The website of a flag-making firm based in Wales, has been causing some controversy in Cornwall, after advertising a new flag for sale. The Devon flag is being marketed as a flag of the 'Celtic nation of Devon', along with flags from the Celtic nations.

In e mail correspondence with the flag maker's, 'Mr Flags', many people in Cornwall have complained about the inaccuracy of claiming that Devon is Celtic. As Cornish language activist, Pol Hodge stated:

*'Devon is not a Celtic country at all. To be a Celtic country there needs to be a Celtic language spoken there. I would like to remember the Galithia case; this is a country with her own language, a bag pipe and splendid coastal scenery just like the Celtic countries. In the 1970s Galithia tried to join the Celtic League. However they were turned down because they have no Celtic language - theirs is a Romance language. The definition Celtic is linguistic and nothing to do with race.'*

But Charles Ashburner at 'Mr Flags' does not agree, arguing that:  
"...the terms used on our website are designed for an international audience. We try to keep it simple, and factual."

But as many people have now pointed out to Mr Ashburner, to describe Devon today as Celtic in any way, is simply not factual.

## The Cornish World

The magazine *Cornish World* is, in Nigel Pengelly's words "Cornwall's only true Cornish culture and heritage magazine with some 2,000 overseas subscribers."

Nigel Pengelly, is the newly appointed Editor of *Cornish World* and has promised that he "... intend[s] to inject a stronger Cornish flavour into the magazine, taking the publication back to its roots."

Mr Pengelly informs us that in the Autumn issue of the magazine he plans to ask the question: "What does it actually mean to be Cornish?": Is it where you were born, your parent's or grandparent's birthplace, your surname, if you can speak Cornish, where you live or who or where you identify with?

This may be a question that some Cornish people are uncomfortable with, but in the light of recent developments in Devon, where a growing group of people are pushing for Devon to be recognised as a Celtic country in the same way that Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany and Wales are, I believe that such a debate is as pertinent as ever.

So if you have an opinion of what you think it means to be Cornish (and as 'Carn' readers, you no doubt will), Mr Pengelly has requested that he would like to hear from you. He can be contacted at: Nigel Pengelly, Editor, *Cornish World*, PO Box 71, Penzance TR18 2ZR. TEL: 01736 365896 / 07980 712657

## Dydh An Gof

On 27th June 2003, the annual remembrance day of Cornwall's own national hero, Josef An Gof, took place in St. Keverne. The event was attended by close to 100 people, including a group of Welsh people who had travelled to Cornwall from Wales for the event, the previous day.

People gathered at the statue of An Gof and Flamank at the top of the town, before marching down to the commemorative plaque outside St. Keverne church. Steven Tresidder, Spokesperson of the Cornish Stannary Parliament, gave a rousing speech and wreaths of flowers were laid at the foot of the statue and at the plaque itself.

An Gof is remembered today for his part in the 1497 Rebellion where thousands of Cornish men marched to London in protest about paying subsidies to a foreign government (England) to finance a war with Scotland and the decision to suspend Stannary rights. The marchers reached Blackheath before they were stopped and An Gof and Flamank, the two men held responsible for the insurrection, were executed.



# Cornish Pupils Refused Right to Record their 'Cornish ethnicity'

**An Scoren Kernewek / The Cornish Branch calls on the Westminster government to reverse the decision taken by Cornwall Education Authority to omit a Cornish tick box from the Department of Education and Science Survey conducted on 16th January 2003.**

**This Branch calls on the Government to conduct an investigation to establish the reason for the omission and for immediate action to be taken to ensure that children and young people of Cornish ethnicity to be included within the Department for Education and Science Schools Survey database.**

The reason why this resolution was proposed by our Branch was that while Cornish ethnicity is now officially recognised by the Westminster government, as can be seen from the inclusion of 'Cornish' as a distinct group in the 2001 Census, Cornwall 'Local Education Authority (LEA) it seems does not. Despite Cornwall's LEA being instructed by the Department of Education and Science (DfES) to reflect 'regional demography', in a place survey of the ethnic status of school children in Cornwall carried out in January this year, the LEA failed to add a category for 'Cornish' to the DfES ethnicity key list.

Consequently, having received numerous complaints from aggrieved parents, the LEA stated that "in allowing Cornish pupils to record their ethnicity would be an irrelevant waste of resources, serving no practical purpose" and that the end result would not be "helpful or healthy". The portfolio holder for education and lifelong learning on Cornwall Council is also on record as saying that to follow council policy would be "dangerous" and that it would "put Cornwall on the road to the Balkans". The Portfolio holder for Education in Cornwall (Cllr. Doris Ansari) refuses to answer questions from, or enter into dialogue with, any of the aggrieved parties.



**R. Tal-e-bot**

Cornwall Council and Cornwall LEA, in taking the arbitrary and political decision to exclude the Cornish from the schools survey, together with their failure to enter into dialogue with interested parties, have demonstrated a contemptuous disregard for the provisions set out within the 'Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities'.

Cornwall LEA's administrative decision has ensured that the Cornish are excluded from the DfES database. Their failure to enter into dialogue with interested parties would appear to have breached the Code of Conduct, which states that local authorities should not discriminate against any minority and that it should treat citizens with respect and provide information as required.

A clear and official explanation is needed from Cornwall LEA and Council as to why there was a flagrant disregard of the advice given by the DfES, for the School survey to reflect the 'regional demography' of Cornwall, by not including 'Cornish' as a separate ethnicity group.

**R. Tal-e-bot**

## TIME FOR CHANGE

There is evidence to support the claim that when it comes to the provision of educational services and access to cultural funding, the Cornish are the subject of unwarranted prejudice which in turn gives rise to unlawful discrimination.

In Jan 2003 Cornwall County Council prevented pupils from recording their ethnicity as Cornish. Cornish is the only 'White British' Census 2001 ethnic group excluded from the school survey. It is unlawful for a public authority to treat one ethnic group less favourably than another.

Cornwall County Council has asserted that, until the Cornish bring a successful case under Race Relations legislation, they will continue to discriminate against them. The Home Office uses the same argument to prevent the Cornish from obtaining cultural and educational rights enshrined in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The Council has submitted a business case to the ONS in support of recognising the Cornish in Census 2001, pushed government to recognise the Cornish language, published material that emphasises their distinctiveness features and drafted briefing papers that refer to the "Cornish ethnic group".

Section 55 of the Race Relations Act places the burden of proof on the discriminator. Therefore it is for the Council to substantiate its inference that the Cornish no longer constitute an ethnic group, and are thus excluded from the protection of the Act.

The Cornish for their part must now obtain a judicial declaration that they are a group protected by the Act. In order to engineer such a situation they must launch a prosecution of the Council whereupon the status of the Cornish will be dealt with as a preliminary issue. Quite bizarrely, they will need to call as prosecutions witness the very organisation that is now attempting to deny their status. Clearly, when faced with legal action, the Council finds itself in an untenable position.

Discriminators sometimes use the non-applicability argument as a last line of defence for their actions. In such circumstances, and in order to protect their rights, minorities are obliged to go down this route. It is a standard procedure involving simple domestic legislation. Those who wish to support this urgent and quite necessary, legal action should contact: - Cllr. Alastair Quinnell, Steve Trudgian, Dr Nigel Hicks, Len Pascoe or John Angarrack.

**John Angarrack**

Contact:  
[celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com](mailto:celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com)  
for forwarding addresses

## MEBYON KERNOW NEWS

**MEBYON KERNOW** the Party for Cornwall has condemned the UK Government for its refusal to allow a referendum for a Cornish Assembly.

Labour's white paper "Your Region, Your Choice" failed to mention Cornwall. In response Mebyon Kernow's document "A Democratic Choice for Cornwall" made the Cornish case for internal self-government clear:

"There is no support in Cornwall for a South-West Regional Assembly or for Cornwall being turned into a *sub-region* governed from Exeter, Taunton and Bristol. Cornwall needs its own regional structures. No second-best solutions are acceptable.

The new Regional Assemblies (Preparations) Act deliberately excludes the Cornish Region from consideration and allows John Prescott MP, to exclude Cornwall from his referenda programme."

MK's constitutional affairs Spokesman, Councillor Andy Moyle pointed out, 'Remember, Mr Prescott, 50,000 people *all from Cornwall*, wrote individually to Prime Minister Blair stating, **'I SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FOR A CORNISH ASSEMBLY.**

'If current legislation cannot support such a referendum the law needs amending or new laws brought in to accommodate Cornwall's aspirations for a democratically elected fully devolved Cornish Assembly.'

**Mebyon Kernow Contacts: Conan Jenkin 01872 261263, Phil Rendle 01736 363762**





## Vel shin nyn Geltiee ny dyn?

Ta kuse dy henndaaleeyn ayns ny h-ellany shoh (as buill elley?) er jeet dy ve greesit dy liooar mychione y chooish shoh: vel ny Albinee, Bretnee, Britaanee, Cornee, Manninee as Yernee nyn Geltiee firrinagh? Ta shen dy ghra, vel ad jeh'n slught cheddin as ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar Oarpagh ren ny shenn Ghreagee as Romancee screeu mychione ny smoo na daa veeillee blein er dy henney?

Ta shin cliaghtit lhaih dy daik ny Celtiee dys ny h-ellany shoh veih'n Cheer Vooar roish my row Yeesey Creest ayn - as dy daik ram jeu ayns ruegyssyn (invasions). Shen yn agh haink ny chengaghyn as y cultoor Celtiagh dys ny h-ellany shoh. Agh nish ta shenndaaleeyn gra nagh vod ad feddyn cowraghyn erbee jeh lheid ny ruegyssyn shen. As, ga nagh vel money prowallyn jeant choud as shoh, cha nel eh jeeaghyn dy vel DNA ny 'Celtiee' ellanagh goll rish DNA ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar. Dy jarroo, ta'n DNA t'ec 'Celtiee' ellanagh ennagh jeeaghyn goll rish DNA ny Bascee t'ayn nish! Bentyr rish shoh, ta sleih ennagh credjal dy row ny Bascee yn chide phobble Oarpagh. As foddee dy vel sleih dooie ny h-ellany shoh er ve ayns shoh rish meeillaghyn as meeillaghyn dy vleeantyn, neayr's traaghyn ny shelgeyrn-chymsee (hunter-gatherers). My s'feer shen, foddee dy vel eh soilshaghey magh yn oyr dy vel DNA ny Bascee goll rish DNA ny Bretnee as ny Yernee: she shenn, shenn Oarpee t'ayn. As, my s'feer shen, shegin soilshaghey magh yn oyr dy vel chengaghyn Celtiagh ec 'Celtiee' ny h-ellany shoh.

Agh erskyn shoh as ooilley, cre'n fa ta sleih ennagh cho debejagh dy vrishey seose ashlishyn ny 'Celtiee' ellanagh? Vel politickaght cheu-heear jeu? Nar lhiig y smooingaght agglagh shen cheet stiagh ayns dyt chione. Agh ny yei shen as ooilley... T'eh symoil dy vel lheid y BNP (y Partee Goaldagh Ashoonagh) jeant cho booiagh dy chlashtyn yn eie nagh vel Yernee yn laa t'ayn jiu jeh'n chynney cheddin as ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar Oarpagh. My t'ou uss jeeaghyn er ynyd-eggey (website) yn BNP, hee uss dy vel lught y BNP jeeaghyn roue gys y laa yowmayd magh dy nee DNA Sostnagh ta ry gheddyn ayns Nerin son y chooid smoo!

As cre'n fa ta lught y BNP (as sleih elley) smooingaghtyn dy vel shynyn ta gobbraghey son cooishyn Celtiagh coontey kynney dy ve cho scanshoil? Ta'n Commeeys Celtiagh as sheshaght Celtiagh elley kiart tra t'ad gra dy nee ny chengaghyn Celtiagh ny reddyn smoo scanshoil - ny benn rish y kynneaghys.

She chengaghyn, cultoor as seyrnsys politickaght ny h-undynyn jeh ny gleashaghtyn ain, as cha nee DNA, ga dy vel y chooish shen anaasagh. Eer my vees ny shenndaaleeyn shen kiart as cha nel kianglaghyn-kynney eddyr ny shenn Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar as sleih ny h-ellany shoh, ta whilleen sleih goaill ymmyd jeh'n ockle 'Celtiagh' nish as dy beagh eh fardailagh dy phrowal dy gheddyn rey rish as shynyn loayrt mychione Albinee, Bretnee as myr shen. Ta eer 'Commeeys Celtiagh' ayn nish ta currit da cloie rugbee. As cha beeym boirit my vees ad lane shick-yr nagh vel mee jeh'n chynney cheddin as ny shenn Cheltiee.

Myr ren un shenndaalee ayns Mannin goaill rish, t'eh ro anmagh nish: ta'n fockle 'Celtiagh' soiet ayns aignaghyn y theay. Ta paart dy scoillaryn goll ny sodjey na gra nagh row sleih ayns ny h-ellany shoh nyn Geltiee: ta ny scoillaryn shoh jannoo beg jeh ny shenn

Cheltiee er y Cheer Vooar. Agh shen skeal elley. Red ta boiragh dy liooar ayns Mannin, shen yn agh ta sleih ynsit ennagh dellal rish ny Wiggynnee. Dy jarroo, oddagh oo gra, bunnys, dy vel kynneaghys cheet stiagh sy chooish: 'Wiggynnee heese, Celtiee heese.' Shione dou dy row ny Loghlinee scanshoil ayns shennaghys Vannin. Agh veih'n agh ta sleih ennagh loayrt, cha jinnagh oo smooingaghtyn dy

row chengey as cultoor Vannin feer Ghaelagh rish keeadyn dy vleeantyn. T'eh jeeaghyn nagh vod sleih ennagh jannoo lesh yn eie resoonagh dy row cruinnaght Cheltiagh casley rish Tinvaal ayns Mannin roish my daik ny Loghlinee, foddee. Cre'n eie scammyltagh! Gyn ourys, s'cummey lesh yn chooid smoo jeh'n theay ny h-cieyn shoh. Agh ny smoo as ny smoo, oddagh oo gra dy vel claryn-shennaghys er y chellveeish lane dy h-ashoonaghys Sostnagh. Ta fir-shennaghys er y chellveeish gaghtey myr rollageyn-fillym, as fer ny ghaa jeu gra nagh row yn impiroilaghys Goaldagh cho olk ny yei shen as ooilley. Shegin dooin jannoo nyn gooid share freggyrt y chur, as ta cooish ny Celtiee kianlt seose lesh shen. Ta tromlagh kinjagh guee er mynlagh, 'Jean-shiu firrinaghey shiu-hene!' As car y tra ta'n feysht goll er briaght 'Quoi va/ta ny Celtiee?' Myr shen, t'eh aitt dy chlashtyn mychione y ronsaght noa bentyr rish Sostyn as DNA ny cummaltee ayns shen keeadyn dy vleeantyn er dy henney. T'ad er ngeddyn magh dy vel DNA Anglo-Hostnagh goan dy liooar ayns Sostyn. As cha nod ad feddyn cowraghyn dy row ruegyssyn mooarey jeant ec Anglo-Hostnee ayn er chor erbee. Myr shen, brie yn feysht 'Quoi va/ta ny Sostnee?' Foddee dy lhisagh shin cur cuirrey da Sostyn dy heet stiagh sy Chommeys Celtiagh.

### Summary

*Archaeologists argue that there was no ethnic link between the ancient continental Celts and the peoples of Britain and Ireland, denying the existence of the insular Celts. This has been seized on with suspicious eagerness by some, who seem to have the idea that discredited theories of 'race' underpin our philosophies.*

Brian Stowell

## Bill Henderson, MHK, Commended

**This AGM commends Mr. Bill Henderson MHK for giving prominence to the Manx Language in the Tynwald.**

In a bid to boost national pride Mr Henderson decided to use a Manx phrase in Tynwald. He used 'Ta mee shirrey kied yn 'eisht y chur ta fo m'ennym' the Manx translation of 'I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name'.)

Mr Cringle, Tynwald's President, referred to standing order 3.23(5), which states that a term or expression in another language cannot be used in Tynwald', and instructed Mr Henderson not to use the Manx language.

Mr Henderson called for Tynwald's Standing Orders Committee to review this rule. The Committee reported back advising that Tynwald approve the use of Manx. (See Carn 121 & 122)





# AGM Calls for Teaching Materials in Manx

## This AGM:

a) calls upon the Isle of Man Department of Education to address the deficiency in teaching resources (such as text books and learning schemes) for the Manx medium education school by engaging proficient Manx speakers to produce the same for meaningful recompense.

b) does not regard the simple translation of existing English language resources to be appropriate in many instances.

Phil Gawne, Chairman of Mooinjer Veggey, the organisation responsible for the development of pre-school and primary education responded to a query from the Editor of Carn concerning the Celtic League's resolution outlined above. He wrote:

'Mooinjer Veggey is to receive grant

assistance of. £9,495 from the Manx Heritage Foundation for a resource development project which Mooinjer Veggey will establish in its financial year beginning 1st September 2003. The total cost of the project is £ 13,695 - the remaining 4,200 coming from Mooinjer Veggey's development budget which is primarily funded by the Department of Education.

Following their visit to the Isle of Lewis in May this year, Mooinjer Veggey's staff and committee were pleased to see how well, comparatively, we are doing in the Isle of Man with the support and development of our language. In terms of support and promotion we are in many ways ahead of Lewis but we have one area which is letting us down. Resource development remains perhaps the most significant weakness in the provision of resources for the children in their early years in Manx medium education and

Mooinjer Veggey is keen to address this in this new project.

It is anticipated that the new resource development project will be driven by teachers, playgroup leaders and translators who will develop ideas for educational resources. These ideas will then be taken by a part time resource development officer (who will have basic graphic design, computing and desk top publishing skills) who prepare them for printing in an eye catching format and/or produce IT learning resources.

Due to the relatively small print run required for Manx language educational resources Mooinjer Veggey believes that desk top publishing and IT resources will provide the most cost effective, high quality resources which children learning through the Manx language at pre-school and primary level rightly deserve. The new project will also allow much greater flexibility for unique Manx language resources to be produced rather than the current situation where resources translated from English and the other Celtic languages are generally relied upon.'

## Education Act – A Manx Dimension

The Education Act 2001, under the Curriculum section headed, Education in primary and secondary schools' states:-

1. 'The department of Education shall by order prescribe a curriculum for all registered pupils of compulsory school age at provided and maintained schools
2. 'The curriculum shall include provision for the following matters -  
(b) the teaching of Manx Gaelic and the culture and history of the Island.'

\*note – there is already some provision made by the Department of Education, for

*nursery education through Manx, a Manx Medium primary unit, which recently acquired a second teacher and 'opt in' courses available with parental consent.*

The Department intends to gradually introduce elements of 2(b) above, and has chosen to begin with History. A working party made up of primary teachers, the Education Officer of Manx National Heritage, chaired by a primary head teacher; has been developing a history scheme appropriate to school children in the Isle of Man. The first course will

be introduced into schools in years 3 (age 7-8) and 4 (age 8-9) during this autumn term. Other courses will be developed for the other age groups in the future.

The aim of the working party has been to provide a user-friendly course of study - with support material for teachers - that is accessible to children. In year 3 the focus is on the Celts, and will follow on with a short introductory unit on migrants and settlers to set the Isle of Man in context of what was happening in the British Isles and Ireland. Year 4 will focus on the Vikings with an appropriate introduction.

Contained within the scheme are teaching aims, learning objectives and key tasks, ideas to be developed and further activities. Visits to exhibitions at the Manx Museum and the House of Manannin as well as visits important historic sites are recommended to support study or as an addition to it.

The changes enshrined in the Act should begin to address the inappropriateness of adopting a curriculum based entirely on the English version, making history more relevant to the children on the Island.

Other aspects of the curriculum – Manx Gaelic and culture – will broaden still further a Manx dimension to education. Inclusion of Manx for all students is especially desirable, although this may be more problematic to implement as far as competent human resources is concerned. Provision for adequate training will be necessary. Future developments will be watch with great interest.

C.J.K.

Carn 19



Ruth Sullivan and Cristl Jerry, two of the Manx delegates at the CL AGM



# Sellafield Visit - Concerns Remain Over Discharges

**This AGM:**

Welcomes the nine month moratorium on discharges of Technetium-99 from Sellafield announced by the British Environment Minister, Elliot Morley.

Calls on the British to extend that moratorium indefinitely.

The United Kingdoms nuclear industry has featured regularly on successive agendas of the Celtic League annual meeting.

The League welcomed the news that there is to be a moratorium on Technetium-99 discharges from the Sellafield Plant. However, Bernard Moffatt, General Secretary warned that despite this year's AGM optimism the Celtic League needs to remain vigilant - our monitoring and campaigning will go on.

**Secretary General**

## Statement from Phil Gawne, MHK

Following my recent visit to Sellafield in August I remain concerned over many aspects of the nuclear waste disposal and reprocessing operations carried out on the site. There are two significant points which came to light on the visit -

1. BNFL has no intention of complying with the UK Environment Minister's call for a moratorium on Technetium 99 discharges.

2. The BNFL process for getting rid of Technetium 99 is likely to lead to discharges of harmful organo-phosphates instead.

The visit for me was quite reassuring, however, many of the concerns remain. These concerns include the often misleading stories and spin emanating from both BNFL and the various UK departments responsible for activities at Sellafield.

A few months ago, for example, the UK Environment Minister called for a cessation of discharges of Technetium 99 - the only remaining radioactive element discharged into the Irish Sea. We were led to believe that this moratorium on discharges would begin in September and last for nine months. However, BNFL officials made it quite clear on our visit that such a cessation of discharges would not be possible and it appears that the UK Environment Minister has no powers to impose this ban.

It was also made clear on our visit that a trial will be taking place in October of a process which BNFL has developed to try to remove Technetium 99 from water prior to its discharge into the Irish Sea. The introduction of this process has been



*Bernard Moffatt, Secretary General, addresses the AGM on the Celtic League's campaign work and commitment to the closure of Sellafield.*

held up by NIREX (the UK agency responsible for finding an ultimate resting place for all the UK's radioactive waste.)

NIREX was concerned that the new process for removing Technetium 99 would produce a waste product which would be unsuitable for long term storage. However, following considerable political pressure from Ireland and Norway for a cessation of radioactive discharges, it now seems that the previously unsuitable process has become acceptable to NIREX and the trial can take place.

Full results of the trial are expected to be released in December/ January, however, it is predicted that the new process will result in considerable reductions in radioactive discharges. Unfortunately there may well be a down side to this new process. It seems that the chemical involved in removing the Technetium 99 is an organo-phosphate (OP) and it is likely that some of this OP chemical will be discharged into the sea following this process.

It seems more than a little surprising that the new process will result in the discharge of OPs which have a proven health risk, in place of Technetium 99 which is generally not considered to have any scientifically proven risk.

I believe that the Manx Government is right to continue to call for the closure of Sellafield and the first step must be an end to all radioactive and chemical discharges from the site.

*The visit was arranged by the Department of Local Government and the Environment (DoLGE) and British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) and three MHKs (Members of the House of Keys) and two MLCs (Members of the Legislative Council -including the DoLGE Minister) were on the trip.*

(Edited)

## Adoption of Environmentally Friendly Measures Sought

- This AGM calls upon all authorities with jurisdiction over seas bordering and surrounding the Celtic countries to make compulsory the use of "dolphin friendly" fishing nets.
- This AGM calls upon the Isle of Man Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to cease the destruction of natural habitat and viable agricultural land with the widespread and largely unnecessary plantation with coniferous trees.

In a letter to (Isle of Man Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture) Mark Kermod, CL Assistant general Secretary addressed the resolutions regarding 'dolphin friendly' fishing nets and the destruction of natural habitat and viable agricultural land. Text of letter below:

Dear Mr. Rimington,

As you are no doubt aware, the EU has instituted limited trials of "Dolphin Friendly" fishing nets. The Celtic League feel, however, that existing evidence has demonstrated the worth of these measures and their adoption should be widespread and immediate.

We understand that the problem relating to dolphins occurs primarily with pair trawling. I do not know of any Manx vessels that engage in this method, but if there are or if it were to happen, then perhaps your Department could provide grant assistance for the special nets.

In the case of non-Manx vessels, it would naturally be a matter for themselves to acquire suitable nets.

On the matter of coniferous tree plantation, a substantial area of upland is under conifer plantation which impacts substantially on the environment.

You may recall that Mr. Donald Gelling undertook to cease planting in reservoir catchment areas after the link between conifers, aluminium salts and Alzheimer's disease was established. This undertaking never seems to have been implemented, however.

Conifer plantations have a marked impact on soil quality and, in particular in relation to improved land, the labour of decades is effectively destroyed once the land is sown with these trees.

On the upland moor land, habitat for native flora and fauna is, perhaps irreparably, destroyed for a crop of questionable commercial value. I am sure that you have walked through these plantations and are so aware that they offer little in the way of alternative habitat and ecology.



## FINANCE SECTOR IS "HANGING BY A THREAD"

The latest job vacancy and unemployment statistics from the Isle of Man Treasury show that the boom is over and, whereas the relative figures for unemployment remain low, the trends of both vacancies and unemployment show that the Isle of Man economy is slowing on an ongoing basis.

Over the past four years, the moving average of job vacancies reported to the Department of Trade and Industry has shown a straight line fall. Conversely, the number of registered unemployed "bottomed" in 2000 and is now showing an exponential rate of increase.

Another reliable indicator of the economy is the housing market. During the past few months, the number of houses advertised for sale within the Isle of Man has rocketed as the "clever money" get out while the going remains reasonable. Unfortunately, this does not necessarily mean that Manx people, all too often kept out of the housing market by the untrammelled influx of economic refugees to the Island, will have a better chance of getting onto the housing ladder: Housing prices have not fallen as yet and by the time they do, the employment climate may prevent them from being able to secure mortgages.

There is also the potential problem of negative equity for those who bought at

the peak of the latest boom. Mec Vannin foresaw this problem some time ago and this year's AGM passed the following resolution which has been sent to the Treasury Department:

"In light of the increasing possibility of mortgaged properties in negative equity and the Treasury Minister's frank admission that the finance sector is "hanging by a thread,"\* this AGM calls upon the Isle of Man Government to provide support to vulnerable first-time buyers who may face financial ruin from a situation that is of the government's making."

*"This admission was made in the spring of this year to two other Members of the House of Keys in a foyer outside the sitting-chamber, unaware that the exchange was witnessed by a member of the public."*

The Treasury Minister, Alan Bell, is the central figure in an independent Commission of Inquiry that found that there was corruption in the system of Manx government. He is currently subject to investigation by the House of Keys standards committee after the Commission found that he had knowingly misled the House of Keys. He rejects the finding.

Mark Kermode, Chairman / PRO, Mec Vannin

## Attorney General Fails to Control UK Media

This AGM expresses concern at the failure of the Isle of Man Attorney General to take action against media sources or distributors who breached sub judice rules by publishing and distributing comment relating to the Solway Harvester tragedy.

There was genuine empathy between the people of the Isle of Man and the people of Kirkcudbright following the foundering of the MFV Solway Harvester off our shores. The Manx community were as one when government determined that they would raise the wrecked vessel and recover the bodies of the dead seafarers.

There was a great desire to find out what had caused this tragedy and when it became apparent that legal action was to be taken against parties there was a desire that nothing prejudicial to due process should occur.

Our concern arose when, with proceedings underway, the United Kingdom Marine Accident Investigation Branch published a potentially prejudicial report.

Media on the Isle of Man were immediately proscribed with a direction from the Isle of Man Attorney General that they should not publish the report or sections of it.

Bizarrely, however the Attorney procrastinated whilst UK newspapers carrying comment on the MAIB report were distributed on the Island. He also failed to take action when TV services utilising transmitter facilities on the Island carried the comment.

The Celtic League AGM has condemned this inertia and we will be seeking an explanation as to why it was considered ineffectual to attempt to block this media intrusion on the Manx judicial process.

Secretary General

## Eat Kippers Controversy

Manx Minister for Local Government and the Environment, Pamela Crowe, MLC, caused controversy by dismissing the notion of issuing iodine tablets to the Manx population in case of radioactive contamination, when she advocated eating kippers as a protection against radiation poisoning.

These tablets have already been issued to the populace on the eastern seaboard of Éire and to those in England near to the accident plagued Windscale / Sellafield plant which is soon to be decommissioned with the attendant hazards of accidental release of radiation. In the wake of Mrs Crowe's remarks Mec Vannin wrote to Dr. Ian H MacLean, Chief Administrative Medical Officer and Director of Public Health stating: 'You are no doubt aware of the controversy surrounding DLGE minister Pamela Crowe MLC's quip about eating kippers as a protection against radiation poisoning.'

Surely such a matter falls under your own remit. Do you have any plans to acquire iodine tablets for issue in such

an event which, in light of the Sellafield decommissioning, is perhaps a more tangible threat to the populace of the Isle of Man than "bio-terrorism."

In his response Dr MacLean stated:

'We have held large stocks of potassium iodide tablets for many years, and these would be available in the event of a nuclear incident which might affect the Isle of Man. However, you should bear in mind that such tablets are only useful in certain types of nuclear incident.' He went on to disagree with Mec Vannin's risk assessment vis a vis other types of threat: 'it would require an enormous release from Sellafield or elsewhere, together with certain weather conditions, for the Island to be affected, and even then, the probability of contamination levels requiring the issues of tablets would be very low. In my opinion, the risks from other types of accident or deliberate action are far more significant.'

Mark Kermode

American Branch  
Internet Site

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





# Celtica



## A TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICA LATINA'S FIRST BARD

The Celtic historic-literary genre in South America arose with the help of the translator and writer Roberto Rosaspini Reynolds, the First Bard Druid in Latin America who died on the 19th of April this year.

The appreciation of his works illustrates the importance of the Celtic culture across the whole American continent. The distance that separates our region from the lands of Celtic origin does not prevent a faithful and firm interest in that heritage. Even though music is the major inspiration of Celtic interest, the contribution of the works of Rosaspini Reynolds has proved to be the ideal complement for perfect propagation.

Towards the end of 1990 journalists and documentary cameraman, decided to pay tribute to his Irish and Galician heritage and started transmitting his knowledge about Celtic civilization collected during his time in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany.

Through the publishing company, Ediciones Continente, Rosaspini published his first **Celtic Collection** consisting of 10 volumes in Spanish which can be found in the most important bookstores from Tierra del Fuego (Argentina) to Miami (USA) and in Spain. Most of the titles have surpassed the 12th reprint, showing the literary value and high level of interest in his work. His books are evidence of his skill in introducing and enthraling the reader to Celtic history and mythology; translating and compiling the fantastic stories about elves and fairies and the wide variety of elemental beings that form the ancient Celtic literature.

Given a special gift to reflect in a simple, lively and didactic way a part of the universal history withheld from the public for centuries, he received the recognition of thousands of readers. This sailor had reached his place to dwell too soon; this Bard Druid still had plenty to offer to the transcendent contribution the Celtic people gave to humankind.

**SUSANA SHANAHAN**  
Translation Gabriela Grillo

Born in 1940 in el Bolsón, Río Negro, Argentina, Rosaspini was married and with one son. He started his literary experiences as a translator, alternating this with being a photographer and cameraman of nature and fauna. From his '60s contacts he integrated a London BBC documentary team. His writing arose from different sources, among them the Chamanismo, Argentinean legends and traditions, and native legends. He was fluent in English, French, Galician, and Irish Gaelic and also had knowledge of various aboriginal languages and German.

\* On the 18th September, a ceremony was held in Buenos Aires to pay tribute to Roberto Rosaspini Reynolds. An international Celtic literary contest will be launched on that occasion. This contest was organized by Ediciones Continente and supported by the Movimiento Celta Argentina, the Irish and Spanish Embassies in Argentina and the Secretary's Office of Culture in Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires will be the meeting point of Celtic storytellers from all over the world.

The Celtic League has sent a message of support for this major event which Susana Shanahan will read at the opening ceremony of the contest. Anyone interested in participating in the contest may contact Susana Shanahan at [plumpu@arnet.com.ar](mailto:plumpu@arnet.com.ar)

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# OASA

## - Iniquitous Legislation

**This AGM: Expresses concern that the Irish government, which is ostensibly committed to International Human Rights principles, continues to maintain on its statutes the provisions of the Offences Against the State Act.**

During the course of the past several years we have as an organisation expressed repeated concerns about retention on the Irish Statutes of the Offences Against The State Act (OASA).

Our Dublin conference once again addressed the vexatious issue of this legislation and we were unanimous in our condemnation.

Paradoxically, within days the legislation was once again in the public arena with its use resulting in what has been referred to, in contemporary media, as a 'success for justice'.

The conviction of Michael McKevitt could only be achieved by a Special Court sitting without a jury and listening to witnesses whose evidence had been bought! What sort of strength does such a conviction have? It highlights everything that is wrong with this iniquitous legislation and begs the question; do we wish to see a system based on the normal rules of law and fair trial? The alternative, which OASA provides, is a system based on the security for the State of ensured convictions.

OASA and the Special Criminal Court have been condemned internationally and we reiterated our condemnation.

We hold no brief to support the men of violence or those who would challenge the State by illegal means, but a State cannot challenge alleged lawlessness by bending the rules and this is just what the De Valera government did over sixty years ago.

OASA and its legislative provisions should be consigned to the dustbin of history!

**Secretary General**



# celtic league AGM 2003

The Annual General Meeting of the Celtic League 2003 was held on the weekend 2/3rd August at Áras na Comhála, Kildare Street, in Dublin. Delegates from the six national branches of the League heard reports on the work of the League over the last twelve months and also considered a wide range of resolutions dealing with the Celtic languages, human rights, the Irish peace process, the proposed European Constitution and environmental issues.

The Secretary General of the League highlighted concerns that the organisation has expressed over the past twelve months about the ongoing tribunal enquiries in Ireland and there was also a report on the conclusions published in the first part of the Isle of Man Planning Enquiry (Mount Murray)

Unlike previous years this issue of Carn will not merely carry a list the resolutions passed at the AGM, instead background details are given with some of the key resolutions. These resolutions are placed in the relevant country sections. The remaining resolutions adopted are carried here in the Celtica section.

**The Celtic League AGM does not view the outcome of the European Union Convention and proposed EU Constitution as beneficial to the smaller nation states such as Ireland as it does away with the principle of equality and the shifts the balance of power to the bigger states and EU institutions**

However this AGM of the Celtic League holds that the five Celtic Countries within the multinational states of Britain and France have the right to develop to independence and become full member states of the EU. We call on the EU Convention to make changes to the proposed EU constitution which would facilitate the Celtic Countries (and indeed other national minorities within the multi national states) achieving full EU member status.

#### **This AGM:**

**Refutes attacks on the Celtic League, in response to comment by the League on the Mount Murray corruption enquiry, by the Chief Minister of the Isle of Man.**

**Reminds the Isle of Man government and governments in the other Celtic States of the Leagues unswerving commitment to expose and publicise any corruption, maladministration or institutional wrongdoing in any of the Celtic countries - in line with the decision of its 2002 AGM.**

#### **This AGM:**

**Bearing in mind the opposition of the Celtic League to the formation of the Royal Irish Regiment supports the call of Alex Atwood, AM, and other concerned politicians for the disbandment of the regiment.**

**Believes that the latest revelations about the regiment confirm concerns about its sectarian basis and make its continued progress inimical to the progress towards peace in the North of Ireland.**

**This Celtic League AGM demands that the British Government call immediate elections to the Assembly in the North and that they implement the Good Friday Agreement in full, particularly British promises on demilitarisation.**

## International Branch Internet Site

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## THE BACKYARDS OF HEAVEN

*An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry from  
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Labrador*



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"Edmund Burke, the great Irish orator of the eighteenth century, wrote of 'the ties which though light as air are as strong as links of iron.' In the twenty-first century, the ties that bind both Ireland and Newfoundland are splendidly evoked in this anthology of verse from poets on both islands."  
Agnes Aylward, Director, Ireland  
Newfoundland Partnership.

## British Government's Maginot Mentality

#### **This AGM:**

**Views with concern the failure of the United Kingdom government to implement those aspects of the Good Friday Agreement which dealt with demilitarisation of military installations in border areas of Northern Ireland.**

**Expresses alarm at the continued use and refurbishment of some of those installations in the South Armagh area despite the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the population. Calls for all the installations to be speedily removed.**

Growing frustration with the British government's failure to demilitarise in South Armagh and other Border areas of the North of Ireland has led the Celtic League AGM to once again tell the British Army "its time to go".

It is now almost a decade and a half since the League condemned what we termed the British government's *Maginot Mentality* towards security in the area.

In the intervening period we have actively pursued a campaign alongside community groups in the area to achieve a British pull-out.

It is only by visiting the area and meeting the people of South Armagh that you learn just how de-stabilising the British military presence has been. It impacts on all in the community but particularly on the children many of whom have had to grow up, attend school and play with the constant ominous presence of the British Army.

There is also an environmental price which has been paid because little thought was given by the Ministry of Defence to the long-term impact when it littered the hills of South Armagh and other border areas with fortified bases and observation posts.

The Celtic League stands shoulder to shoulder with the communities in these areas in demanding an end to that presence. This is what the resolution we adopted (set out below), which will now be pursued with the UK government, means.

Secretary General



## Dangerous New Extradition Treaty

This meeting of the Celtic League views with grave concern the new extradition treaty drawn up by the United States and British governments.

In light of the harsh treatment of John Eddie McNicholl by the US Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), the Celtic League believes that this legislation is contrary to the US commitment to the promotion of peace and justice in the North of Ireland and could be directed against Irish-American organisations and their supporters.

We call for this treaty to be abandoned, and call upon the US Senate to reject it.

Concerns over proposed new extradition treaty between United States and United Kingdom were highlighted in a report to Celtic League Central in July 2003 by Margaret Sexton of the US Branch.

An article by Ray O'Hanlon from the Irish Echo of August 20-26, 2003, reports on US lawyers' alarm at the new extradition treaty. O'Hanlon quotes Francis Boyle, a professor of law at the University of Illinois, as saying that the treaty is aimed less at suspected Real or Continuity IRA people, and more at Irish-American organizations and individuals.

A second article from the New York Times of 23rd July 2003 by Thomas J. Lueck entitled 'U.S. expels Irishman in 70's case' which reported the arrest and deportation of John Edward Anthony McNicholl of Pennsylvania, by US federal immigration agents. Further details of McNicholl's arrest were found on the Irish American Unity Conference Web pages. It would seem that John McNicholl was arrested as he left for work early on the morning of 17th July 2003. He had lived openly in America since 1984. His arrest came without warning and he was not allowed the opportunity to tell his family, who were distressed to witness his being bundled into a car and driven away.

Mark Lockerby, International Branch Secretary

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All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership fee (including *Carn*) and subscription rates are: Stg£12; €20; US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe: Stg.£15 (airmail); Outside Europe: Stg.£18.00 (airmail).

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Articles for *Carn* may be sent on disk preferably in Microsoft Word/Works, faxed to + 353 1 - 458 9795 or e-mailed to the Editor

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