

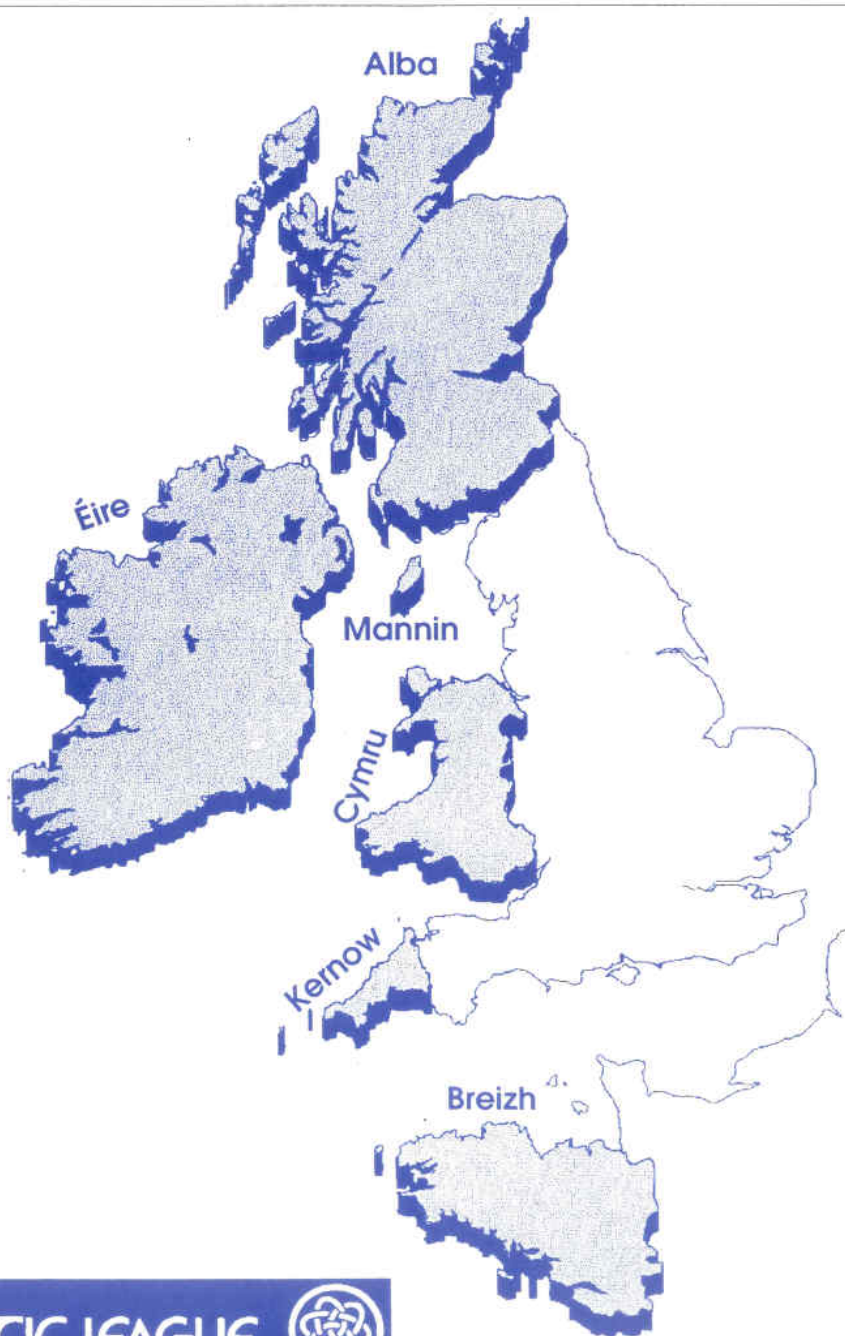
comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 124

Winter 2003/04

€3.00 Stg£2.50



- Scots Independence Campaigners search for Unity
- Support DIWAN and Breton Prisoners
- Victory for Cymuned Anti- colonialists
- Ireland, Neutrality and the EU
- Cornish in Europe
- Manx Nationalists attack Government
- An Airgintín Cheilteach

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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE





Chan fhaca sinn leabhar Bile a bhios a' tighinn on Phàrlamaid Albannach cho briagha ris a sin. Rud eile, tha e dà-chànanach le dealbhan a' toirt brosnachadh Ghàidhlig.

Ach nuair a tha sinn a' leughadh cunntasan eile air a' Bhile seo chì sinn gum bheil imcheist ann.

Ach nam biodh sinn ag èisdeachd ris na deasbaireachdan eadar Micheil MacBhaltair is Micheil Rusail agus na fianaisean sa Phàrlamaid no ann an t-seomar comataidh, tuigidh sinn fac an d'fhàinig a' Bhile seo.

Bhon a tha an dà Micheil le chèile a nìs an deasbaireachd seo, thuig an Riaghaltas Albannach gun robh e feumail fuasgladh fhaighinn agus fhuair an Riaghaltas an fhreagairt bho theisteanas airchoirigin.

Thagh an Riaghaltas na thuit an fhianais Chuimreach. Uime sin, tha tomhas againn a' dèanamh coimeas eadar an Achd aca agus mar a tha i ag obair anns a' Chuimrigh agus mar a bhios i ag obair an seo ann an Alba. Is docha gum bheil a' Bhile ri fhaighinn fhathast bho Welsh Language Unit, Directorate for Culture Sport and Welsh language, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathys Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

Sa chiad dol amach, tha litir an Mhinistear an Fhoghlaim, Peadar Peacock, a sgrìobhadh eachdraidh na Gàidhlig againn, taic a fhuair ar cànan gus a seo, an t-iartras air son inbhe laghail, aithisgean Mhic a' Phearsain is Meek ... achdan coltach an tè againn, sa Chuimrigh sa bhliadhna 1993 agus ann an Èireann am bliadhna seo.

Faisg air crìoch an leabhair seo chì sinn mar a chaidh ar cànan sìos on Achd an Fhoghlaim 1872 a bha an aghaidh na Gàidhlig agus dhùin gach sgoil Ghàidhlig.

Mu dheidheadh, dé thuit an leabhar seo ach... "bhiodh sinn toilichte ur beachdan a chluinntinn" gu 9 Faoilleach/January 2004.

Tha an leabhar seo ri fhaighinn, an asgaidh, sgrìobh... Roinn I-A, An t-Aonad Gàidhlig, Spòrs, na h-Ealain agus Cultar,

SEED, Cidhe Bhictoria, Dun Èideann EH6 6QQ. Alba/Scotland, no fon (0131)244-4942 no facs (0131) 244-0353 no e-mail bilena-gaidhlig@scotland.gsi.gov.uk no fosgail www.scotland.gov.uk/bilenagaidhlig.

Cò nach eile toilichte gun do dh'fhoillsich ar Riaghaltas a' Bhile seo agus aig a' Mhòd Naiseanta am bliadhna ann an Oban Lathurnach far an do thòisich e ceud bliadhna seo chaidh.



Ach tha sgrùdaidhean measail ceadichte cuideachd... Sa chiad dol amach, carson nach robh geall gum biodh croileagan is teagasg tre na Gàidhlig san sgoil ri fhaighinn mar chòir?

San darna : àite, chuala sinn an fhianais a thàinig as a' Chuimrigh nach robh cumhachd feumail a thaobh ùghdarrasan ionadail an sin ach e an ìmpidh no persuasion a-mhàin. Ach am bi e daonnan as fheàrr an seo?

A bheil an Riaghaltas deònach airgead a thoirt air sgath luchd-teagais teagaisg tre na Gàidhlig a dh'ionnsachadh?

Agus a neartachadh am media, TV, radio is paipearan mar a tha àireamh nan Ghàidheil a' dol am meud.

Dé mu dheighinn club anns gach cearn far am biodh na Gàidheil a' cruinneachadh is a' bruidhinn ri chèile sa Ghàidhlig?

Agus, san àite mu dheireadh, comharraidhean no signs air na rathaidean, mar air an Eilean Sgitheanach, agus àitean eile... am biodh an Riaghaltas deònach leosan a chuideachadh cuideachd?

Ach tha aobhar de dh'aoibhneis gum bi a' Bhile seo air beulaibh na Pàrlamaid againn ach cha bhiodh a' Bhile seo luachmhor mur eil na Gàidheil agus luchd taic na Gàidhlig daonnan misneachail.

Ach, carson nach eil còir laghail aig a' h-uile paisde agus na parantan aige/aice deònach Gàidhlig a ghnathachadh anns a' chroileagan is anns an sgoil far am beul teagasg tre na Gàidhlig?

Cò dhiu, chord an leabhar seo uamhasach math riunn, mar eisimpleir ... air duilleag 5 ... "Tha ceangal do-sgaraichte aig fearann agus sluagh na h-Alba ris a' Ghàidhlig. Chan e a-mhàin gu bheil freumhan Ghàidhlig aig mòran de ar sloinnidhean ach air feadh Alba b'e ginealaichean de luchd-labhairt Ghàidhlig a thug na h-ainmean do mhòran de ar bailtean agus aibhnichean, cnuic... Mar le cultaran agus cànaichean dùthchasach eile, tha a' Ghàidhlig cuideachd a' feuchainn a' dol an aghaidh làmh-an-uachdair cànan Shasainn agus cultar Ameirega air feadh an t-saoghail."

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich (Gilleasbuig Lachlainn "Illeasbuig)

Summary

It is possible to get a copy of the Consultation Paper on the forthcoming Gàidhlig Language Bill by getting in touch with the Gàidhlig Unit, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh of which the details can be found in the text above. It is in both Gàidhlig and English and is delightfully illustrated. The Welsh Language Bill may still be available at the above Cardiff address.

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SCOTS INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGNERS SEARCH FOR UNITY

Reading the UK press after the May Scottish Parliament elections you could be forgiven for thinking that the pro-independence forces had sustained a major setback. However the truth is that despite the SNP losing 8 seats there are now more MSPs in support of independence than there were in the previous parliament. The figures are 37 then and 41 now.

The difference is explained by the spectacular breakthrough achieved by Scottish Socialists and Scottish Greens both of whom favour independence. The former have returned 6 members and the latter 7.

Although the SNP remain the leading pro-independence formation in the parliament the election has not been an entirely comfortable experience for them.

The key lesson is that the SNP no longer has a monopoly of the pro-independence vote and that some form of broad front to unite these forces is needed now.

This has been recognised by leading SNP member Alex Neil MSP and by a key figure in the Scottish Socialist Party Alan McCombes who edits the party's weekly Scottish Socialist Voice.

Both have supported the idea of a pro-independence Constitutional Convention similar to that which played a key role in winning the present parliament. Both have, in their different ways, stressed that unity for national freedom does not involve abandoning distinctive policies in other areas. McCombes told the SSP's national council in October that the drive for an Independence Convention did not involve "dipping the banner of Socialism" and stressed that the party would continue to fight for key demands in its programme such as an income based local service tax and free school meals.

In a paper on the subject Neil stresses that the SNP should remain a moderate Left of Centre party but points out that the Greens and SSP gained a combined 13.6% of the vote in the second list ballot in May.

All this looks encouraging with the SSP approving the policy heavily at its national council and signs that the SNP leadership may take it up.

Problematic so far has been the approach of the Scottish Greens who have appeared luke warm on the convention, at least at leadership level.

However there is clearly a new dynamic in the pro-independence movement in Scotland and it seems likely that if progress is to be made as the 200th anniversary of Scotland being "bought and sold for English gold" into the British state in 1707 looms the a united front will be needed.

Ken Ferguson

GÆLIC EDUCATION NEWS

Minister for Education and Gaelic, Peter Peacock, warned local authorities that they face sanctions if they fail to meet their obligations to monitor demand for mainstream education in Gaelic.

Announcing a series of meetings with councils Mr Peacock said that the authorities have a crucial role to play in safeguarding the language. Currently, 300 children enrol each year in Primary One classes in which pupils learn all subjects while speaking in increasingly fluent Gaelic.

Campaigners argue that, with 1,500 Gaelic speakers dying each year, the number entering the immersion classes is not high enough to prevent the language becoming extinct.

Mr Peacock said: "I want to send the clearest possible signal to education authorities that I take the advancement of Gaelic medium education very seriously - it is the key to strengthening a fragile language - and Parliament was clear what it wanted through the explicit measures in the 2000 Act..." The Act placed significant duties on education authorities to monitor the demand for Gaelic and to encourage its development.

In a strongly worded warning, he stated: "It is early days yet in the application of the improvement framework under the 2000 Act, and while much progress has been made, I will not hesitate to use powers to issue statutory guidance, if the further development of education authority improvement plans demonstrates that is needed."

Mr Peacock has asked authorities and the new development body, Bord Gàidhlig, to set up a joint group to monitor provision and suggest improvements. Mr Allan Campbell, the chief executive officer of Bord Gàidhlig, said yesterday it was important that education authorities do more than respond to existing demand for classes, highlighting research by Professor Richard Johnston at Stirling University, who found that children are advantaged by bilingual education. These findings are supported by numerous other studies carried out in the other Celtic Countries.

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Máirí Leach,
Edinburgh 'Beidh fáilte romhat'

Scotland and the Cold War

Editor Brian P Jamison.

Price £12.99. 192 pages. 2003,
ISBN 0954441613.

Scotland and the Cold War investigates some of the country's experiences during the Cold War period, covering such topics as: the effectiveness of the disarmament movement in Scotland; the role of the Church in the peace movement; Scottish participation with the Communist Party of Great Britain; the presence of the UK's nuclear deterrent in the west of Scotland and the legal complications activists encounter in their attempts to decommission what has been described as a 'Cold War relic'; the psychological and historical implications of the Cold War and the presence of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in West Germany. Scotland and the Cold War is currently the only study of the impact of the Cold War on Scotland. This book is likely to be of interest to anyone involved in disarmament or environmental issues.

Chapters include:

- The Role of the Churches in the Peace Movement: Alastair Ramage
- Scottish Communists in the Cold War: Professor Willie Thompson
- Cold War Psychohistory in the Scottish Psyche: Alastair McIntosh
- Junior Military Command during the Cold War: Major (Retired) Alastair Campbell
- Will they blow us a' tae hell? Strategies and Obstacles for the Disarmament movement in Scotland: Brian P Jamison
- The End of the Road for Action against Trident? Scots Law and the Trident Programme: Julius Komorowski

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Brid Hetherington

Breizh

75^{vet} DEIZ-HA-BLOAZ GOURSEZ KERNEV VEUR

Ur bloavezh arbennik e oa er bloaz-mañ evit an Emsav kerneveurek. Bloavezh ar 75^{vet} deiz-ha-bloaz Goursez Kernev Veur e oa. Dale'het e voe e Lannstefan (Launceston e Saozneg) d'ar 6^{vet} a viz Gwengolo. Un deiz brav e voe leun a heol. Ret eo dimp kaout soñj e voe krouet Goursez Kernev Veur e 1928 gant Henri Jenner hag a voe Barzh Meur kentañ Goursez Kernev Veur war skouer re Vro Gembre ha Breizh. Dre ma'z oa deiz-ha-bloaz arbennik e teuas kalz tud ha kalz kannadoù eus Breizh ha Bro-Gembre, en o mesk Arc'hdroiz Bro Gembre. Arc'hdroiz Bro-Gembre a lennas e brezegenn e Kerneveureg ha plijus voe an dra-mañ evit meur a dud. Bez'e voe ivez kalz tud o virout ouzh kerzhadeg ar varzhed e stratoù Lannstefan. Gwelet e voe ivez kalz bannerioù « Gwynn ha Du » Kernev Veur ha harpet voe ar manifestadeg gant Kambr Kenwerzh kêr Lannstefan. Ha kavet voe e kelaouenn *Western Morning News* d'an 9^{vet} a viz Gwengolo pennad skrivet gant Simon Parker anvet « Kernow Vyw » (Kerneveureg).

Kurunet e voe ar Barzh Meur nevez ivez an deiz-se, Rod Lyon e anv. Den pouezus e-mesk an Emsav eo Rod Lyon. Eñ a labour evit ar yezh abaoe meur a zegad-bloavezhioù. Komz a ra Kerneveurek ent-klok hag eñ a vezo harpet gant Vanessa Beeman, kannad nevez ar Bardh Meur, kerneveuregerez ivez.

Summary

This year saw the 75th anniversary of the Cornish Gorsedh that was held in Lannstefan (Launceston in English). It was a very beautiful day and a very special date for the Cornish Movement. A lot of representatives from the Breton and Welsh Gorsedh came, among them, the Archdruid of Wales who made his speech in Cornish. Lannstefan was full of Cornish flags and there was even an article published in the Western Morning News. The new Grand Bard, Rod Lyon, a fluent Cornish speaker was crowned. The Deputy Grand Bard, Vanessa Beeman is also a fluent Cornish speaker.

José CALVETE

Human Rights High on the Agenda of the Breizh Branch

Looking at 2003 AGM Resolutions Gi Keltik explains their background and the branch's commitment to Human Rights

Devolution:

The French Prime Minister, JP RAFFARIN told the people he was going to work for those in the lower income groups. "la France d'en bas"...unfortunately President CHIRAC and his right wing party (UMP) are opposed to DEVOLUTION...and the Charter for the Lesser Used Languages. By the way the budget for our land of Brittany is under five billion euros, most of the Lander and Regions of EU have budgets of more than fifteen billions euros. Anyway they are in favour of modifications in the old French administration, but the conservative trade-unions and the communist lobbies (CGT+FSU+CNAL+) are very opposed to any modifications in state bodies like : E.N.+EDF+AirFrance+. The Government proposals in terms of DEVOLUTION were small from the beginning and the demonstrations in the education sector (E.N.) in spring time will not help...so this second part of the French DEVOLUTION is going to be very weak. France is far behind the UK., or indeed Italy & Spain which are also Latin states...

Boycott...French in the Celtic nations' universities...?

The French school state body (E.N.) has stopped the Breton course at the university of NAONED. The French constitutional body (Conseil d'Etat) told us last year, that: "French is the language of the French Republic". France is developing a process in which Republicanism i.e. Jacobinism is THE religion of the state. A few years ago, while the President Jacques CHIRAC, refused to sign the "European Charter" Turkey did!

The Breton branch of the Celtic League is very much in favour of Rights for the Lesser Used Languages in the EU., so we called for discussion on a boycott of French in the universities in the Celtic countries, agreeing with D. O'Neill, (ICDBL) from Canada. A boycott is a peaceful process to open the French eyes on Human and Language Rights here in Europe.

Prisoners...5 years...NO TRIAL!

The AGM resolution about the six Bretons prisoners is all about Human Rights as far as the Breizh Branch is concerned...especially because the French government and their media are very proud of "their" 'Human-Rights Declaration'. The Breizh Branch is very much in favour of UN & EU Human-Rights legislation.. We are also opposed to all lobbies that are not ready to condemn violence.

Ireland... e-tal an dazont...

Evel ma oar an holl eo ar gelted indo-europeaned. Ar pep brasañ anezho zo en em staliet war an enezennoù kelt tro ar pempvet kantved a-raok Jesus-Krist. An Angled-Normaned a grogas d'en em staliañ war-zu reter Bro-Saoz, tro dro ar pempvet kantvedgaude J. Krist.

An dud-se a grogas da ober o annez e Bro-Skoz tro an 11^{vet} kantved.

Annezadurioù Cromwell (1650) hag al lezenn gastiz o devoe

kalz a levezon war an iwerhonegerien. Goude an naonegezh veur (1846-1849) ne oa nemet ur c'hard eus ar boblañs a oa iwerzhonegerien. E 1922 pa voe savet ar Stad dieub e voe lakaet an iwerzhoneg da yezh vroadel e-barzh ar vonreizh. Ar sondadeg e 1966 a zikouezas e oa 1.43 milion a iwerzhonegerien. Pemp dre gant anezho gant ul live mat-kenañ, 10% gant ul live mat ha 25% gant ul live o vont war fallaat. Ireland a zeuas e-barzh Europa e 1973 met an iwerzhoneg ne oa ket lakaet da yezh labour. E 1986 ur c'hannad iwerzhonad a savas ur goulenn ouzh Prezidant Europa. Abaoe Emglev Maastrich e vez aotreet ar geodedourien da vont en iwerzhoneg ouzh an aozadurioù. Abaoe 1982 en deus Dulenn ivez ur burev evit ar yezhoù na vezont ket implijet kalz. Goude bezañ bet kudennoù eo serr ar burev-se bremañ. Klaouestre e vezo digoret en-dro an abretañ ar gwellañ.

Gi KELTIK



Irish - Facing the future is a booklet on the history and present day position of the Irish Language which was produced by the Irish member state committee of the Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. It gives a good overall summary and while it is unfortunately out of print at present a new revised edition is in the making.

DIWAN: €260,000 Shortfall for 2003

At Diwan's spring press conference it was revealed that there was a shortfall of €400,000 for 2003. After all kinds of cultural activities during the summer time Diwan's Board still needed to find €260,000 on Samhain's Day (Hallowe'en). For sure the black months of the year... (miz DU & miz KERZU=XI+XII) are going to be hard for the immersion Breton schools. The beginning of 2004 may be worse for financial reasons...

In order to understand the situation, a little background information about Diwan's recent past - Andrew Lincoln and Diwan-Kozh's Team worked hard for years to put their school in the Public State school system (E.N.) However, at the end of the day, in November 2002, the Council of the State stated that there was: NO way to accept an immersion school in the E.N... "French is the language of the Republic" Then new financial troubles began for the new Team "Diwan-1st"...

On the basis of information given in September by the Board to the trade unions, the SLB (Sindikad Labourerien Breizh) decided to go on strike and demonstrations (Karaez ha Gwened) took place in mid-October because they were not sure they would be paid in November and December.

Diwan's Board, who was waiting for a RDV with President de Rohan from the Council of Brittany, decided to organize a press conference the following week. Firstly, the number of pupils is stable at 2757 units, but unfortunately, the primary schools lost 100 children. There were no new classes and drastic cuts were introduced on all kind of charges for the re-opening of the new school year in 2003. In order to make up the deficit of 10% in the global budget of 2003(= €2.7M*) the Board had requested the Council of Brittany to add €195,000 to the €380,000 already agreed in order to reach the €577,000.

"All elected people from different parties are willing to save our Breton language...It's a good opportunity to show their good will" said ANN Le CORRE. She was quite optimistic to be able to pay the wages in November and December 2003. She reminded the unions (SLB+CFDT+...) that Diwan-Enterprises had reserve funds.

The question is of course what level of contribution would be forthcoming from the Council of Brittany and the consequences on the treasury - January & February might be very hard...

President de ROHAN said: *NIET* to Diwan's proposition. In his letter he reminded the Board that according to the Council of State Diwan was under the private school law (loi Debre). Therefore, it would be illegal for the Council of Brittany to pay for councillors who are employed by Diwan schools. Otherwise, like catholic families who are required to pay €150 per teenager each year, Diwan's families must do the same. Padrig HERVE was quick to inform him that the contributions of parents and friends of Diwan were already contributing up to €288. Everyone understands that for the Republican lobbies (cf.:UMP+PC+...) it's not enough to fight against the concept of immersion so they are now trying to go on the principle of laicity - free education. President de ROHAN in the run up to elections has kept the door open for a special help...On the other hand, Diwan's Board announced a range of actions in November and December. Wait and Help...lets keep Breton alive, because there's no Brittany without Breton...

GI KELTIK

Polig Monjarret R.I.P.



Polig Monjarret, who died in Dec. of last year aged 83, was a leading figure in the Breton cultural renaissance that began in the 1940s. A piper, he was also a collector, and two volumes of his life's work, *Toniou Breizh-Izel*, contain more than 6,000 Breton airs. He was a founder of *Bodadeg ar Sonerion* (BAS), the Breton pipers' association, and he had reason to be proud of the organisation's achievements. For the 50 pipers of the 1940's, there are now thousands with a good degree of mastery of their instruments. It has been estimated that in the 60 years of its existence BAS has trained over 30,000 pipers. It has also fostered the emergence of the bagads, modelled on the Scottish Pipe Bands.

He lived outside Lorient in Pleoumer where he established the Breton Conservatory which conducted classes in all aspects Breton culture and folklore. His knowledge of the Celtic tradition encompassed Cornwall, Galicia, Ireland and Scotland. He was in 1974 a founder of the annual cultural festival, *Interceltique de Lorient*, which began in Brest as a gathering of pipers. It now attracts a million visitors over 10 days and features between 50 and 60 pipe bands, some from as far away as Japan.

He had a special interest in Ireland and was a promoter of Breton-Irish links, being responsible for the twinning of Breton and Irish towns that began with Lorient and Galway and continues to this day, the most recent example being Roundwood, Co Wicklow and Spezet. He visited Ireland many times, got to know many of the country's leading musicians and in 1974 delivered a paper on the bombe at Éigse na Tríonóide. He invited Irish artists and pipe bands to Brittany and persuaded Brittany Ferries to establish the Roscoff-Cork route. He also organised holidays in Brittany for children from the North of Ireland.

An accomplished cook, he had his own TV series in which he extolled the virtues of traditional Breton dishes. Archaeology was another major interest. He was married to the noted traditional singer, Zaïg, who had toured widely in the 1950s and 1960s, including to Ireland, and who died in 2000. His daughters, Soazig, Nolwenn and Gwenola, survive him.



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. 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/>



RONAN HUON PROMINENT FIGURE IN BRETON CULTURAL MOVEMENT DIES

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, at the age of 81 years, of Ronan Huon, a prominent figure in the Breton cultural movement. In early October following a heart operation his condition deteriorated and he died on Saturday 19th of October. There was great difficulty in having a Breton mass in the church. The family had to say 'No Breton, no mass!' - and the Breton mass was then accepted and held at Iliz St Mark, Brest.

A lifelong worker and significant figure in the Breton cultural revival he was born of Breton speaking parents in 1922 and during his life remained fervent in his support for all things Breton, becoming a prolific writer and publisher in the Breton language. He was for many years editor of the Breton literary revue *Al Liamm*. He founded a publishing house of the same name which published over 200 books in Breton including the dictionaries of Roparz Hemon. He played a pivotal role as a leading figure in several Breton cultural organisations.

Per Denez

Plaid condemn Labour's reluctance on Welsh- medium schools

Plaid Cymru Shadow Education Minister, Helen Mary Jones congratulated students on their "tremendous achievement" after the publication of A-level results in August showed that pupils in Wales had done better than ever before, but expressed her concern about lack of progress by the Labour Government in the Assembly in extending and securing the provision of Welsh-medium higher education. She said:

"These results are astounding and I congratulate all the students and teachers involved. However, I have grave concerns about future generations of pupils in Welsh-medium education. Our Welsh-medium schools consistently secure impressive exam results but the Labour Government in Cardiff is unwilling to make any moves to secure their future in terms of educating the teachers of the future."

"We must make sure that the pupils leaving school today have access to Welsh-medium higher education at university. If that option is closed to them, where will we find the teachers of the future to maintain the high standards we see in Welsh-medium schools?"

"Labour's Education Minister in the Assembly, Jane Davidson has rejected every single proposal to expand this sector - including one which was fully costed in a report which Ms Davidson herself commissioned."

The Celtic League had joined the widespread condemnation of Davidson's refusal to allow Caerffili council to open three new Welsh-medium primary schools, on grounds so pedantic that it could only be unionist-motivated hindrance of the restoration of Welsh.

Commission must move quickly to protect minority languages

Plaid Cymru MEP Eurig Wyn has pressed for urgent progress on minority languages ahead of European Union enlargement, saying that the key demand from a recent major conference on linguistic diversity at the European Parliament in Brussels was that the European Commission must not delay in preparing adequate support measures for minority languages ahead of EU enlargement.

The conference heard that after the 2004 EU enlargement an estimated 46 million minority language speakers will live within the Union's borders.



Eurig Wyn

Euro-MPs have already backed proposals to set up a European Agency for Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning and the establishment of a multi annual funding programme for linguistic diversity. The conference was addressed, amongst others, by Slovak Deputy PM Pál Csáky. Chairing the conference, Eurig Wyn MEP (Plaid Cymru) said "We are on the eve of an unprecedented enlargement of the European Union. Next year, 10 new countries will join the Union and both their official and regional or minority languages will be added to the European linguistic mosaic. It is crucial therefore that we assess the emerging linguistic situation and we bring together and put in direct communication those people concerned by the challenge of Linguistic Diversity in the new Europe."

"The new, enlarged European Union will include at least 46 million speakers of minority languages. This is a substantial number of people who speak a language other than the official language of their nation state, a language in which they may conduct their everyday life or which may well be the main language of their communities. The Commission must acknowledge - as I'm sure they will - that this is no trivial matter."

DEMONSTRATION FOR THE BRETON POLITICAL PRISONERS Nantes on February 21st, 2004

C.A.R.B (Coordination Anti-Répressive of Brittany) has called a demonstration in support of the Breton political prisoners on February 21st, 2004 in Nantes. (14.00 hrs, in the Place of Business).

CARB calls on every person, political movement, association or syndicate in agreement with the subject of this event, "Condemned before being judged, More than 2, 3 and 4 years of temporary detention for Breton 6. "to come along and support us. Updated information will be posted on the Internet site: <http://manifnantes.iquebec.com> and the Web site of CARB: <http://www.prizonidi.org>.

Let us note for information that of these 6 persons, 1 is in temporary detention for more than four years!!!! 4 for more than 3 years and 1 for more than 2 years!!! One of them is really at risk of death in prison because he suffers from diabetes, type 3, which cannot be correctly looked after in prison. Amnesty International has noted this situation in one of its last reports. Another one of the prisoners also has health problems, a file has just been sent by the CARB to Amnesty International on this subject.

Also let us note that in the case of one of them, Judge Thiel, antiterrorist judge, ordered his continued detention against the opinion of the antiterrorist public prosecutor's department which asked on three occasions for his release!!! Thiel opposed the public prosecutor's department by advancing his "personality" and, its "indisputable influence on the Breton independence movement."

Let us mobilize to denounce this situation! BE IN NANTES ON FEBRUARY 21ST at 2 PM FOR THE PRISONERS

Contacts: by telephone: 06.72.35.13.27 By e-mail: Manifevrier@aol.com

Write to the political prisoners; see addresses on web sites of CARB (above) and Skoazell Vreizh www.skoazell-vreizh.org

“BE’ ??” Gwnewch fatha’r Saeson!

Pasiwyd cynnig mewn cynhadledd yn yr haf y llynedd (2003) yn galw ar Gymry “i gynnal pob sgwrs yn y Gymraeg ac i fynnu gwasanaeth Cymraeg ym mhob agwedd o’u bywydau”. Mae hyn yn bolisi y dylai aelodau’r Undeb Celtaidd fod yn ei weithredu, yn enwedig pan fyddwn ni yn y Fro Gymraeg lle colons, nid brodorion di-Gymraeg, fydd y Saeson yn gweithio mewn swyddfeydd a siopau. At ei gilydd nid oes gan Saeson barch tuag at ieithoedd eraill, ac mae hyn yn fwy gwir, o bosib, am Saeson America a’r di-Gymraeg yng Nghymru nag am Saeson Lloegr. Pan fyddant mewn gwlad arall, a dieithryn o’r wlad yn digwydd siarad â nhw yn iaith y wlad, “Pardon??” neu “Wha’(t)??” fydd yr ateb yn ddigon croch, ac os daw’r un cwestiwn eto, yr un ateb fyddan nhw’n weiddi, yn uwch na’r tro cyntaf. A thrwy agwedd fel hyn mae’r Saeson yn araf gymryd drosodd y byd yn ieithyddol, yn ogystal ag yn wleidyddol. Agwedd sy’n ennill sydd ganddynt. Efallai y buasai’n talu i ni gopïo peth o ffordd ein gormeswyr, nid mewn

gwledydd eraill, ond yn y Fro Gymraeg ei hun. Mewn gwledydd eraill dylai Cymro bob amser drio arfer iaith y wlad mae ynddi. Ond yn y Fro, pan fydd colons yn trio gwrthio Saesneg arnoch, yn lle eu hateb yn Gymraeg a rhoi cyfle iddynt regi arnoch, neu gymryd arnoch beidio â deall, beth am ofyn yn ddigon uchel “Beth ??”, ac ar ôl yr ail dro cerdded i ffwrdd os na ddaw’r cwestiwn yn Gymraeg. Dim angen eich cyfiawnhau’ch hun nag ymddiheuro na dim. Mae’n hawdd - yn hollol fel mae’r Saeson yn wneud, a nhw sy’n ennill. Efallai na fuasai’n deg gymryd agwedd felly hefo twristiaid a phobl eraill sy’n byw y tu allan i’r Fro, a gallai fod yn gall fod yn fwy hyblyg mewn ardaloedd Saesneg o Gymru. Ond mae’n werth ei drio.

Rh. G.

Précis

English-speaking nations are taking over the world, linguistically as well as politically. Perhaps we can learn from some of their ways.

LABOUR TRY TO CENSOR CYMDEITHAS LOBBY ON HOUSING

Following publication of the Assembly’s draft budget in mid-October, Cymdeithas yr Iaith held a lobby of Assembly Members (ACs) to draw their attention to the lack of commitment shown to aid locals gain access to housing in the colonisation-threatened Welsh-speaking communities, with a view of improving the draft for the final version appearing in November. Cymdeithas Chairman Huw Lewis said:

“With the present situation in housing, our communities are facing threats as never seen before. ... The government should ensure an increase in the money for the home-buy scheme. Also money should be provided for setting up a ‘Hawl i Rentu’ (‘Right to Rent’).”

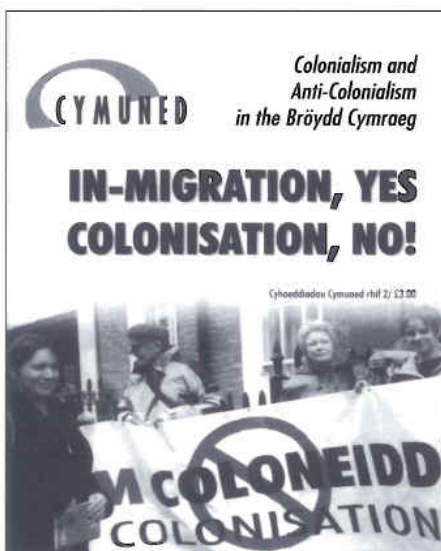
The lobby proceeded despite an attempt by some Labour party ACs to undermine it. The lobby had been booked for the main hall since July, but two weeks before the lobby Cymdeithas received a note from the Assembly saying such an event could not be held in the main hall and moving it to a side room. Subsequent investigations found that the arrangements had been changed because of complaints by some Labour ACs. Cymdeithas made a formal complaint, supported by the Plaid ACs Elin Jones and Leanne Wood.

VICTORY FOR ANTI-COLONISTS IN CEREDIGION

Cymuned, together with Llais y Cardi and Cant Ceredigion, local groups in Ceredigion, and supportive individuals, have won an important victory against the treacherous plans of Ceredigion Council and their leader Dai Lloyd Evans to build 6500 new houses in the county, attracting enough English colonists to end any hopes of retaining Ceredigion as a Welsh-speaking area. The campaigners have succeeded in obtaining enough signatures on a petition to force the council to hold a referendum on creating the post of an elected mayor. The holder of such a post would be able to put a stop to the council’s housing plans, and without doubt there will be a candidate standing with the same intention.

Of course, the council leaders and their English friends can be predicted to campaign for a ‘No’ vote in the referendum. And if we gain a ‘Yes’ vote it is likely that Evans or one of his cronies will be a candidate in the election for mayor. So there is still a way to go.

Cymuned had put a major effort into this campaign and estimate that some 8,000 of the 8,474 signatures collected had been collected by their members.



A joint declaration by Llais y Cardi, Cymuned and Cant Ceredigion (our translation):

“Today we can announce that 8,474 inhabitants of Ceredigion over 18 have signed the petition requesting a referendum in Ceredigion on having an Elected Mayor to

lead Cyngor Ceredigion.

This amounts to about 15% of the population of Ceredigion aged over 18.

In order for the petition to be successful we had to obtain the signatures of 10% of Ceredigion electors that is 5,306.

(...)

If (the petition is validated) ... Cyngor Sir Ceredigion will be legally obliged to hold a referendum ... and to inform the Petition Organiser by 4 December 2003.

(...)

The widespread support for this petition shows the depth of the dissatisfaction in Ceredigion about the quality of democracy in the county. In particular, the petition is a proof of the dissatisfaction with the Unitary Development Plan, the plan to build up to 6500 new houses in the county.

No councillor was elected in Ceredigion on a manifesto of building 6,500 houses. The council have ignored the bulk of the 11,000 individual objections presented during the public consultation. Last year Cymuned presented a petition of 5,500 names to the Council asking them to reconsider the number of houses to be built, and the petition was ignored.

If a referendum to have an elected Mayor is held ... and won ... the electors, and not the councillors, will decide the fate of Ceredigion.”

CYMRU IN BRIEF

New Plaid president:

Plaid Cymru have elected Dafydd Iwan as their new president to replace Ieuan Wyn Jones AC. Dafydd Iwan has already a long and distinguished career in the national movement as a former leader of Cymdeithas yr Iaith, a patriotic singer, and a prominent councillor in Gwynedd. The other candidate in the leadership vote was the respected former AC and MP Cynog Dafis. Ieuan Wyn Jones AC (Ynys Môn) continues as the Plaid leader in the Assembly, and Elfyn Llwyd MP (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy) is the Plaid leader in the London parliament. The Cymru branch of the League wish renewed success for Plaid under Dafydd Iwan.

"Independence" allowed:

Plaid Cymru's leadership have said that members may now describe the party's aims for Wales as 'independence' if they wish. Traditionally Plaid have not used this term, preferring 'self-government' or 'full national status', on the internationalist basis that no nation, even if sovereign, is independent of all others in the world. In this, Plaid have contrasted with the SNP who have always used the 'i-word'. But in recent years the hostile media, in the dumbed-down level of discourse they have created, have tried to confuse a word with the concept it stands for, and made out that Plaid were hiding something by not using this term, so the avoidance of the word 'independence' was becoming a liability. It is hoped that this change of approach will relax the situation.

'Anti-Welsh Mirror' no more - job done:

The 'Welsh Mirror', the 'Welsh' version of the English daily the 'Daily Mirror', is no longer being produced. Since the first elections to the National Assembly, when Plaid Cymru threatened Labour more than expected, the Labour-supporting tabloid introduced a special edition for Wales, ostensibly to give coverage to the extra Welsh issues involved with the Assembly, but more apparently to counteract the increased confidence in Wales by giving the working-class Mirror readership a daily dose of antinationalism, invective against the Welsh language and Welsh-speakers, and Labour propaganda. Its attacks on Welsh Wales inadvertently drew attention to the colonization problem and influenced the development of Cymuned. However, with the 2003 election past, and Labour having recovered much lost ground and now running the Welsh government, it seems the controllers of the 'Welsh Mirror' saw that its job was done and that the extra expense of producing it was no longer necessary.



Dafydd Iwan

Cymdeithas rally for Welsh-speaking communities:

Cymdeithas yr Iaith held a rally in Cardiff on November 15th to call for steps to alleviate the housing crisis in the Welsh-speaking communities, following publication of the Assembly's budget which did not include any significant contribution to the situation. The rally followed the lobby in October aimed at the draft budget. The speakers included the Plaid AC's Alun Ffred Jones (Caernarfon) and Leanne Wood (South Central list).

Speaking Welsh in parliament:

In September, Plaid Cymru Euro-MP Eurig Wyn gave part of a speech in the European parliament, on protecting minority languages, in Welsh. The parliament translators had been given a translation of the sentences beforehand. It is not permitted to speak in Welsh or any other Celtic language in the Westminster parliament, and Plaid MP's who have used Welsh there have been ruled out of order.

Cymdeithas picket McDonald's:

Cymdeithas held a series of protests in the autumn outside McDonald's restaurants in Caerfyrddin (Carmarthen), Aberystwyth, and Cardiff, to call on the fast-food multinational to introduce a proper Welsh language policy instead of the present tokenism. Spokesman Rhys Llwyd said (translated): *"Like so many other private companies, McDonald's do not respect the right of Welsh people to use Welsh. Sometimes there is an occasional Welsh sign here and there, but they do not make proper use of Welsh. The Welsh government need to ensure a New Language Act that*

will compel such companies to provide a complete Welsh service."

New company to run Welsh railways:

The Strategic Rail Authority have given the new Wales and Borders train franchise to the Arriva transport group. Previously, trains on the north coast line were run by First North Western (that is North West England!), while the mid Wales and southern areas were run by Wales & Borders Trains, part of the National Express group. (Since Beeching in the '60s the Welsh railway system has been severed into three sections which are only connected by lines running through England). For the first time now, one company will run all Wales-internal services and control all Welsh stations. It is to be seen whether Arriva, who have not run trains in Wales before, will be good news for the status of the Welsh language. Of the outgoing companies, Wales & Borders had made some progress in enhancing the use of Welsh e.g. bilingual pre-recorded platform announcements, and they appeared more supportive than First North Western. But some ground has been lost since rail privatisation e.g. while permanent hard signs are often bilingual, temporary posters and notices are in English only, while British Rail used to provide some of these bilingually too, and Welsh-speaking staff on trains in Welsh Wales such as the Cambrian Coast line have become a lot less frequent. Language activists will be keeping a watch on the situation.

RapT

A year of picketing in Pwllheli:

In August Cymuned marked the 52nd consecutive Saturday on which members of the Llein branch have picketed estate agent offices in Pwllheli. During the year of campaigning Cymuned have won concessions from estate agents such as Beresford Adams and Dafydd Hardy who have agreed to draw attention to the nature of Welsh-speaking communities in their literature, advertise bilingually, and give sellers the choice of advertising their house only locally. The picket would now 'move' to Porthmadog, it was announced. A similar picket in Caernarfon had been going for nine months.

Swyddfa Cymuned Office:

Mae Swyddfa Cymuned wedi symud i: / Cymuned's office has moved to:
Cymuned, 1, Rhodfa'r Gogledd
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2JH

Yr un yw'r rhif ffôn - (01970) 617036 - is the 'phone number as before.

Cryno-ddisg Cymuned:

Mae cryno-ddisg Cymuned, 'Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd', wedi ei gyhoeddi - cryno-ddisg ddwbl gyda 37 o ganeuon arni. Os na fu gennyh gyfle i'w bachu yn yr Eisteddfod, gellir ei harchebu trwy'r post trwy anfon sic am £15 i swyddfa Cymuned (1 Rhodfa'r Gogledd, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2JH) yn daladwy i "Cymuned".

WELSH INTERNATIONAL SOCCER STATUS SECURED

FIFA, the international ruling body for football (soccer), at a conference in Qatar, has approved statutes recognising the right of Wales and Scotland to be represented at international level separately from England. While Cymru and Alba have always had their own international teams able to compete in the World Cup and European Championship, there has been through the years opposition to their presence, often politically motivated, with demands for a single "UK" or "GB" team, from elements within Wales, England and elsewhere. Therefore, as well as highly valued, Wales's international status has been felt to be, at times, rather brittle, it being rare for stateless nations like Wales to be allowed such status in world sport. With the new statutes in place, future amendments will require agreement from 75 percent of FIFA members.

MEPs from Cymru and Alba united to welcome the continued independence of the Welsh and Scottish football teams. Plaid Cymru Euro-MP Eurig Wyn, and SNP Euro-MP Ian Hudghton, speaking from the European Parliament in Strasburg, expressed their delight that the national teams have been expressly recognised in the new statutes of FIFA, ensuring their long-term existence.

The MEPs said that the news from FIFA was a tremendous result. Fans could now relax and look forward to future matches without any fear of the creation of a single 'GB' team. Eurig Wyn, who represents the whole of Wales in the European Parliament,

said, "FIFA are to be commended for enshrining Wales's place in what is essentially the constitution of world football. Wales are on the brink of reaching their first international finals in decades - and the team have done the whole nation proud. The profile of Wales has been raised considerably in recent months - and it has been a wonderful example of what Team Wales can do when we stand up for ourselves. I look forward to the day when an Independent Team Wales stands up for the country on every international body".

MP CALLS FOR FULL INTERNATIONAL STATUS FOR WELSH ATHLETICS

Adam Price, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, has called for Welsh Athletics to be awarded full international status. Speaking during the 2003 World Athletics Championship at Paris, Mr Price said that it would be a massive boost for Welsh Athletics if Wales would be allowed to compete as a separate nation in future.

The World Championships are held every two years. If Wales were allowed to compete, it would improve the structure of Welsh



Adam Price,
MP

Athletics, as it would create bi-annual cycles for Athletics in Wales to target ... At present Welsh Athletics is focused purely on the Commonwealth Games. Being allowed to compete at the World Championships would offer an additional platform. Our international profile as a nation would also improve. The impact a victory by a Welsh Athlete at the World Championships representing Wales would have on our international profile as a country is plain for everyone to see."

"My understanding is that the IAAF, which is responsible for organising the World Athletics Championships, recognises Wales as a separate Athletics nation, and would have little opposition to Welsh athletes competing under the Welsh banner. This seems to indicate that the opposition to a separate Welsh entity at the World Championships resides within athletics in the UK.

The situation with the Olympics is different, as the IOC only recognises nation states. Due to the present constitutional settlement, Wales would still have to compete as a part of the UK team."

'Break the Stranglehold'

A Welsh Euro-MP has called for cooperation between the small nations of Europe to break the "stranglehold" of the big member states on European Union affairs in the European Parliament. Plaid Cymru MEP Eurig Wyn, in a specially arranged meeting in the parliament between representatives of the European Committee of the Regions and members of the European Parliament, said:

"Five new countries smaller than Wales will join the EU next year. An alliance between these nations - Estonia, Latvia, Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia - is vital, if the EU is to progress along democratic lines. At present the EU faces a stranglehold through the increasing influence of large all-powerful member states wielding disproportionate influence in the Council of Ministers."

The meeting was called to discuss how the "regional" and small state agenda could be enhanced in a future Europe. Members from Catalonia, Ireland, Wales, the Basque Country and regions of England attended. Eurig

Wyn, a member of the European Committee of the Regions before being elected to the European Parliament, added:

"I see no reason why stateless nations and small nations could not appeal to the Court of Justice on the basis of the Treaty of Fundamental Rights that will be enshrined in EU law, in defence of their democratic rights as nations in Europe. Wales is likely to be offered only four seats in the European Parliament in the new term, in comparison with the 12 members who will represent Ireland, with a similar population, or Luxembourg, with the population of Gwent, who will have six Euro MPs.

The latest draft of the European Constitution calls for a representation in proportion to population numbers. Some calculations show that indeed, some countries are currently grossly over-represented, for example Ireland and Sweden. Ireland benefits from this imbalance more than any other country having more than twice the number of Euro-MPs than can be justified on the basis of population numbers.

Nice Treaty rules mean that, with ten new countries joining in time for the elections, the others must give up some seats to make room for the new MEPs. The European Parliament currently has 626 members. The Treaty of Nice would extend the upper limit on the number of MEPs to 732. The current 15 EU countries would then be represented by 535 members to make way for MEPs from the enlargement countries. The English state currently has 87 seats—one MEP for every 690,000 people. It must now drop its allocation to 72 seats, or one MEP for every 833,000 people. As a result Wales, will go from having five MEPs to four which means Wales, currently with one MEP for every 580,000 people, will have one MEP for every 725,000 people.

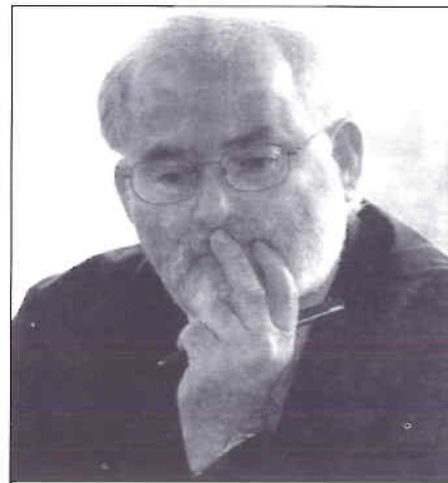
Ireland, currently with 15 MEPs, will lose only 3 members leaving it still over-represented with one MEP for every 300,000 people. Maybe more incomprehensible is the fact that Luxembourg will keep its 6 MEPs which equates to a quite astonishing one MEP for every 66,600 people.

Celtic League Seminar on Language and Planning in the Gaeltacht and Bröydd Cymraeg

The Irish and Welsh branches of the Celtic League collaborated to organise a seminar on the Irish language and planning in the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking areas) and the position of Welsh in Bröydd Cymraeg (Welsh speaking areas of Wales) in mid October. The seminar entitled 'Tithe nó Teanga, Pleanáil nó Díothú?' '(Houses or Language, Planning or Destruction?)' was held near an Spidéal, in the Conamara Gaeltacht. Introducing the seminar Cathal Ó Luain, Celtic League Convenor, said the aim was to share the experience of those in North and West Wales where language communities are suffering from the adverse affects of large scale English speaking immigration but have mobilised in recent years to combat this threat with language activists in Conamara where the same pattern has emerged. The Welsh branch made contact with the community based language body

Bernsford/Adams, which will make it easier for local people to buy housing. They actively canvass incomers to learn Welsh, run language classes and an 'adopt a learner scheme'. They are running a major campaign to elect a mayor in Ceredigion to try to stop that Councils plan for 6,500 more unnecessary houses (see p.7 for update on this). On the planning side while Welsh can be regarded as a planning consideration for the last fifteen years there has been very poor use of this. The main mechanism is Section 106 agreements which require three, five or ten years residency.

The chair of the meeting, Seosamh Mac Donncha, outlined the situation in Conamara. Here many non Irish speaking people had moved into the Gaeltacht (amongst them families of returned emigrants). This was having a deleterious effect on the use of Irish as a community language



Seosamh Mac Donncha, Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha, University College, Galway who chaired the seminar

Carna, the villages on the edges of the real Gaeltacht as these are the areas most under pressure from people without Irish moving in.

- Those without Irish, particularly those with families, should be hindered from residing in real Gaeltacht areas.

- Housing schemes are a particular problem. All buyers should be able to qualify for the Dept of the Gaeltacht grant schemes (this would apply to resale buyer also) - that is by an Irish speaking family. Council housing schemes should be used to keep Irish speakers together in the Gaeltacht.

- Language Impact Statements (LIS): It is clear that these have had little impact in the way planning permissions were judged. If the LIS says a proposal will have a bad impact on language usage then permission should be refused. However there is little point in requiring them at all in areas within the official Gaeltacht where Irish is no longer spoken. The Dept of the Gaeltacht should have a role in LIS preparation.

There was a very good debate after the speakers presentations. There were many lessons to be learned from the community based activities of Cymuned. It was suggested that Conamara activists should examine founding an organisation similar to Cymuned. The event achieved extensive media coverage. It was included on TG4 news, on Radio na Gaeltachta news and on a number of R na G discussion programmes both before and after the event and also covered in an interview on Radio Wales.

It will be of interest that in a landmark decision in early November Galway County Council only granted permission to an application for 12 houses in An Cheathrú Rua, Conamara, on condition that a legal requirement be agreed that the houses be sold only to Irish speakers. This decision has special interest for An Spidéal where planning applications are with Galway County Council for a scheme to build 30 apartments in the middle of the village and another for 51 houses on the edge of the village. If permission is granted and the same conditions are stipulated for these (as they hopefully will be) it could have the effect of strengthening the position of Irish in An Spidéal.



Aran Jones and Simon Brooks of CYMUNED

CYMUNED who supplied two speakers, Aran Jones and Simon Brooks (Chair of Cymuned), for the seminar. At the seminar they outlined how CYMUNED came into being and their policies and campaigns (See CARN 122 and 123) to combat the effects of the influx of English speakers. They had targeted auctioneers and estate agents and won concessions from a major one,

and has caused difficulties in the schools. Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge had run a campaign to have the need to protect Irish in the Gaeltacht in planning decisions recognised and at one level this was successful with a requirement being introduced in the Planning Act 2000 for County Councils in whose counties there are Gaeltacht areas to take account of the language in the county development plan. Conamara councillor P. Ó Foighil (who could not be present because of illness) had proposed that planning permission be given only to Irish speaking families.

Donncha Ó hÉallaithe, a long standing language activist in Conamara, outlined how matters had developed with Galway County Council and the submissions he had made on the local development plan for the Gaeltacht. These were essentially;

- Particular attention should be paid to An Spidéal and



Donncha Ó hÉallaithe



Seosamh Ó Cuaig, who engaged in the debate



Éire



AN AIRGINTÍN CHEILTEACH

Agus an nuachtán cáiliúil The Southern Cross á fhoilsiú i mBuenos Aires céad bliain ó shin, bhí an chuma ar an scéal go raibh todhchaí bhreá i ndán do phobal Gaelach na hAirgintíne. Faoi stiúir an Ghaeil uasail úd, Liam Bulfin, bhí seasamh agus misneach araon ag Gaeil na tíre sin a raibh cuma thar a bheith muiníneach orthu. I gceantar na Patagóine, bhí pobal bríomhar Breathnach (agus Breathnaise) ag maireachtaint leo agus a dteanga agus a gcultúr féin á saothrú acu in aghaidh an lae. An tráth sin, bhí borradh nár bheag faoi na pobail Cheilteacha san Airgintín – bhí cumainn iománaíochta á mbunú, ranganna Gaeilge ar siúl agus irisí dá gcuid féin ag na Gaeil, agus pobal bríomhar Breathnaise ag na Breathnaigh.

Le linn an chéad bliain atá imithe tharainn ó shin, áfach, tá athrú mór tagtha ar na pobail Cheilteacha san Airgintín agus ar an tír ina maireann siad sa tslí is, nuair a d'imigh réaltóga iománaíochta na hÉireann ar cuairt ann dhá bhliain ó shin, ní chun imirt in aghaidh foirne áitiúla a d'imíodar ach chun cluiche taispeántais a chur ar fáil don phobal ansin. Mar, ar chúiseanna éagsúla, níl an fás agus an fhorbairt a samhlaíodh a bheith i ndán don phobal Gaelach san Airgintín céad bliain ó shin tar éis teacht i gcrích. In imeacht an ama sin, tá cúinsí áirithe tar éis bac a chur le forás an phobail Ghaelaigh ansin, rud a fhágann gur ag snámh in aghaidh easa atáid le fada an lá.

Scéal difriúil ar shlí atá ag an bpobal Breathnach sa Phatagóin. Toisc gur pobal tuaithe go príomha iadsan, táid tar éis a stádas pobail a chaomhnú agus teacht slán trí bhlianta acharrannacha nuair a bhí an chumarsáid leis an mBreatain Bhig lag go leor. Maisiú ar gach Eisteddfod anois is ea an toscaireacht ón bPatagóin.

Ach ní bhíonn ar aon ní ach tamall agus le roinnt blianta anuas tá forbairt as an nua ag teacht ar chúrsaí na gCeilteach san Airgintín athuair. D'ainneoin a fhad ón máthairfhoinsé is atá an tír ó thaobh an Cheilteachais de, tá díograis mhór le brath athuair i measc Cheiltigh na hAirgintíne agus Mheiriceá Theas i gcoitinne maidir le saothrú a gcultúir dhúchais. Ní hamháin sin ach, le roinnt blianta anuas, tá daoine as cúlaí eile ag cur suime i gceol agus litríocht na gCeilteach. Dáiríribh, ba sna 1950í a thosnaigh an próiseas seo nuair a tháinig Éireannaigh, Albanaigh, Breathnaigh, Astúraigh agus Gailíshigh le chéile chun taitneamh a bhaint as an gceol agus an rince Ceilteach. Ba iad an dá cheannródaí Manolo del Campo, cean-

naire an phobail Astúraigh, agus Fidelis Rush, as an bpobal Éireannach, a bhí chun tosaigh sna himeachtaí sin.

Sna 1980í, nuair a bhí an Ceilteachas faoi bhláth ar fud na hEorpa, tháinig cor dearfach eile ar ghluaiseacht na gCeilteach san Airgintín nuair a bunaíodh Gluaiseacht Cheilteach na hAirgintíne i mBuenos Aires. Ansin, sa bhliain 1986, tháinig Eliseo Mauas Pinto, Manolo del Campo, Manuel Castro agus Roberto Albarinos, i measc daoine eile, le chéile chun Cumann Ceilteach na bPíobairí Gailíseach a bhunú. Deineadh Conradh Ceilteach na hAirgintíne as an eagraíocht sin ina dhiaidh sin.

Tháinig cuid mhór buíonta ceoil chun cinn ansin – tá beagnach caoga díobh sin anois ann agus cleachtann siad bailé, claisceadal, ceol uirlise, srl agus léiríonn an ceol Ceilteach le huirlisí cearta Ceilteacha. Tá

léachtaí, cúrsaí agus saotharlanna ar siúl agus múinteoir Gaeilge, Breathnaise agus Gàidhlig anois. Bíonn imeachtaí den sórt sin ar siúl ar fud na tíre.

Ón mbliain 1996 i leith, tá forbairt déanta ar na meáin chumarsáide Cheilteacha. Bhí saol gearr ag roinnt de na hiarrachtaí sin ach tá roinnt eile ag treabhadh leo i gcónaí: na nuachtáin Viajero Celta agus The Irish Argentine Times, na cláracha raidió Plum Pudding agus Resonancia Celta, agus an foilseachán ársa úd de chuid an phobail Éireannaigh, The Southern Cross (a bunaíodh sa bhliain 1875). Leis an nuachtán Ogham agus an leis an gclár raidió Faro Celta, cíortar gnéithe éagsúla den chultúr Ceilteach.

Aithnítear Roberto Rosaspini Reynolds mar bhard tosaigh Mheiriceá Theas. Is scríbhneoir eisean atá tar éis Cnuasach Ceilteach a fhoilsiú le Ediciones Continente. Is cnuasach é sin a bhfuil 10 n-imleabhar ann agus tá sé ar fáil i leabharlanna Spáinneacha ar fud na cruinne. Ina theannta sin, tá iris ar-líne Sitio al Margen ann, iris ar a mbíonn faisnéis chuimsitheach faoi chúrsaí Ceilteacha ar fáil.

Tá suim ghníomhach sa Cheilteachas ag méadú i gcuid mhaith de thíortha Mheiriceá Theas agus Láir – an Cholóim, Veiniséala, Cósta Ríce, Panama, Santo Domingo and Peiriú, mar shamplaí – ach tá an chuma ag teacht ar an scéal gurb é Buenos Aires príomhchathair Cheilteach an réigiúin anois, de bharr obair mhór na gCeilteach ansin. Tá cuid mhaith déanta agus cuid mhór le déanamh fós!

Vivian Uíbh Eachach.



Foireann Iománaíochta Fahy Boys, Buenos Aires, 1931

cuid mhaith de na buíonta sin ar ardchaighdeán – Bran (a bhunaigh Eliseo Mauas Pinto agus Xandru Reguera sa bhliain 1997) mar shampla, ag a bhfuil an t-aon chlárseoir i Meiriceá Theas, agus is fada ceoltóirí den scoth ag teacht as na tíortha Ceilteacha chun seinnt san Airgintín do na sluaite buíocha.

Ar an taobh eile, níl aon dabht ná go bhfuil Ceiltigh na hAirgintíne gníomhach ina mbuíonta náisiúnacha féin agus nach mbíonn siad i gcomhar lena chéile minic go leor. Ní chuireann sé sin cosc le lear nua ceoltóirí, taighdeoirí, staraithé, múinteoirí teanga, ceardaithe, ealaíontóirí, filí, dealbhadóirí agus saineolaithe bia teacht chun cinn. Bunaíodh Cór Gaelach ann le déanaí. Bíonn

This article describes the Celtic revival of recent decades in Argentina. Carn would like to thank Susana Shanahan, an Argentinean journalist who produces the radio programme Plum Pudding and is editor of Horoscope Celta and Vergara 2001, and Secretary of the Celtic League of Argentina for providing the information for this article.

Suímh Idirlín Cheilteacha san Airgintín:

www.geocities.com/branawen
www.plumpudding.com.ar
www.almargen.com.ar
www.thesoutherncross.com.ar
<http://www.hurling-club.com.ar>

THE NORTH - STALEMATE?

At the end of October a chance to make further progress in bringing back the local assembly and bolstering the pro-Agreement parties was squandered in what seems to have been a very badly managed set of events by the British and Irish governments. While obtaining agreement of the various parties to a sequence of events (which was to culminate in a UUP statement that the party wished to see the administration reformed and was prepared to enter it again) may be difficult, it seems hard to credit that Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble would declare, ostensibly because of lack of transparency, after a major act of decommissioning of arms by the IRA, that he was putting 'the sequence of events on hold' or at least that his attitude had not been confirmed beforehand. The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) was bound by its terms of reference to deal with bodies in confidence and its head, General John de Chastelain, could only outline in general terms the extent of this latest act of decommissioning. All parties to the Good Friday would have been well aware of this. However there was agreement that the extent of the act was considerable. One ex-Irish Army officer with experience of such matters in the Middle East and Yugoslavia gave his estimate that as many as 400 rifles and machine guns and 20 rocket propelled grenade launchers could have been destroyed.

The date for elections to the Assembly had been set in any case for Nov. 28th. and the focus moved on to the election campaign and particularly on how the UUP would fare in competition for the Unionist vote with the anti-agreement Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Ian Paisley. The results showed what some commentators had suggested - a major swing to Sinn Féin from the SDLP on the nationalist side and on the unionist side a similar move from the UUP to the DUP. If Trimble had gambled on his stance in October improving his electoral performance within Unionism that gamble did not come



Gen. de Chastelain, Head of IICD.

off. The outcome in terms of seats and votes in the election is given below. There was a 63.8 % turnout. While demographic changes have indeed occurred in the North (1971, Protestants 966,000, Catholics 562,500; 2001, Protestants 858,000, Catholics 820,000) they have not happened at such a level on electoral registers as to have any effect on these elections but could indeed be an influence in future ones.

Anti-agreement Unionists are now in a majority in the Assembly and the DUP position was improved even further with the defection soon after the election from the UUP to the DUP of Jeffrey Donaldson and others of the anti-agreement rump of the UUP, bringing the DUP numbers up to 33. The DUP as the largest Unionist party is entitled to fill the first Minister's position while Sinn Féin should fill the deputy minister's posts. However under the de Hondt voting system which governs the Northern Assembly 50 % plus one of the nationalist parties and 50 %

plus one of the Unionist parties must support the election of the first minister and the deputy first minister. Paisley and the DUP of course called for renegotiation of the Agreement (and also ruled out working with Sinn Féin) while Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin has made it clear this is not an option. So the reconvening of the Northern Assembly is not on the cards at present. However the choice for the DUP is essentially government with Sinn Féin or no participation in government at all. Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has said the Agreement must stay; it was an international agreement which could not be changed without a referendum in the Republic. A joint statement from both Irish and British Governments affirmed the Good Friday Agreement as the only viable political framework and their commitment that its wide ranging provisions would continue to be implemented. While a review of the operation of the Agreement will be undertaken its fundamentals are not open to renegotiation. The views of all parties were invited.

While there was a small unionist majority in favour of the Agreement when it was voted on it can be said that the UUP have been reluctant partners in the enterprise. They were in a claw back mode from the beginning and used every opportunity to stall progress. In this they were supported by the British and Tony Blair. He suspended the institutions, postponed elections and refused to implement many aspects of the Good Friday agreement, particularly the cross border ones. With the eclipsing of the UUP by the DUP it could be said the Unionists now are not prepared to share power with the party that represents most of their nationalist neighbours but would rather direct rule from London. The British are likely to increase their pro-unionist stance in the face of the DUP victory and will press for more concessions from nationalists including pushing for IRA disbandment. However this pro unionist stance should not be accepted. If the Irish Government, even with lukewarm British support, cannot get Unionists to accept that the Good Friday Agreement is the way forward they should propose that the British set a date for withdrawal from the North and initiate discussions on all implications.

	Seats	1st Preference Votes	%	%Change from 1998
UUP	27	156,931	22.7%	+1.4%
SDLP	18	117,547	17.0%	-5.0%
DUP	30	177,944	25.7%	+7.6%
SF	24	162,758	23.5%	+5.9%
AP	6	25,372	3.7%	-2.8%
Oth	3	51,476	7.3%	-7.1%

New Language Commissioner

Near year end the announcement was made of the appointment of the Language Commissioner whose role is to supervise and monitor the Irish Language Act and ensure that it is implemented. The Commissioner will have the power to investigate complaints and take legal action against any public body where requested information is not provided. Seán Ó Cuirreáin, who was Deputy Director of Radio na Gaeltachta, was appointed to the position. His appointment was generally welcomed and he is seen as someone who will be effective in the role. However the position was not advertised but filled by appointment of the Minister, a weakness which could lead in future to an ineffectual commissioner being appointed by a Minister with little enthusiasm for his brief. An action plan was published for the commissioner's work also at the same time as the announcement of the appointment. The commissioner will be based in Conamara.

Ireland, Neutrality and the U.N.

On the 27th September 2003, there was a march to the Government buildings in Merrion Square, where a rally was held. It was attended by approximately 12,000 people who were protesting at the occupation of Iraq but also the Irish Government's tacit support to the American/ British invasion by allowing the U.S. forces to pass through Shannon Airport and allowing their military planes to refuel there. This is not the first time that the facilities at Shannon were used by the U.S. military, indeed U.S. military planes refuelled in Shannon Airport back in 1991 for the Gulf War. According to recent statements by the Irish Government, this has been an ongoing arrangement with the U.S.A., even as far back to the Vietnam War. This has led to a debate on Ireland's current policy of neutrality or military non-alignment. Fine Gael, the biggest opposition party currently in the Dáil, has come out in favour of dropping our current policy, to sign up to a common foreign and defence policy in Europe and join N.A.T.O. It had led others to set up an organisation in 1996 called PANA (The Peace And Neutrality Alliance), to advocate that Ireland retain an independent foreign policy, remain neutrality; i.e. military non-aligned and maintain our involvement in a reformed U.N., as the only global body that can deal with international and human crises. The Irish Branch of the Celtic League is one of a number of groups affiliated to PANA that share the same goals and concerns.

Neutrality as a policy is not new to Irish Nationalism. Wolfe Tone advocated neutrality when England was going to war with Spain at the time. James Connolly also advocated it in the run up to World War One, summed up in a photograph of the Citizen Army outside Liberty Hall with a banner unfurled, "We serve neither king nor Kaiser but Ireland". The official policy of military neutrality first came about on the 3rd of September 1939, when the Dáil passed a bill declaring Ireland a neutral state, two days after World War Two started on September the 1st. It was a policy that had cross party and countrywide support with some dissenting voices; namely James Dillon and James Joyce. It was popular for a number of reasons, one; it wasn't long when Ireland regained its independence from England and along with the continued partition of the country, meant that these remained emotive issues for a lot of Irish people. A second reason was that Ireland in economic terms was weak after the economic war with England, which ended in 1938 with a settlement and the handing back of the treaty ports of Cork Harbour, Berehaven and Lough Swilly. A lot of people were left poor as a result and the government had scarce resources. At the time of the war, Ireland had only 7,000 men in the defence forces which were poorly

armed and the government was in no position to defend the state, let alone fight with the allies in the war. Through tough censorship laws on the radio and print media on reporting on events in the war, the Irish government of the day was able to control events internally and portray the country's neutrality to its citizens and the wider world. Covertly, the government was helping the Allies during the war by allowing their aircraft to fly over Irish airspace, helping the Allies in intelligence affairs and Allied aircraft that crashed in Ireland, the pilots were helped back to the north. This was all revealed when the government papers of the period were released to the public.

Ireland's policy of military neutrality was reinforced when Ireland refused to join N.A.T.O. in 1949 because of partition. The country joined the United Nations in 1955 at the second time; the old U.S.S.R. blocked our membership in 1946. The UN itself came into existence on the 24th of October 1945. Earlier that year, representatives of fifty countries met in San Francisco, California at the United Nations Conference on

International Organisation to draw up the United Nations Charter. Proposals on the Charter were worked out by representatives from China, the UK, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. at Dumbarton Oaks, U.S.A. in 1944. The Charter was signed by fifty countries on the 26th June 1945 and later by Poland. When China, France, the UK, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. ratified the Charter later that year, then the UN, as an organisation came about. Its headquarters is now situated in the UN buildings in New York City. There it houses the General Assembly and the Security Council, the body which draws up and passes UN resolutions. France, the UK, China, Russia and the U.S.A. are permanent members of the Security Council with the power to veto resolutions. To run the organisation, the Secretary General is appointed along with Commissioners to help the organisation deal with humanitarian and international crises across the globe.

Since our membership of the U.N., the Irish Defence Forces and later Gardaí have taken part in thirty-two U.N. missions, which has also resulted in the tragic loss of 82 Irish Defence Forces personnel who gave up their lives for world peace. These missions have been observer missions, to peacekeeping, to peace enforcement, to stabilisation forces. Our first Observer mission was in 1958, UNOGIL to Lebanon from 28th June to the 18th December. On the 18th of December, the mission became UNTSO in the Middle East, which still has Irish Defence Forces

CAER – Education Society of the European Regions

Caer, the Education Society of the European Regions, is going from strength to strength as evidenced by its very successful annual conference held in Dublin in mid-October last with the assistance of Gaelscoileanna

The event was opened on the Thursday evening with presentations from the CEO of Foras na Gaeilge, Seosamh MacDonnchadha, on the language implications of the Good Friday agreement, from Joe Hamill (Dept. of the Community and Rural Affairs and the Gaeltacht) on the new Irish Language Bill and from Muireann Ní Mhóráin (CEO of the Council) on the work of Council for Gaeltacht and Gaelscoil Education.

On Friday a broad range of presentations were given by speakers from a variety of countries. Topics included 'Welsh Medium Education in South Wales and the capital of Wales', 'Normalisation of the Basque Language', 'School Exchanges and Developing Contacts' and the 'Perspective of Small Islands' (Jersey) and a number dealing with teacher training.

Of special interest to those in the Celtic countries would be the lecture on 'Normalisation of the Basque Language' given by Julen Arexolaleiba of the University of Mondragon in the Basque Country. It outlined the systematic and well planned way that the Basque Autonomous Government went about extending and promoting the position of the Basque language in their school system on achieving autonomy and serves as a model for any country with serious intent to do the same. Further information from: ulibbarri.info, berria.info and bubet.net/BASQUE. CAER and its chairperson, Dónal Ó Conaill, and the organiser Nóra Ní Loingsigh, are to be congratulated on the scope of this year's conference. Further information on the aims and activities of Caer from donalloconaille@oceanfree.net



Julen Arexolaleiba of the University of Mondragon

Personnel at present. It has observed a number of conflicts in the Middle East over the years and also has contributed to the UNIT inspection teams based in Baghdad, (Iraq) and Tehran (Iran) and later UNIMOG, which supervised the ceasefire and withdrawal of troops to the internationally recognised borders of the two countries and ended on the 10th May 1991. Ireland is currently still involved in UN observer missions in El Salvador (ONUSAL), in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), two missions in Africa (MINURSO) in Western Sahara and (UNMEE) in Ethiopia & Eritrea. The first peacekeeping mission that Ireland was involved in was the Congo in 1960 (ONUC) where nine Irish soldiers were killed in an ambush on the 8th of November. That mission ended on the 30th of June in 1964. Ireland has since been involved in three UN peacekeeping missions and two UN stabilisation forces. From the 13th May to November 2001, Irish Defence Forces were part of UNIFIL in the Lebanon for twenty-three years at infantry battalion strength (approx. 540 personnel) and the biggest contribution Ireland made to a UN mission with their base in Tibnin, South Lebanon. Forty-seven Irish soldiers lost their lives in that time. Ireland is still in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964 thus making it Ireland's longest peacekeeping mission. The two stabilisation force missions are still ongoing in the former Yugoslavia, (SFOR) in Bosnia and (KFOR) in Kosovo. On the 8th of August 1993, Ireland sent troops on a UN peace enforcement mission for the first time, to Somalia (UNOSOM II) and later in 1999 to East Timor (INTERFET). Both these missions are also ongoing.

The extent that Ireland, a small country has participated in so many UN missions, for so many years, with so many personnel which has been supported by successive governments is one of the more positive outcomes, since becoming independent. It's something which Irish people can be proud of and has promoted a very positive image of the country abroad. No doubt, that we're a neutral country has enabled and assisted the Irish Defence Forces to carry out their duties in such missions. In September 1993, the government of the day restated the roles of the Defence Forces. One was "to participate in United Nations missions in the cause of international peace". In 1996, on the Government White Paper on Foreign Policy, Ireland's commitment was re-affirmed: "given the unique role and authority of the United Nations and the fact that its peacekeeping activities have proved an important element in containing conflict, the Government are committed to sustaining the overall level of Ireland's contribution to peacekeeping". In 1998, Ireland signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for UN Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS). The UN however is not the only international organisation that Ireland has sent Defence Forces personnel on missions for. From 1984-1994, Defence Forces were in the CSCE (Conference of Security and Co-operation in Europe) in Vienna, Austria. Defence Forces personnel were sent in the

IN MEMORIAM



Risteard Ó Glaisne

RISTEARD Ó GLAISNE

The death occurred in November of Risteard Ó Glaisne, a prolific writer in Irish. He had 27 books to his credit. He was a Methodist from Bandon in West Cork and a republican to boot. His books covered a wide range of subjects quite a few of them being biographies and for decades he practiced journalism in Irish. He had a particular affinity for the Great Blasket island and was always to the fore with assistance for Irish causes. He was for many years a member of the Irish Branch of the League.

PROINSIAS Mac AONGHUSA

In September the death occurred of Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, broadcaster and journalist and a one time President of Conradh na Gaeilge. He was reared in Rosmuc in the Conamara Gaeltacht, a son of the writer and language activist Criostóir Mac Aonghusa. He started his broadcasting career on radio with Aeris and came to more prominence with the RTÉ Irish language TV current affairs programme FÉACH. He wrote widely in a number of newspapers and Irish language magazines and spent a term as Chairman of Bord na Gaeilge. He wrote at one time that if his funeral services were not in Irish his friends should leave and take him with them, unfortunately it seems that the large part of the funeral mass and service was in English.

TREASA agus TOMÁS Mac GABHANN

In late September the deaths occurred in a tragic accident of Treasa and Tomás. From Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, Tomás spent his life working in the Irish language movement and became very well known across the length and breadth of Ireland in his early years promoting the sale of Irish language books. He worked with Gael Linn also and with Comhhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge for many years. He was a pioneer in the Credit Union movement in Ireland. He was a founder of Gaelscoileanna and had a term as President and maintained his support for the organisation over the years.

EC Military Mission to the former Yugoslavia (ECMM) and also the task force (ECTF[Y]) from 1991-1994. Three personnel were also part of a task force sent to Russia (ECTF[R]) in 1992 while two personnel were part of an EU Mission in South Africa.

Those who opposed Ireland's membership of the then EEC in 1973, after the referendum in 1972, fearing that it would erode the country's sovereignty and neutrality were a minority to those who voted in favour, who viewed receiving financial structural aid from the EEC and a gateway to a bigger markets for Irish goods were to the betterment of the country as a whole. This was also the case in further referendums for The Single European Act in 1987 and The Maastricht Treaty in 1992. Fianna Fáil promised in their manifesto, for the general election in 1997, to hold a referendum in joining the Partnership for Peace. This would involve Ireland working with N.A.T.O. on international missions be it UN or otherwise. Ireland joined the PifP in 1999 with a straight vote through the houses of the Oireachtas, without a referendum which legally wasn't required. In 2001, The Nice Treaty was defeated in a referendum. One of the issues that concerned many voters was the erosion of Irish neutrality and the increasing militarization of the EU through the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF). After the serving government was re-elected in 2002, they set about reversing the people's original decision.

After the defeat of The Nice Treaty, the government brought in legislative changes to the Referendum Commission. The Referendum Commission came about after the Supreme Court ruled in the McKenna case in 1995, that governments spending tax payers money to finance its side of the argument in a referendum was unconstitutional. After that judgement, the government of the day had to enact legislation that brought about the Referendum Commission, whenever there was a referendum was being held. The Commission, headed by a judge, explained the Amendment to the Constitution, be it an international treaty or changes to an Article(s) in plain simple language to the voters and it had to put arguments for and against equally to the public since it was the only legal body to do so with allocated public funds. The changes the government made were: the Referendum Commission could only explain the Amendment to the voters and the cap to finance one side of an argument or another was lifted so long as it was not public tax payers' money. This meant that big businesses and political parties' who favoured The Nice Treaty could finance the 'Yes Campaign'. When The Nice Treaty came again before the people, there was a change to the Amendment. It stated that if Ireland were to join a common and defence policy in the EU, it would require a referendum by the people. That and the Madrid Declaration that the Nice Treaty did not impinge on Ireland's policy of neutrality, a declaration which is

not legally binding, were put there to dissuade concerns of voters who worried about neutrality. The Nice Treaty was passed in 2002.

Last October, the Irish Government went to an Inter-Governmental Conference of the EU to discuss the proposed constitution of the EU. Seven articles in the proposed constitution deal with the EU's competencies on foreign and defence issues. Article 11.4 allows: "The Union shall have competence to define and implement a common foreign and security policy, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy". In article 15.1; the EU's competencies should cover all areas of foreign policy which might include a common defence policy. In article 15.2 states that Member States should support the Union's common foreign and security policy loyally and refrain from actions likely to impair its effectiveness. Article 27 deals with the Foreign Minister and Vice-President of the EU Commission. The appointment is decided by q.m.v. or qualified majority vote by the European Council and agreement of the President of the Commission and is bound by Commission procedures. The task of the Commissioner by his/her proposals is the

development of a common foreign policy mandated by the European Council which also applies to a common defence policy. Article 39; deals with the implementing of such a common foreign policy based on unanimous decisions, except on cases of enhanced co-operation in article 43. Article 40; deals with the common security and defence policy being an integral part of the common foreign and security policy that can be used outside the Union for peacekeeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The capabilities of which are to be provided by the member states and that they are to be upgraded. It also deals with the framing of a common Union defence policy, leading to a common defence when the European Council unanimously decides. It also goes on to respect policies of member states in N.A.T.O. and deals with enhanced cooperation, that group of states can carry out EU tasks. Article 42; deals with the solidarity clause.

Pro EU integrationists would see this as Europe getting its house in order and taking on the responsibility of a major international organisation in the world, after the debacle of trying to stop the war in the former

Yugoslavia. They would be able to argue that the UN hasn't been successful in stopping major conflicts either and they would be right, pointing at the failure of the UN to stop the genocide in Rwanda. As the war in Iraq has highlighted once again, the EU is much divided when trying to find a common strategy in dealing with an international crises. The British, the Poles and the Spanish are in Iraq with the U.S. forces. The Italians and most countries in Eastern Europe have also backed the coalition forces going to war in Iraq while France, Germany, Belgium and most countries in Western Europe as well as a sizeable number of the population in Europe opposed the war. The same happened in the former Yugoslavia, when Europe was divided over whether to recognise the break away republics or not and later in their efforts to stop the war in Bosnia, ending in complete failure. The only success that the EU had was the brokering the new federation agreement of Serbia & Montenegro recently, only because they wouldn't recognise Montenegro if it separated from Serbia but the nationalist breakaway feelings in Montenegro haven't gone away. The UN wasn't successful either when it set up the safe havens for the Bosnian Moslem popula-

Campaign for Official Working Language Status for Irish in the EU

It may surprise our fellow Celts but when the Republic of Ireland joined the then EEC in 1973, although the Irish language is the first official language in the constitution of the State, the status of an official working language in the EEC was not sought for Irish. This was even though this status was available for the asking, an indication of the low regard in which the Government of the day held their national language. A campaign is now under way, spearheaded by Conradh na Gaeilge, to rectify this betrayal. The campaign is calling on the Irish Government, during its tenure of the Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2004, to introduce amendments (which can be quite simply done) to the Council of Ministers to give Irish the status of an official EU working language. This is the position which all the new 10 entrant states languages (including Maltese, Latvian, and Lithuanian etc) will have when they officially accede next year.

There are fundamental implications in this not only for Irish speakers but for the whole Irish community in regard to employment, resources, educational system and the effect of international status of a language on its speakers and learners. All employment positions in the EU carry the requirement of knowledge of two official languages and Irish is not recognised as such. There are for example competitions at present for 1,640 secretarial positions in the

European Institutions and a further 400 administration positions and Irish people are at a disadvantage in these. Practically speaking English, French and German are the daily working languages



A group of schoolchildren picketed the offices of the European Commission in Dublin just before Christmas demanding official working status for Irish and presented a Christmas card for Commission head, Romano Prodi, outlining their request. At the Forum on Europe meeting in Dublin in Jan a demonstration of Wexford pikemen took place.

of the EU however all official working languages can be spoken in the European Parliament, all laws and legislative instruments and the European Journal is published in them. This will be the case for example with Maltese next year but not for Irish unless official working status is gained.

In the programme for government published by the Fianna Fáil/Progressive Democrats in 1997 the following was stated 'The new government supports the campaign to have Irish an official language of the EU....' When the second FF/PP government was formed in 2002 the following was stated 'The Government will use the Report of the Gaeltacht Commission 2002 as the basis for its policies henceforth'. The third proposal in that report is 'The status of an official working language for Irish in the European union should be achieved'. Despite these promises statements from Taoiseach Bertie Ahern at the European Forum do not bode well - he made reference only to attempting to preserve the present position of Irish. It is time that he and his government honour their commitments and bring forward proposals to the Council of Ministers for official working language status for Irish and ensure these are accepted. With the changes about to take place in the EU this could well be Ireland's best and last chance to remedy the previous betrayal - it must not be let slip.

The war in Iraq has also highlighted why the go it alone approach of the U.S.A. and the UK is a complete fiasco and disaster for the coalition troops and the financial burden of keeping them there while Iraq continues to slip into further anarchy and chaos. Despite what the current U.S. administration says about the UN being ineffective, as a global body it's still needed. If as a global body it's ineffective, and there are plenty of examples, then the five permanent countries on the Security Council need to shoulder some of the blame. The UN is like a national rugby coach to the Irish rugby team in the days when he coached the team but was outvoted by five selectors who selected the team and he got fired when the results didn't go well. After a while the I.R.F.U. realised that to compete in the professional era, they needed to have sound structures and reform, like the national coach calling the shots in selecting and preparing the Irish rugby team. At the moment the UN's hands are tied in dealing with international crises because of the vetoes of the five permanent countries on the Security Council like China in Tibet, the French who signed an oil agreement with Saddam's regime and threatened to veto a UN resolution on Iraq. In fairness Saddam's regime along with other despotic regimes around the world have been supported over the years by successive U.S. administrations and European governments, despite committing mass violations of human rights. The Russians in Chechnya/ Ichkeria, where there's atrocities committed by both sides, where Russian troops commit mass violations of human rights on ordinary Chechens, the rigging of the elections and the referendum that most independent observers know to be a farce while the U.S.A., the EU and the international community turns a blind eye. The UN resolutions, calling on Israel to withdraw from Palestine, still not implemented. Last month in the General Assembly, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern spoke of reform needed in the UN but pledged Ireland's continued support for the UN. He also announced that 400 Irish troops would be sent to the UN peace enforcement mission in Liberia.

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Gael Taca, is succeeding exceptionally well in its campaign to help builders and developers to select Irish Language names for new estates.

Gael-Taca provides a FREE service. A building site can be visited and a selection of names appropriate to the history and topography of the area offered to the builder for his consideration.

Already over 80 builders and developers, mostly in Cork city and county but also further afield, are using Irish Language names such as 'Ard na Mara', 'Gleann Álainn', 'Cois Cuain', 'Traonach', 'Cluan Órga', 'Broach na hAbhann', 'Dún Eala', etc., names that look and sound beautiful and add an attraction to the area.

'Gaillimh Le Gaeilge' is also doing excellent work in the Galway area and it seems that nearly all new housing estates in that area are now named in Irish.

Gael- Taca, is also arranging the twinning of Gaelscoileanna (all Irish Schools) in the Cork city and county area with Gaelic medium schools in Scotland.

They are most anxious to make contact with schools in Scotland who would be interested in such a twinning arrangement. Pupils from the Gaelic medium school in Scotland would spend a week in Cork and attend classes in a Gaelscoil. Some weeks afterwards, a return visit will be organised to Scotland by the Gaelscoil in Cork.

It is hoped that some funding will be available from Iomairt Cholm Cille to assist with travelling expenses.

Gael- Taca can be contacted at Áras Neasáin, Port Uí Shuilleabháin, Corcaigh or by fón (021) 4310841/Fax (021) 4273734.

EU and joining N.A.T.O. Maybe one day both these options would be put before the people in a referendum to decide on one or the other. In 2001, a dispute between Morocco and Spain over some islands of the coast of Morocco came to a head when Moroccan troops occupied one of the islands. In response, the Spanish sent Special Forces to retake the island. Morocco gave an undertaking not to occupy any of the islands if Spain removed the Special Forces from the island that was occupied. A similar situation could arise again which could be a full blown conflict. In such circumstances, the Irish people would have to choose where they would have the Irish Defence Forces serving, as part of an EU force in a common defence operation against Moroccan troops or part of a UN mandated force sent to keep the peace?

Aodhán Ó Puirseil



'Gwlasegориeth ha Mebyon Kernow'

Nebes prederow yn kever lyver nowydh a re istor berr MK ha'y wryansow ha'y worlanwes.

MK a veu fundyes neb hanterkans blydhen alemma. Ow honan, my a welas neppyth a'n oberow hag a'n omgusulya yn moy es ugens anedha.

Mebyon Kernow a sevis ughella, martesen, orth an prys na, mes ny'n gwelis vy ow sedhi 'mes a wel. A lies tu an movyans a wrug seweni, yn unn lesa fordhow diblans a weles Kernow, ken es rann ankevys, hen ha koynt, a Bow Sows. Ia, an tybyansow a veu degemmers menowgh gans partiow erell, mes fyllel a wrons, drefenn nag eus dhedha an unn dra neb usi owth anella nerth ha gwres aberth yn MK: henn yw an spyrys a wlasegориeth Kernow.

'Mebyon Kernow & Cornish Nationalism' Published by the Welsh Academic Press, 2003

Several new books have appeared lately pertaining to Cornish history and politics. Or perhaps it is truer to say that they describe the methods, once military and later political, that those Cornish with power have sought to make the best fit possible with a ruthless invader. For that is the situation ever since 936AD when Athelstan of Wessex tore up the treaties which until then had allowed Cornish and Saxons to co-exist in South West Britain.

In 'West Britons' (published by Exeter Univ. Press), Mark Stoye shows how much the Cromwellians, and indeed the Cavaliers too, were driven by English Nationalism. (This, of course, does not exist - according to the media. Only the Celts, on these islands, hold such childish and small-minded ideas).

Now Cornwall has to be included in a totally artificial region, the 'South West'. Why? Because it was the easiest thing for the bureaucrats to arrange. No-one is asked - democracy in this parody of devolution is not on the cards for years to come. Respecting the views of the people comes very low on the Blairite agenda. How else would we have been embroiled in an American colonial adventure in Iraq?

Meanwhile, where is Cornish opinion demonstrated? Certainly by the 50,000 signatures collected on a petition calling for a Cornish Assembly. This was binned by the Ministry who said it was an answer to a question they had not asked. Yet it was by far the biggest response on the subject from any part of the UK.

All this is very sad. Culturally Cornwall is looking up and, politically, some of Mebyon Kernow's projects, such as affordable housing and the promotion of local agricultural products are being taken up by the establishment - twenty years later!

MK has not gone away; MK members are active on councils all over Cornwall.

More importantly, they are to be found at the heart of several other popular Cornish pressure groups. Here, local spokesmen of other parties, notably the Lib. Dems, often make the right noises but, invariably, cave in later to the (English-based) party machine.

The lesson of MK is the importance of the one factor other parties utterly refuse to accept: the motivation provided by Cornish patriotism.

The book may be purchased direct from the publisher, via his website at www.ashleydrake.com or through all good book shops.

Julyan Holmes

Mis LYVROW BRETONEK

Yn lyverjiow Breten Vyghan, yntra an 15 a vis Gwynngala ha'n 15 a vis Hedra, ha dell yw synsys pub blydhen, synsys veu **Mis Lyvrow Bretonek**. Pareusys yw an darvos ma gans **Kresenn-rannvro an Lyvrow Breten Vyghan, Ofis ar Brezhoneg ha Coop Breizh**. Dyllys yw yntra 60 ha 80 lyver yn Bretonek pub blydhen gans 20 dyller. Pub dyller a wra dyлло yntra 2 ha 10 lyver yn Bretonek pub blydhen. Yntra 500 hag 800 dasskrif a'n lyvrow bretonek yw dyllys pub blydhen ha gwerthys yw yntra 500 ha 600 anedha. Treweythow moy es henna yw gwerthys, rag ensampel, "**Ar 1000 ger kentañ e brezhoneg**" (An kynsa 1,000 ger yn bretonek) dyllys gans **Skol an Emsav** hag a veu gwerthys anodho bys yn 20,000 dasskrif. Res yw dhyn notya bos gwerthys warlyna 60 % moy a lyvrow skrifys yn Bretonek a-hys Mis an Lyvrow Bretonek ages a-hys mis kemmyn ! Ni a allsa ordena yn Kernow Mis an Lyvrow Kernewek yn termyn a dheu ha martesen henna a via da rag dyлло ha gwertha lyvrow yn Kernewek !

Summary

The « **Month of Books** » written in Breton took place between the 15th September and the 15th October last. It is estimated that around 80 books are published in the Breton language every year by 20 publishers. Usually between 500 and 800 copies of each book are sold. It is remarkable that during the Month of Breton Books, sales increase by 60% in comparison with a normal month! It could be excellent for books written in Cornish to organize such an event in Cornwall!

José CALVETE.
dhiworth/from Bremañ

BRO DHE WERTHA

Gans towlenn sowsnek henwys "**Dream Holiday Home**" y hyllir gwaynya chi yn Breten Vyghan ow pellgewsell dhe'n dowlenn, yn unnsel. Ugens chi yw profys dhe'n dus ow mires orth an dowlenn ma. Lieskweyth ordenoryon an dowlenn a bren chioh koth dhiworth tus koth. Amowydhys yw an chioh gans kowethasow ow tos dhiworth Pow Sows, yn skon, ha lieskweyth nyns yw gwrys yn ta an hwelyow. Meur a Sowson a gar kres Breten Vyghan. I a dheu dhe gres Breten Vyghan dres meur a vlyd-hynyow. Sowson a biw meur a jiow yn Breten Vyghan. Pris an chioh yw pur ughel rag Bretonyon lemmyn gans ynkressyans an prisyow a-dhiwedhes. Mes an prisyow yw

hwath 40% isella ages prisyow kreskek an chioh yn Pow Sows ! War-lergh govynnadow gwrys gans "**PACT ARIM 22**" prenys yw 8 chi yn mes a 10 gans Sowson y'n eur ma. Devedhyans an Sowson yn kres Breten Vyghan a vydh sywys gans kudynnnow gans tus an vro. Nyns yw anusadow lemmyn gweles "**Brits out !**" payntys war fosow an chioh. Aswonmys yn ta yw an kudynn ma, soweth, yn broyow keltek erell kepar ha Kembra ha Kernow!

Summary

The programme "**Dream Holiday Home**" enables spectators to win a house in central Brittany with just a phone call. Usually the

programme buys up old houses from old people and they modernise them. A lot of English people like central Brittany and a lot of them have already bought a house there. In spite of a big increase in the price of the houses prices still remain 40% lower than the average price of houses in England. According to an inquiry, 8 houses out of 10 are now bought by English people. This English "invasion" is creating problems and it is not uncommon to see "**Brits out !**" painted on walls, a problem well known, alas, in other Celtic countries such as Wales and Cornwall !

José CALVETE
dhiworth/from Bremañ

Cornish in Europe

On 13th November at their General Conference in Brussels, the European Free Alliance (EFA) voted unanimously in favour of admitting Mebyon Kernow (MK) as full members.

The European Free Alliance is a federation of progressive autonomist and regionalist political parties from throughout Europe, with which MK has had informal links for a number of years. Political parties within the EFA include Plaid Cymru from Wales, the Scottish National Party and the Union Democratique Bretonne from Brittany.

The EFA backed two motions proposed by MK calling on Westminster to institute a referendum in Cornwall on devolution. Calling for Cornwall to be recognised as a distinct entity within Europe, with its own Euro MP and representation on the Committee of the Regions.

Dafydd Hicks, represented MK at the conference and began his opening address by saying: "Lowen ov vy ow tos omma dhe gewsel orthowgh hwi yn kever Kernow ha Mebyon Kernow - an Parti rag Kernow, ha ow kovynn rag eseleth leun a'n bagas ma." He went on to say: "In Cornwall, MK is making significant progress in elections at all levels and is playing a leading role in the Campaign for a Cornish Assembly, which is winning increasing support from local people. The UK state has devised a new artificial region called the 'south west', and an EU constituency elected by proportional representation. We would like to stand in the European elections but Cornwall only makes up 10% of the entire south west seat - and it would cost a massive deposit of £5000. We would need a quarter of the Cornish vote just to save our deposit.

This brings me to the democratic deficit that Cornwall faces and, more than that, a human rights issue. Even if everyone in Cornwall voted for us, we would not win one of the seven 'south-west' seats. Needless to say we do not feel represented in Europe at all. If we have ever wanted to raise issues in the European Parliament we have always approached Welsh MEPs.

Working here in the European Parliament, I see a constant Welsh presence, a Scottish presence, but when it comes to the so called 'south west office' they are the invisible people of Europe, doing little to represent Cornwall on the European stage.

We have to change this situation and we want Cornwall to have its own EU constituency. Cornwall has a population of half a million, bigger than some member and accession states and the same as some successful autonomous regions such as South Tyrol. It is our right to be represented in Europe, but this will not occur until the UK lets us have our own constituency. It was in the late 1970s when MK stood in what was then a Cornwall and Plymouth constituency. In this MK won over 10% of the vote; this may explain why the UK does not want a Cornish constituency.

Moreover, when we have our own 'region' it means that we will be able to participate on the Committee of the Regions which, at a European level, is pushing for more powers and more influence for the regions of Europe. While trapped within the 'south west' we are missing out on this increasing influence and, therefore, investment."

10 percent of an MEP!

The Vision of a Europe of Regions

As a Cornishman I am a member of a National Minority numbering about 300,000, as you can appreciate living in a state with a population of 60 million people we are a very small minority.

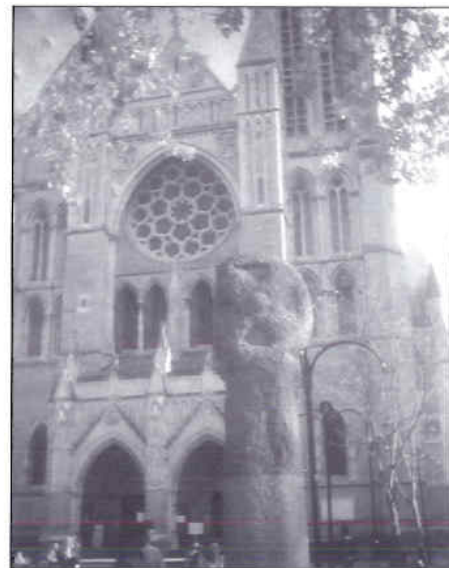
It concerns me that the European Union is currently run by the State Governments. The EU itself does not seem to be interested in the internal workings of States or Minority issues.

To take for example when the European Constituencies were set up in the U.K., the Government decided that Cornwall should be in the same constituency as the neighbouring English city of Plymouth. A storm of protest followed, from a great number of individuals, every political party active in Cornwall and Welsh and Scottish Nationalist MPs even tried to intervene in Westminster. To no avail. The "Mother of all Democracy" (self proclaimed) at Westminster decided to put Cornwall with Plymouth. A few years later Cornwall was submerged into a wider South-west "region". To this day Cornwall is part of a region with a population of 5 million people only 10 percent of which live in Cornwall. So how can this MEP fight for the Cornish language and way of life when Cornwall is only 10 percent of his constituency?

Which leads me to how this is relevant: The EU did nothing. I could go on listing insults to the Cornish nation as we all could with our own respective Nations.

I like the idea of a Europe of regions but if London, Paris, Madrid and the other Imperial Governments of Europe are allowed to represent and decide the futures of the National Minorities of Europe who will be better? To take Cornwall as an example if we are let down by the Institutions of EU and the U.K., what will we have as a means of redress? 10 percent of a MEP!

Robert Simmons M.S.P.
Truru Kernow



High Cross with Truro Cathedral behind

Free the Spirit

A campaign to disestablish the Church of England in Cornwall, by establishing a Church of Cornwall, in the same way that the Church of Wales and the Church of Ireland were created.

Fry an Spyrys (Free the Spirit), the name of the steering group set up to take the campaign forward, believes that the Church of England should show "humility and penitence" by admitting to the mass murder and suppression of the Cornish people in the sixteenth century.

In 1549, the Church of England, under Thomas Cranmer, ordered the cessation of all services being held in Cornish and Latin and imposed a Book of Common Prayer, written in English, on the mainly Cornish speaking parishioners.

Incensed by this act of political interference in Cornwall's religious affairs and threatened with the suppression of Cornwall's language, religious traditions and culture, thousands of people rose up in 1549 in defence of their civil liberties.

The King's forces savagely put down the rising, killing all Cornish prisoners and subsequently continued to murder, what amounted to, roughly 10 percent of the population of Cornwall.

Fry an Spyrys say that now the time for atonement is at hand. With the apology to the Maoris by the Queen for the breaking of Treaties and the apology to the Irish for their oppression, it's time for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, to ask for forgiveness, on behalf of the Church, from the people of Cornwall.

By offering an apology in this way, it is campaigner Andrew Phillips opinion that "The Church of England in Cornwall could then make a clean break with the past and make a new start, renewing itself by returning to its more tolerant and inclusive Celtic roots, and re-establishing itself as the ancient Church in Cornwall".

NEWS IN BRIEF

A new web site was launched in August 2003 for Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall.

The site was designed by Celtic League and Mebyon Kernow activist Martin Sanders who recently graduated in Graphic Design from Falmouth College of Arts. The new site includes profiles of leading MK and Councillors, up to date news stories and press releases, archive stories and some other interesting features.

Martin said that he created a site, which he hoped would be fresh and user-friendly.

Martin said that "Mebyon Kernow is a progressive and forward looking political party campaigning to win a better deal for all the people of Cornwall. The new site will provide considerable information about Mebyon Kernow to a wider audience around the globe"

Sustainable Tourism

After another summer in Cornwall where tourists flocked in their thousands to make the most of the sunny weather, by clogging the roads and littering the land with their unwanted rubbish, it was a refreshing piece of news to hear that a new initiative has been funded to promote sustainable tourism in Cornwall.

The Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project (CSTP) will work with the tourist industry, organisations and visitors to promote socially and environmentally aware tourism, while at the same time helping to ensure that Cornwall benefits from tourism.

Cornish Gorsedd

The 75th anniversary of the Cornish Gorsedd took place in Launceston Castle on Saturday 6th September 2003, amid a large crowd of participants, supporters and those who were merely curious. Due to the growing number of members of Cornwall's Gorsedd, work is currently being undertaken to find a permanent venue for the event.

At this year's event sixteen new Bards were welcomed, including two from Australia, one from United States and four through success in Cornish languages exercises. As always, representatives from the Gorsedd's in Brittany and Wales were present.

House price spiral

House prices in Cornwall are continuing to spiral out of Control, with new figures from the Joseph Rowntree Trust showing that in the district of Carrick the gap between wages and house prices is worse than that in the south east of England and London. North Cornwall too is especially affected with house prices higher than anywhere else in Cornwall, but throughout the whole of the nation people who live and work locally are being completely priced out of the market. A study by Halifax published in September last, has shown that despite a house price



Rishiart Tal-e-bot with Martin Sanders (right) who designed the new MK website.

slow down across much of the island, the seaside areas of Cornwall continue to rise, resulting in prices doubling in seaside towns and villages over the past two years.

The blame is being attributed to a rush of retirement and second home buyers from over the border. For many young people in Cornwall, owning their own house seems like an impossible dream with prices reflecting what the very rich can afford and not local wages. With more council-owned properties being sold off each year, the lack of funding for Housing Associations and the ever greedy house letting agencies, even affordable rented accommodation is proving extremely difficult to find. Consequently, key workers like nurses and teachers are finding it increasingly difficult to find a place to live.

Regional Insult

The undemocratic 'regional chamber' in Exeter, which is acting as an assembly for the 'South West' and Cornwall has made a decision to centralise planning away from Cornwall and place it in the hands of a 'regional planning body' based in Exeter and Taunton.

The chamber stated that some detailed planning could still be carried out sub-regionally, which means in places like Cornwall, according to the Government. Mebyon Kernow - the Party for Cornwall have stated that: "it is a deliberate and calculated insult to define Cornwall as a 'sub-region'".

In addition, the 'regional chamber' has expressed a wish for a zone to be created that will merge Cornwall with about half of Devon, after an exceptionally short consultation period that failed to consult such democratically elected bodies as Cornwall Council.

R. Tal-e-bot

Carlyon Bay Demonstration

The demonstration on Sadorn 13ves mis Kevardu/December took place in heavy rain with fewer numbers than expected. Members from Cornish Solidarity, Carlyon Bay Watch and a civil rights group attended and BBC Radio Cornwall and the Cornish Guardian were also present.

Representatives from the Branch met with the Ampersand Sales Director during the demonstration and a letter from the Branch was handed to him for the attention of the Managing Director.

Press releases sent out by our Branch and by Cymuned and full details of all PR's can be obtained by e-mailing celticleaguekernow-branch@hotmail.com

Second Home Protest

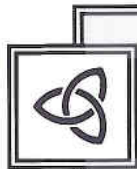
The Cornish Branch of the Celtic League were joined by other organisations, in a demonstration about the proposed development of over 500 second homes at Carlyon Bay.

The demonstration was the first of three planned protests to take place over the next couple of months, with the intention of working with other organisations and groups to support the campaign of Carlyon Bay Watch. Cymuned, the Welsh Housing campaign group, sent a message of support to the protesters and expressed a hope to collaborate in future.

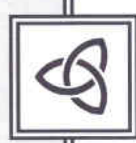
Members of the Cornish Branch decided that opposition to the proposed development was an important issue to tackle, after it was raised by a young Branch member who had become frustrated by the second homes crisis effecting Cornwall.

The Ampersand Group is ignoring the widespread concerns of residents, organisations and councils by ploughing ahead with the development and impacting negatively on Cornwall's environment and economy. At a meeting following the demonstration, Branch representatives argued that if the national resources of Cornwall, in this case one of its beaches is to be developed, it should be done so for the benefit of all.

The next demonstration at the site will take place in January. Environmental groups Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Surfers against Sewage and Friends of the Earth will be invited to attend.



Mannin



Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain

Ayns y "Time Educational Supplement" jeh'n 2600 Mean Fouyir, lhiah mee mychione schoill neuchadjin ayns Lunnin. She'n un schoill ee, cheu mooie jeh'n Vretyn, boayl ta ny paitchyn g'ynsaghey dy-chooilley red ayns cheney nyn ghooie, Cymraeg. Va'n schoill currit er bun 'sy vlein 1958 agh ayns 1999, chaill ad nyn chied hroggal as v'eh jeeaghyn dy beagh yn schoill dooint. Cha row agh shey paitchyn foast er maym agh hug yn Coonseil Brent cooney lhieu tra hug ad kied daue goll dys troggal feer veg elley. She shenn bunschoill v'ee agh goll-roosyn foast ry-gheddyn 'syn cheer Vretnagh hene ayns baljyn beggey.

Ec y traa t'ayn, ta nane paithchey jeig kionefenish agh b'hreisht lhieu geddyn tooilley ynsydee er y gherid. Mleeaney ta daa phaitchey ayns blein shey as myr

shen nee ad soie yn ardan scanshoil jees (Key Stage 2). Ta shoh gollrish ny scoill-lyn ayns Bretyn, boayl nagh vel ad soie ardan scanshoil nane, agh t'ad goaill toshiaght lesh ardan jees. Ta'n fer-ynsee red anveagh my-y-chione agh, cha nel ny paitchyn boirit er-chor-erbee. S'mian lhieu prowal dy vel ad chammah as paithchey erbee elley.

Ta dagh lught-thie g'eeck shey cheead punt dagh traa himbee, as ta

shiaght as feed cheet voish Bretyn. Ta'n chooid elley goll y chosney ec she-shaghtyn Bretnagh ayns Lunnin. Cha nel ad cosney ping voish Sostyn.

Summary

In London, there is a Welsh medium school. It is only a small school but the ambience is much like a similar school in a Welsh village. The regular number on roll is eleven but expansion is likely.

Colin y Jerree.



Welsh Teacher, Matthew Davies, in his classroom in London.

MANX LANGUAGE - LAST NATIVE SPEAKERS PROJECT

In early January 2004 Manx National Heritage launched a collection of CD recordings of native Manx speakers. The recordings were made following an intervention by former Irish Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera, in 1948 when the Irish Folklore Commission dispatched a recording vehicle (quite a novelty in those days) to the Isle of Man. De Valera had been concerned when meeting Manx native speakers a year earlier that the Gaelic language on the Island might be lost if not recorded.

The work, started by the Irish Folklore Commission's Kevin Danaher in 1948, was continued by members of the Manx Language Society (Yn Cheshaght Ghailkagh) over the subsequent years and ensured that an accurate record of the last Manx native speakers exists for posterity.

Some of the recordings were subsequently released on vinyl LP record and the material has been a tool for linguistic researchers and academics.

Now Manx National Heritage has had the recordings digitally remastered and these are now available with full transcriptions, translations and background in a six CD set entitled Skeealyn Vannin.

An MNH spokesperson has described the project as; "A major contribution to the resources available for today's lan-

guage students" which "will offer an insight into the historical pronunciation of Manx Gaelic and Manx English dialect".

The project comes at a time when the fortunes of the Manx language are much revived with an ambitious programme of teaching in schools ongoing.

Bernard Moffatt



Fiona McArdle of MNH presenting a copy of Skeealyn Vannin to Leslie Quirk, who worked with the Irish Folklore Commission recording the native speakers.

NATIONALISTS LAUNCH WITHERING ATTACK ON MANX GOVERNMENT

The annual Illiam Dhane Commemoration at Hango Hill took place on January 2nd when nationalists gathered to pay tribute to the seventeenth century patriot William Christian, executed by the English.

To begin the commemoration an oration in the Manx language was given by Fiona McArdle. Giving the English oration, Mec Vannin Chairman, Mark Kermod launched a withering attack on various facets of Manx government policy over the last quarter of a century. He stated that those responsible for planning debacles in the early part of the last decade on the Isle of Man are "not capable of understanding their wrong-doing".

In relation to the Mount Murray (Planning) Inquiry he said:

"We have seen the Mount Murray Inquiry expose corruption and name some of those who manipulated and some of those who helped them to the detriment of good government in our country. But what has come of this? How many of us, in our walks of life, could expect to be found to be a central figure in a matter of corruption and carry on with impunity?"

And if we believe that we should favour the devils we know we will always have devils about us. Even now, after being exposed as having taken part in corruption, those involved are simply not capable of understanding their wrong-doing. And the business community is unlikely to call for any changes when it's there in black and white that favourable decisions don't even have to be bought in the

Isle of Man. That's a boat worth not rocking isn't it?"

Speaking about government's employment policies the Mec Vannin leader said that whilst "we have not had some very capable people come here and contribute over the years, but how many have used us as an easy stepping stone in their career development, or an easy wind-down into retirement at the expense of competent Manx people, or have been, quite simply incompetent?" The full text of his speech and the Manx Language Oration can be accessed at: <http://www.manxman.co.im/mecvan/pb32.html>

Breton prisoners' plight highlighted as Manx commemorate martyr

Nationalists should remember those suffering for their beliefs at the present time in the various Celtic countries, the annual Illiam Dhane commemoration was told.

The Secretary General of the Celtic League in his concluding remarks to the gathering urged those present to remember those imprisoned today in the Celtic countries and specifically highlighted the plight of the Breton prisoners, some of whom have now been in prison almost four years awaiting trial.

The Illiam Dhane commemoration is jointly organised by Mec Vannin (The Manx Nationalist Party) and the Manx branch of the Celtic League.



George Redmond leaving the court in Dublin following his conviction for corruption.

JAILED REDMOND EXPOSED SEAMY SIDE OF MANX-IRISH BANKING INTERESTS

The former Assistant Dublin City and County Manager, Mr Michael Redmond, who was arrested at Dublin Airport in February 1999 getting off a plane from the Isle of Man with a bag containing £300,000 in cash and cheques collected from a Manx bank, has been sentenced to one year in prison.

The jail term is unrelated to Redmond's Island escapades but relates to a conviction for accepting a bribe during a sale by Dublin City Council of a right of way. Redmond is believed to have been given a fairly light sentence because of his age - he is in his 80th year.

In 1999 the detention of Redmond focused attention on the use being made by individuals, banks and institutions in Ireland to secret sums of money offshore.

The issues subsequently raised were wide-ranging and prompted calls for action in the Irish parliament.

Paradoxically, the Redmond arrest did the Isle of Man a favour because at a time when the Manx government was patting itself on the back and proclaiming how squeaky clean the finance sector was it exposed that there was still a seamy side to commercial relations between Irish and Manx banking interests.

At the end of last year national newspapers in Éire carried further reports of Irish nationals evading their tax obligations by depositing money in off-shore accounts in Irish Banks operating in Mannin. It was alleged that the banks were encouraging individual customers to do so. The Irish government, in an attempt to stamp out tax evasion, has launched an enquiry into the matter.

Bernard Moffatt

PROBLEMS ABOUND AS MANX YEAR BEGINS

The fortunes of the Isle of Man were mixed as 2003 came to a close. The smallest of the Celtic countries it has enjoyed unprecedented prosperity in recent years and has enjoyed growth comparable to Ireland's 'tiger' economy.

This year also looks promising with both Industry Department and Treasury holding forth positively for prospects in the short to medium term.

However the other side of the coin is that social problems abound and, if anything, became more compounded in 2003.

The Island is shortly to face a major enquiry into child care provision following a double murder trial. In addition, despite all the prosperity, thousands of people find it impossible to get into the home buying market - effectively priced out by soaring property prices. There have also been cutbacks in medical provision which prompted a major protest in the north of the Island about out of hours medical cover.

The government itself is mired in controversy as a long-running planning enquiry grinds on with more revelations scheduled for 2004. Even the police service is enmeshed in controversy with several officers, some senior, suspended and an enquiry into complaints against the Chief Constable just announced.

Another worrying feature of the past year had been the scarcely concealed admission that several key government Departments do not welcome local applicants for senior positions. It is the most open manifestation of discrimination against the resident population.

The Island can only hope for a better year in 2004!

Bernard Moffatt



Editorial

The New Colonisations

For a number of decades now Celtic speaking communities have been under threat from a new form of colonisation – the uncontrolled inflow of those who have no regard for the languages or cultures of the Celtic speaking communities. This lack of regard is based in a colonial mind set which sees these languages and cultures as inferior and the Celtic lands as only a cheap (and scenic) material asset to be availed of. This is equally true when the incomers are of the same nationality; they have little regard for the linguistic well being of their own language communities but simply operate for their own gain. Now in recent years however Celtic

language communities have organised to combat this and have made significant progress in Wales and advances in Ireland.

Carn has been covering these issues and the Celtic League has taken the initiative in organising contacts between groups in the various countries, a development which will be ongoing and which is reported on in this issue. The issue of second homes, the scale of immigration and its effect on housing in changing the character of some of the smaller Celtic countries such as Mann and Kernow, leading to the lack of affordable local housing with consequent emigration, is of grave concern also. The League will continue to assist those in the Celtic nations who organise against these threats.

An EU Constitution or a Two Tier Europe?

Following the failure of the last EU summit to agree a final version of the proposed constitution and disagreement on voting representation on the Council of Ministers (the EU's decision making body) between some of the larger countries (France and Germany, Spain and Poland) the two tier Europe is being pushed strongly again by the French-German axis and also it seems Head of the Commission Romano Prodi. Ireland now holds the six month presidency and is charged with the task of getting agreement and undertaking consultations to try to achieve that. Prodi, on a visit to Dublin, stated that if agreement could not be reached the two tier option was the only alternative.

At this stage the whole project of the EU constitution (which itself is fairly flawed as a document), driven as it is by the Commission rather than the citizens and coupled with collapse of the fiscal policy rules and all the concerns with regard to defence policy, is surely in trouble. Neither it nor a two tier Europe would be to the benefit of the smaller nations of Europe. They must cooperate to put forward an alternative vision.



TERRAS de MERLIN

For further information, please visit the programme website which is available in Galician, Spanish, English and French at:
www.terrasdemerlin.com
 or you can contact the staff at:
terrasdemerlin@terrasdemerlin.com

TERRAS DE MERLIN

This summer, TVG, the Galician TV channel has broadcast an excellent documentary series about the Celtic countries called Terras de Merlin, that is to say Merlin's Lands. The series consisted of 13 programmes and began with a programme about Kernow. Each programme is 26 minutes long. Three programmes were dedicated to Éire, two to Alba, two to Breizh, one to Asturias, one to

Galiza, one to Eilan Vannin, one to Cymru, one to Kernow and the last is a kind of best of, and excellent résumé of all the programmes. The programmes were produced by Luis Menéndez, a Galician journalist, who studied the different Celtic countries for two years before the filming. The filming took 20 months and the staff travelled on the roads of the Celtic countries for 33,000 km. The result is an excellent series and I highly recommend it!

The programmes were very interesting because they presented the different countries as lively lands with strong, ancient roots and at the same as modern countries looking at the future with serenity and hope, and proud of their past and their history. We saw people at festivals, at local shrines, people telling us old legends, Luis Menéndez showed us different gastronomic peculiarities, we walked around historic ruins with him, we were delighted by the impressive landscapes... In a few words, we appreciated, the lively richness of the different cultures of the Celtic countries.

On his journey, Luis Menéndez suggested that we should find similarities and differences between old and present times, close and faraway places.

The programme was broadcast this summer as I told you in Galicia and in the countries where TVG is broadcast through its international channel to places where there is an important Galician Diaspora such as Argentina... The programmes were of course in Galician. It would be very interesting and important to have his programmes broadcast in the other Celtic countries not only to know and learn more about the other countries but also about our own Celtic country. It would be interesting to see the programmes broadcast by TV Breizh, S4C, TG4, etc...

José CALVETE

BOOK REVIEW

To Hell or Barbados: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland

BY SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

This 226 page tome is a fine examination of a little known aspect of Irish history. It tells the story of thousands of Irish who were forcibly "removed" from Ireland to work at hard labour in the Caribbean.

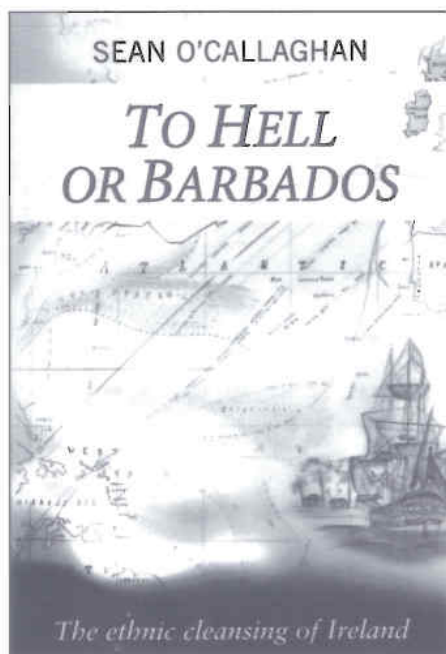
O'Callaghan begins his tale in the Cromwellian Years, the first half of the 1600's, and discusses the atrocities committed by this English leader in Ireland, and he adeptly challenges the view that Cromwell simply drove Irish Catholics into the far reaches of the West of Ireland. There was a concerted effort to drive the Irish beyond their homeland into hard labour in the New World. Cromwell and those who followed him realized that they could solve two problems in managing their Empire. Shipping the Irish to the Caribbean cleared Ireland of some of its "undesirables" as well as providing a solution to the labour problem in her other colonies. The author notes that the Welsh and Scots were also part of the cargo shipped to the Caribbean to work as slaves. Interestingly, Sean O'Callaghan informs the reader that information on this resettlement is scarce in British and Irish archives. He found much of the documentation by travelling to, and completing research in the libraries of the Caribbean, primarily Barbados.

O'Callaghan's work is interesting because it provides a retort to the popularly held belief that the Irish were brought to the New World only as indentured servants. He documents that the Irish held this status and also the status of slave. He describes the beatings, back breaking work in tropical heat and the sexual exploitation of slaves to produce new generations of slave labour on plantations and mansions in the Caribbean.

This work is of particular interest to me because it offers an historical backdrop to the relationship not between the British and Irish, but between Africans and the Irish. Both groups were brought to the New World and were exploited by the European powers of the time. O'Callaghan's work shows that these two groups had a common oppressor, but I also recommend another book that covers the topic and how there was competition and conflict between Africans and The Irish in the New World.

In Noel Ignatiev's book, *How the Irish Became White*, there is a detailed analysis of the relationship between these two groups and how they were played off against each other in terms of competing for a limited supply of unskilled jobs ...echoes of how British occupiers of Northern Ireland made sure that Irish Protestants and Catholics were set in competition in order to ensure that the British could maintain control of their neighbouring island.

To Hell or Barbados provides material to enter into a dialogue about the common heritage of slavery that African-Americans and Irish Americans have - a controversial dis-



cussion no doubt! Irish Americans, and all Celtic readers interested in this topic will no doubt once again ask the question, how is it that in all the time that we studied U.S. History, we never learned about the enslavement of the Irish, and other Celtic peoples, in the New World? As a wise old Xaverian brother who taught me high school Chemistry would say when such questions were asked, "You know doubt were absent that day!"

My only concerns about To Hell or Barbados is that at times the author fails to give a more complete explanation about the political conflicts in England leading up to the mass resettlement of the Irish. It would have been helpful if this background information were set in the broader context of European politics and religious struggle of the 17th-19th centuries. Also, at times, O'Callaghan is a bit too close to his subject and makes a reference to a geographic location without providing more information about where exactly it was located. Perhaps in a future edition some detailed maps could be included of Ireland, Jamaica, Barbados etc., so the reader can more easily follow the ramblings of the characters in this history. I, for one, am a firm believer in "indexing" maps so that if the author mentions a place in the text, it should appear on an accompanying map. Finally, illustrations and photographs (then and now) would also help the reader get a better idea of the locations discussed. In spite of these limitations, the book is an excellent source of information about slavery in the New World and the complex relationships among the European powers and their victims.

Terence P. Hannigan

Cofia 1404 -

'Year of Independence'

June 21 'Mid - Summer Day is 'Parliament Day 2004'.

In 2004 we mark, Commemorate and celebrate 600th anniversary of the establishment at about mid-summer of 1404, of a Welsh Parliament at Machynlleth and the Coronation there of Owain Glyndwr as Prince of Wales. Further, in 1404 both France and England recognised the sovereignty of Owain Glyndwr and thus also recognised the Independence of the Welsh Nation - Cenedl Glyndwr. Worthy of celebration by communities throughout Wales and Welsh exile community internationally

Commemorate Nationally with a Mid - Summer Machynlleth Medieval Mobilisation

LLYSGENHADAETH GLYNDWR. 41, HEOL CONWY, TREGANNA, CAERDYDD, CYMRU.

Tel: 029 2030 7018: m07952 523508 E-bost: sian@embassy-glyndwr.co.uk

Irish Language Support

One group taking positive action with regard to the pressures on the Irish speaking areas in Conamara (both from immigration and from within, see report on CL Seminar.) is one of the local Co-operatives, Comharchumann Shailerna. They have published a paper calling for the establishment of a Family Support Centre in the Conamara coastal region. A wide range of services are proposed but the key ones with regard to language support are to provide family services and supports through Irish, to contact young couples and talk to them directly on language choice, to provide pre-marriage courses and modules on language in the family, to advise couples wishing to cultivate Irish as a family language and to focus on helping returned immigrants and in-migrants develop their language skills.

Irish Laws Bilingual website

December also saw the launch of a new website www.achtanna.ie where all Acts of the Oireachtas passed since 1922 will be available in Irish and English. Gearóid Ó Casaide, Chief Editor of the Translation Section of the Dáil, said that Irish and English language versions of the Acts are interlinked so that it is possible to go directly from a clause of an Act in one language to the same clause in the other language. There is also a search facility based on words and sentences. In addition to ensuring that translators and drafters of official documents use the correct terminology it can effectively be used as a two way dictionary. The development of the site took two years and the work was carried out by an Irish company, Propylon, in close co-operation with the Translation Section.

International Branch Internet Site

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

e-mail International Branch Secretary
mlockerby@enterprise.net

Mec Vannin

<http://www.manxman.co.im/mecvan>

Mec Vannin is a republican independence party that has been operative in Mannin for over 40 years. A newlist goes to media and individuals throughout the world. Further information e-mail the list-owner at mec_vannin-owner@yahoo.co.uk with contact details.

Yahoo! Groups Links

To visit your group on the web, go to:

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

American Branch Internet Site

www.celticleague.org

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Contact

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E-mail General Secretary:

b.moffatt@advsys.co.im

E-mail Assistant G.S.

mkermode@mcb.net

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

ALBA. Iain Ramsay, 22 Denholme Gardens, Greenock, PA16 6RF, Scotland

BREIZH Jakez Derouet, 10 Verouri-Nevez, 29700 Plovelh (Plomelin), Breizh/Brittany.

CYMRU Robat ap Tomos, 11 Heol Gordon, Y Rhath, Caerdydd, CF2 3AJ.

ÉIRE Pádraigin Mylevreeshey 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath.

KERNOW Sue Bowen, Venten Lynnow, Trevalgar, Bos Castle, TL35 ORG.

MANNIN Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel. Tel: UK (0) 1624 843869.

ENGLAND BRANCH Florence Kenna, 72 Compton Street, London, EC1V 0BN.

USA Margaret Sexton, c/o P.O. Box 20153, Dag Hammarshjold Postal Centre, New York, NY 10017.

INTERNATIONAL BRANCH Mark Lockerby, 12 Magherdonnag, Pony Fields, Port Erin, IM9 6BY, Isle of Man.

GENERAL SECRETARY & P.R.O.

Bernard Moffatt, 11 Cleiy Rhennee, Kirk Michael, Mannin.

Tel - UK (0) 1624 877918

EDITOR Ms P. Bridson, 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.

E-mail: patriciabridson@eircom.net

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