

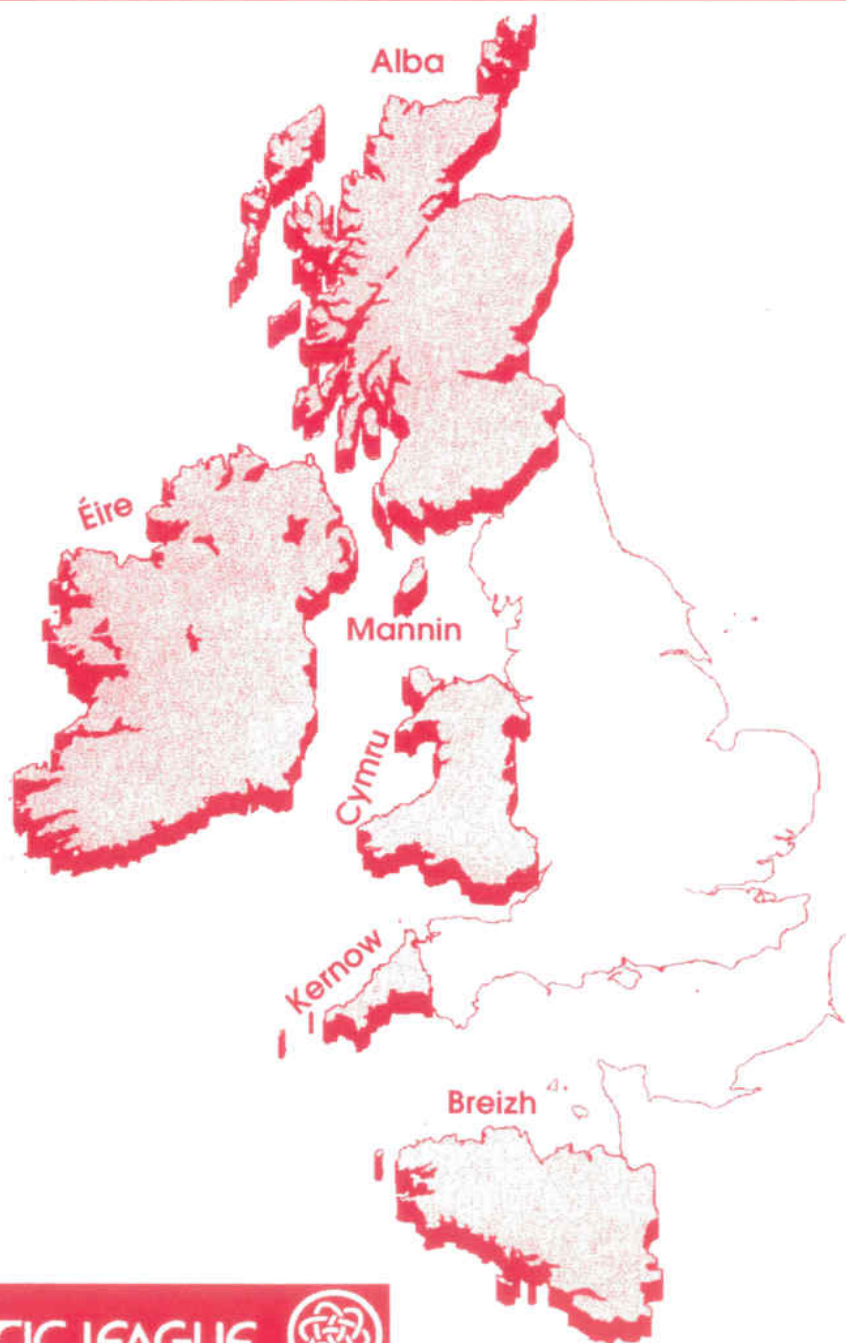
comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 126

Summer 2004

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CELTIC LEAGUE



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

Bile Na Gàidhlig

Seo dà rioghachd san Aonadh Eòrpa, can, A' Phortagail is A' phòlainn.

Dé chànan a aig a h-uile fear- no bean-teagaisg agus le sin aig a h-uile mac màthair, sa chiad dhùthaich Portagaileis agus sa Phòlainn, Pòleis.

"Gu nàdurach," theireadh gac'h duine sam bith.

Mata, bhiodh e nàdarach gu leoir nan robh teagasg is cluich t.re na Gàidhlig ri fhaotainn air son gach paisde eadar dà is cóig bliadhnanach a dh'aois sna croileagan agus teagasg troimh na Gàidhlig sna sgoiltean feadh Alba an deidh sin!

San sgoil bhiodh an leanabh ag ionnsachadh cànairean eile mar eiseimpleir, Beurla no Fraingeis no Gearmailteis no eile ach trolmh na Gàidhlig.

Bha cruinnachadh eadar Peadair Peacock, Ministear air son na Gàidhlig, agus mu fhichead neach à buidhnean mar Chli, Comhairle nam Sgoiltean Araich, Sabhal Mór Ostaig, Comann nam Pàrant, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Colaiste Caisteal Laòdhas agus ùghdarrasan ionadail ... agus an co-dhù-nadh aca? ...Dòchasach no Constructive ...dìreach Dòchasach.

Bithidh Bile na Gàidhlig seo air fhoillseachadh ré na làithean saora an samhraidh seo agus an deidh sin, bithidh e air beulaibh na Pàrlamaid Albannach agus bithidh e na Achd an ath shamhradh 2005.

Ach chan eil a h-uile duine cho dòchasach mu Bhile na Gàidhlig. Tha an dà ùghdarras ionadail, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar agus Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd le chèile, gu h-aona-ghuthach dhen bheachd nach eil na tha a' dol fada gu leòr airson cuideachadh leis a' Gàidhlig a shabhaladh à leabaibh bàis. Ach, chan eil an aon ùghdarras an deidh dubh-chàn fhaighinn an aghaidh air an Achd.

Cuir Breatainn ('s e sin ri ràdh, Sasainn agus na coloinidhean aica) a h-ainm ri Clàr na Charter na Roinn Eorpa air son Mion-chà-nanan agus Cànanan Roinneil, ceithir bliadhnanach sa chaid. Tha an t-ùghdarras'. Eòrpach seo mi-thoilichta leis nach deach adhartas gu leòr a dhèanamh air seanal ùr Gàidhlig digitaach a chruthachadh agus leis nach eil foghlam troimh mheadhan na Gàidhlig cho bitheanta 's a bu chòir dha a bhith.

Tha am ball-pàrlamaid Brian MacUilleim ari dòchas a' chuis a thogail ann an Taigh nan Cumantan ann an Lunnain agus ag ràdh gu bheil e air a bhith mothachail mu cho beag 's a thatar a' deanamh.

Ach, air an laimh eile, chunnaic sinn sanas

car dòchasach anns an "Stornoway Gazette" dhen 6mh Céitean 2004, ma bhios neach fileanta sa Gàidhlig le ceum no degree agus àrd ire sa Bheurla agus iosal matamataic; tha cùrsa fad 36 seachdainean a dh'uidheamaicheas an neach seo airson beatha mar neach-teagasg troimh mheadhan na Gàidhlig an compàirteachas eadar Institiùd Mile Bliadhna na Gaidhealtachd is nan Eilean agus Oilthigh Shrath Chluaidh. Air fiosrachadh cuir fòn gu 0845-272-3600 no www.uhi.ac.uk/pgde

Mur ail Parlamaid na h-Alba a' toirt Achd Ghàidhlig amach a tha a' tairgse teagasg troimh na Gàidhlig do gach leanabh air feadh Alba uila gu Iéir, feumaidh sinn dèanamh spairn gus am bithidh Achd a' tairgse teagasg mar sin. Nach d' thuirt Jack MacConnell aig . am Mòd Nàiseanta ann an Obainn am bliadhna gun robh a' Ghàidhlig cudtnromach dha'n dùthaich air fad!

Mu dheireadh thall, seo agaibh dàn a rinn GilLeasbuig MacMhuirich.

1. Cho blasda ri pòg mo leannain

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Cno blasda ri bias na meala

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Cho cùbhraidh ri fàileadh a ròis

Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

2. Nì sinn gàirdeachas ga leughadh Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Na faclan aice mar bheadradh mo
thasgaidh
Ar cànan 's ar ceòl

Rinn iad dearmad oirre naoi linntean
Ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Bhon d' thàinig Mairead nam Mallachd
Ar cànan 's ar ceòl

3. Ach tha an seòl-mara air tilleadh A thaobh ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

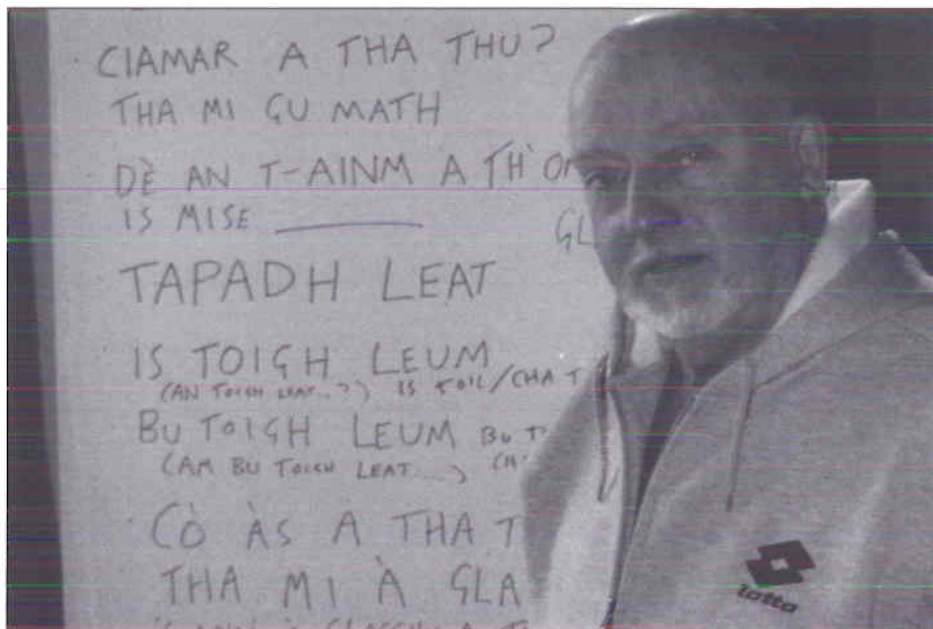
Mar traoghadh mail na mara
Ceannsaichidh ar cànan 's ar ceòl.

Bithidh i an àite na Beurla fhathast
Ar cànan 's ar ceòl!

Précis

Here we have a discussion on whether the forthcoming Gàidhlig Bill is as some say, constructive, or not going far enough to meet today's needs to make the right for having children taught through the language. Hodder and Stoughton has added a Dictionary to companion their Teach Yourself Gàidhlig. It covers almost all vocabulary required. Malcolm McLennan's could supply phonetics.

GilLeasbuig MacMhuirich (GilLeasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)



Pictured above is Iain Ramsay, CL Alba Branch Secretary, at the Colaiste naGael gathering in Powfoot Golf Club in Dumfriesshire. The occasion involving forty Irish and Gàidhlig speakers included classes, scenic tours, talks and workshops on the similarities between the two languages.

Busy Time for Alba Branch

The Celtic League in Scotland has had a busy time lately, being represented at quite a few commemorations and events which are a thorn in the flesh to the Brito /Anglo establishment.

On the 11th April at Cumbuslang, they attended the commemoration to that brave stand made in Dublin, the Easter Rising. Other events commemorating the Glen Coe massacre, the Declaration of Scottish Independence (6th April, 1320 at Arbroath Abbey) were also attended, and next year speakers from the Celtic League will be represented there.

Equally important was our invitation to attend and be represented at a conference held in Paisley University. This was under the heading 'What does EU enlargement really mean for Scotland?' Speakers from the respective countries spoke of the ties between them and Scotland and all were sure Scotland would benefit. The Celtic League representative pointed out to the new members, i.e. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Slovakia, that had they not, first got their independence, they would not have qualified for membership. And Scotland with a far higher population than most of them will still not be at the top table, only Ireland out of all the Celtic nations qualifies for full membership. Why? - Because she was a free and independent state. Only a country that has its flag flying outside the EU parliament has a proper say inside that parliament.

Estonia with a population of 1.4 million will have 6 MEPs whilst Scotland with 5 million only qualifies for 5 MEPs. Even smaller Malta with 0.4 million will have 6 MEPs, why because she is independent, only getting rid of corrupt British rule in the 60s. Scotland must, as the figures prove, get rid of the stigma of England's strangle hold, by obtaining independence, then and only then can she sit at the top tables of the world, i.e. the United Nations and in Brussels.

Alba branch representatives went on to attend Colaiste na nGael, a Gaelic College gathering, near the Scottish border town of Annan in May, from which we hope to report back to Carn readers in the next issue.

Iain Ramsay.

BBC TV Blunders!

The Scottish Branch of the Celtic League made strong protest to the BBC following a statement by a top police officer erroneously stated the flag of ETA, the Basque separatist movement, was being flown at an old firm football match.

The League pointed out that the flag was in fact the national flag of the Basque people and was flown outside the devolved Basque Parliament building every day. It was not the flag of any organisation, legal or otherwise. The station revealed later that it had received a number of protests concerning the matter and during the programme on the following night it admitted that there had been a mistake.

Seamus Philbin of the League made the protest to the BBC and the Branch Secretary followed it up with press releases which were fruitful in that not only was a reaction obtained, but the press asked for more information regarding the Celtic League in the future.

Every little helps! Don't let the Brits off the hook, they make boops like this everyday and only if it is pointed out will they be more cautious.

The English propaganda system is one of the worlds finest, but it can only be successful if you let it!

Iain Ramsay

NUCLEAR PLANT NO-FLY INCIDENT COVER-UP

There has been another near-miss incident involving a large military aircraft breaching a no-fly zone around a nuclear plant.

It was confirmed in early May that an RAF Hercules C130 transport plane breached the no-fly zone around the Chapelcross nuclear power station in Dumfries and Galloway on December 19, 2003.

The MoD is conducting an investigation but there is no explanation as to why the incident has been covered up for over four months.

The Celtic League have repeatedly called for more stringent application of low flying and exclusion prohibitions around such plants and in 2000, following an incident near the Torness Plant in Scotland, we called for an extension of the no-fly zone to 10 miles. The MoD response, after some prevarication during which other incidents occurred, was to extend the exclusion zone from 1 to 2 nautical miles (2.3 miles).

This latest incident reinforces the view of the Celtic League and others that current safety margins are not adequate. What will it take to make the MoD act more decisively - a disaster?

Bernard Moffatt

1916 Rising Commemorated in Scotland

On Easter Sunday a large crowd of Glasgow Irish, including representatives of the GAA, Gaelic League, Comhaltas Ceoltóir Éireann and a Republican colour party, assembled at Pearse Park GAA ground, for the annual 1916 commemoration ceremony organised by the Francis Hughes Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin, Glasgow.

The ceremony was chaired by Stephen Coyle who called on John Kelly to read the Proclamation. Joe McAleer then read the Republican Roll of Honour for Scotland. This was followed by Siobhán Kelly who laid a wreath at the Pearse monument on behalf of the Cumann. Pádraig Mac Giolla Uidhir then read the poem *The Rebel* by Patrick Pearse. Pat McAleer gave a spirited reading of the Leadership Statement.

The chairperson called for a minute's silence in memory of Ireland's patriot dead. Seán Feeney of the Gaelic League then recited a decade of the Rosary. The main speaker was Seán McGoldrick from County Sligo, who gave the oration on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin. In the course of his address, Seán reminded the gathering that next year will mark the centenary of the founding of Sinn Féin and although our central objectives have not yet been attained, Republicans have the resilience and strength to push on until victory.

'All across Ireland this afternoon, as well as here and in England and the US, Republicans are assembling with a common purpose behind the Tricolour at graves and monuments and hearing the 1916 Proclamation being read again,' he said. 'Most of the individual commemorations may be small respectable events in themselves but the combined effect of them is impressive. While we are in a minority there are more of us than we think. We are part of a national and international movement for freedom and liberation which has existed for centuries and which never gives up.'

The chairperson gave a warm welcome to representatives of the Scottish branch of the Celtic League, the SNP and the Scottish Republican Socialist Movement that were in attendance. Speaking on behalf of the SRS, Gerry MacGregor gave a rousing speech in solidarity with the Irish Republican Movement. The ceremony was then brought to a close with the singing of Amhran na bhFiann.

Stephen Coyle, Organiser.



Breizh



An iwerzhoneg en deskadurezh

Ganet eo ar gevredigezh Comhar na Muinteoiri Gaeilge e 1964. Skoazellet hag arc'hantet eo gant Bord na Gaeilge abaoe 1978 hag ivez gant Ministrerezh an Deskadurezh. Abaoe 1978 ar gevredigezh Gaelscoileanna he deus roet lañs d'un tregontad Skol Gentañ Derezh. Bugale a vez degaset enne tamm pe damm ingal gant 260 diwallerezh savet gant tud a-volontez vat. Skoazellet eo an holl frammadurioù-se gant Bord na Gaeilge abaoe 1978. Int-i o deus ur mell pouez war al lobby-ioù hag ar c'humuniezhoù lec'hel e-keñver an emzalc'h yezhel. E 1995 eo bet savet ar stadegoù diwezhañ A-bouez eo ar sifroù, drezo e c'heller keñveriañ stad an traoù etre ar skolioù holliwerzhoneg dre ar soubidigezh, da lavarout eo an A.I.S. (All Irish Schools) hag ar skolioù all.

| Kelenn an Iwerzhoneg e Skolioù ar C'hentañ Derezh | Niver ar skolioù | Niver ar c' h lasoù | Niver ar skolidi |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| a) gant an holl glasoù kaset nemet dre an iwerzh oneg | | | |
| ♦ er gouezelegvaoù | 113 | 370.. | 8.621 |
| ♦ lec'hioù all | 95 | 586 | 15.956 |
| b)gant un nebeud klasoù holliwerzhonek | 3 | | |
| ♦ niver hollek ar c'hlasoù | | 21 | 562 |
| c) gant u nan pe un nebeud klasoù e-lec'h ma vez kelennet un danvez dre an iwerzhoneg d' an nebeutañ | 1.049.. | 5.690 | 153.161 |
| d) gant an iwerzhoneg kelenn et nemet evel danvez | 1.941 | 10.626 | 287.558 |
| HOLLAD | 3.201 | 17.293. | 465.854 |

Steunviñ deskadurezh an iwerzhoneg a zo roll ar Stad. Hiziv an deiz n'eo ket muioc'h ranket an iwerzhoneg eget ar saozneg pe ar matematikoù! Kinniget eo an iwerzhoneg evel danvez da zarn brasañ ar vugale er skolioù-stad.

Skolioù stummadur ar gelennerien a lak an holl skolaerien da vezañ barrek da gelenn iwerzhoneg. Koulskoude d'ar c'houlz-mañ e vezer kentoc'h techet da c'hoari gant an divec'hiadurioù ha peurgetket en danvezioù teknikel.

An iwerzhoneg hag ar relijion

Eus tu ar c'hounid (hag a-bell) eo an Iliz Katolik-haRoman er 26 kontelezh ha n'he deus ket Hi ur politikerezh yezhel ofisiel. Evit gwir e vez anvet beleien iwerzhoneger er gouezelegvaoù. Dibab ar yezh a vez graet gant ar familhoù hag an dud o-unan evit lidañ ar badeziantoù, an euredoù, pe an obidoù. Dre ma vez desket er skol lidañ ar sakramantoù en iwerzhoneg d'ar vugale e vez o kreskiñ niver al lidoù er yezh-mañ. Dindan gwarez 'Glor na nGael', ur rann eus ar gevredigezh 'Cumann na Sagart', e vez broudet ar veleien d'ober gant an iwerzhoneg kement er Su hag en Norzh. Un emzalc'h war vat o deus ar skolioù prevez katolik e-keñver yezh vroadel gentañ ar vro.

Ret eo anzav memestra ez eus ivez un toulladig bihan a bastored protestant barrek d'ober lidoù en iwerzhoneg diouzh ar goulenn ha zoken e-touez ar re-se un nebeudig anezho er 6 kontelezh.

Gi Keltik

Précis:

Part 3 - This article continues to appraise the booklet 'Irish - Facing the Future' which deals with the history and present day position of the Irish Language (see Carn 124 and 125).

DILENNADEGOÙ KUZUL-RANNVRO

Dilaouenn e oa e Breizh evel e lec'h all, ul lodenn vras eus an dud gant politikerezh gouarnamant **Jean Pierre Raffarin** a-raok dilennadegoù rannvroel miz meurzh 2004. An dilennadegoù kentañ abaoe re 2002 e oa. Sur a-walc'h eo bet kreñvoc'h c'hoazh ar c'hoant mont a-enep ar gouarnamant zo bremañ dre ma oa aet kalz a dud da votiñ evit **Jacques Chirac** pa oa deuet a-benn Jean Marie le Pen da vont en eil tro. Marteze dilennadegoù Spagn penn-kentañ miz Meurzh goude gwalldaolioù Madrid o deus ivez gellet lakaat an dud da soñjal en-dro en divizoù n'o deus ket plijet dezho. N'eus forzh penaos, liammet start eo evel-just disoc'hoù ar votadegoù e Breizh ouzh ar votadegoù e peurrest Bro-C'hall ! Ur c'hoant enebiañ d'ar gouarnamant ouzhpennet d'al lezennoù nevez evit frammañ an dilennadegoù rannvro o deus krignet kalz galloudoù ar gostezenn zo e penn ar Stad hiziv.



Tennet eus
ar pennad
skrivet gant
Milio
Latimier e
Bremañ
N°270/
Courtesy
Bremañ.

Ranket en deus **Josselin de Rohan** (kostezenn dehoù) lezel renerezh Kuzul-rannvro da **Jean-Yves an Drian** (kostezenn gleiz) rag d'an 21 aviz Meurzh, 58.8% eus ar mouezhioù zo aet gant listenn Jean-Yves an Drian (PS) ha 41.2% zo aet gant listenn Josselin de Rohan (UMP-UDF). Met laouenoc'h c'hoazh e oa tud al listenn Ar Re C'hlas hag an **Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh** o deus dastumet 9.7% eus ar mouezhioù. Ar Re C'hlas-UDB o deus unanet o mouezhioù da listennad Jean-Yves an Drian en eil tro.

War-dro 25 sez a yafe gant an UMP-UDF, pa vefe gounezet 58 sez gant ar gostezenn gleiz, en zouez 3 evit tud eus an UDB.

Evel ma skrivas Milio Latimier en e bennad mat-tre embannet e **Bremañ** Niv. 270 « evit ul lodenn vras eus ar re a labour pemdez war ar yezh hag ar sevenadur e Breizh, n'eo ket bet ur c'holl bras ne yafe ket Josselin de

Dilennadegoù continued on page 5



New Breton Publisher

Born in Brittany, **Yoran Embanner (Yoran Editions)** has specialised in producing bilingual mini-dictionaries or 'Liliput dictionaries', humouristically translated into Breton as '**Liligast**'.

These pocket dictionaries (480 pages) contain about 4,000 words with phonetic translations for each word. They only measure 4.7 x 6.5 cm (1.7 x 2.4 inches), and retail at €6.

Of course, the publisher began with the Breton/French version in June 2002. Following its success, three other dictionaries were published in 2003: Breton/English, Breton/German, and Corsican/French.

The main aim of the editor is to defend all minority languages, and also to show how these languages have adapted to modern life so that everything can be said in Breton or in Catalan etc. Five new mini-dictionaries will be published in June 2004: Breton/Dutch, Breton/Italian, Breton/Spanish, Alsatian/French, and Savoyard/French. The intention is to put a minority language with a larger spoken language. A Cornish/English dictionary, prepared by Dr Ken George, will be published in spring 2005, along with: Alsatian/German, Corsican/Italian, Occitan/french, Occitan/Italian, and Rumantsch/French.

Contacts have been established with **Clì Na Gaidheil Ùra** in Inverness. The chairman Peadar Morgan is very interested in a Gaelic/English mini-dictionary but, unfortunately, for the time being, he hasn't found an author. In fact finding authors is a major difficulty for **Yoran Embanner**.

Contacts have also been made in Ireland... wait and see. In Wales, **Y Lolfa** printed a Welsh learner's dictionary competing with the '**Liligast**' one.

Well, good luck to Yoran Embanner in all its future projects.

Contact: Yoran Embanner SARL, 71 Hent Mespiolet, 29170 FOUENANT, Brittany via France.

Phone/Fax: 00 33 / 298 56 10 11. Mobile: 00 33 / 661 23 47 88

Dilennadegoù continued

Rohan da brezidant ar C'huzul-rannvro adarre. Dre chañs en deus Jean-Yves Cozan stourmet da zifenn teuliadoù ar brezhoneg ha sevenadur Breizh a-hed ar 6 vloaz tremenet ».

Evit gwir, ne vank ket ar skouerioù evit diskouez e oa Josselin de Rohan meur a wech pell diouzh ar stourm evit ar yezh, dre skouer war dachenn ar skolioù **Diwan**, an embann brezhonek, ar c'helenn divyezhek, an emglev sinet gant gouarnamant Kembre lec'h ma vanke ar skouerenn e brezhoneg...

Un darvoud istorel eo disoc'h an dilennadegoù-se evit meur a dra. Ar wech kentañ eo evit ar C'huzul-rannvro bezañ renet gant tud eus ar gostezenn gleiz, abaoe ma'z eo bet krouet ar C'huzulioù-rannvro e 1986. Met ar pezh zo a-bouez evit an holl re kizidik da yezh ha sevenadur Breizh, eo gwelet dilennidi eus an UDB o vont da guzulierien-rannvro. Tud all tomm ouzh ar brezhoneg a gaver e touez ar guzulierien-rannvro ivez. Spi zo da gaout e raint kinnigoù talvoudus evit buhez ha dazont ar yezh er mizioù da zont.

Summary:

In Brittany, as elsewhere in France, people were dissatisfied with the government of Jean Pierre Raffarin. They proved it during the French regional elections, the first elections since 2002 which saw the victory of Jacques Chirac. The electors have perhaps been influenced by the Spanish elections. The Socialist Jean-Yves Le Drian won the regional elections in Brittany. In the second turn the Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh (UDB), the autonomist party for Brittany and the Greens gave their voices to the Socialists led by Jean-Yves Le Drian. These are historical results. For the first time since its creation in 1986 Brittany will be governed by the Left and there will be 3 members of the UDB in the Regional Council and other councillors among the Socialists and the Greens are also known for their attachment to the Breton language and culture. There is hope that they will make good and constructive propositions for the future of the language.

José CALVETE

Regional Elections: The 'Duke' is gone!

This spring saw the left in Brittany make the most significant gains in local elections since World War II. It was brought about by a 'dream' alliance of the Greens and the nationalist UDB (Unvaniezh Demokratel Breizh) in the elections for the Council of Brittany.

There are economic problems in the French state at present. France is struggling to comply with the Maastricht treaty constraints (3% deficit/GNP). There was unrest this year in the civil service sector and among the farmers, these demonstrations giving a special significance to these mid-term elections.

The French government of Jean-Pierre Raffarin aimed to introduce a degree of devolution, but the President of the French parliament, Jean-Louis Debré, a Gaullist friend of Jacques Chirac, is opposed to even the tiniest move towards devolution.

The Parti Socialiste (PS) focused their campaign against the "Chirac-Raffarin" team, with J. Chirac and his best political friend Al. Juppe facing accusations of alleged corruption. In Brittany this socialist strategy was very effective. The leader of the right wing in this election in Brittany was the jacobin Gaullist 'Duke' Josselin de Rohan - anti-devolution, anti-Europe, against the European Charter for Lesser Used Languages. De Rohan was largely responsible for the deprivation of money

from the Diwan schools. He was seen as spending most of his time in Paris while his main opponent, J-Y. LeDrian from An Oriant, venue of the InterCeltic Festival, was able to project a more Breton image (yellow sailing coat etc.).

The success of J-Y. LeDrian in this election was helped by his background in the Christian JOC, whence the CFDT, a Christian trade union strong in the farming industry, gave him support. Moreover, he is a leader of Jacques Delors's "club de l'Europe". LeDrian was also active in oil spill campaigns like that of the Erika in 1999 on the south Breton coast. And it was because of Breton water pollution issues (oil, nitrates, rubbish) that the Greens formed an alliance with the UDB. Together they polled 10% of the vote and gained a share of the power. It is the first time that there has been UDB representation in the Council of Brittany. Christian Guyonvarc'h of the UDB becomes Vice-president, in charge of European and international affairs. By virtue of a new electoral law, the UDB has two elected women - Mona Bras (Gwengamp) and Naig Ar Gars (Kemper-Pluguen).

We wish success to the Breton left in the creation of a new Breton economic and social model.

Gi Keltiek

FIRST MINISTER OF WALES VISITS BRITTANY

Rhodri Morgan AC, Prime Minister of Cymru, came to Breizh at the beginning of this year where he was welcomed by Ao. Jo'sselin de Rohan, the then President of Breizh. An agreement was signed in order to develop formal relations between Breizh and Cymru. Rhodri Morgan said that there are no two other regions in Europe with so many reasons to work together. Breizh and Cymru share elements of common history and common modern-day problems too, so it's obvious that they should prepare for the future together. The agreement covers nine areas such as business; tourism, and agriculture. This year there will be Welsh representation at the international Agricultural Show in Roazhon. There will also be cultural programmes, in order to help both languages, and it was agreed that MPs from both sides would meet once a year.

This agreement is written in Welsh, English, and French!!! "It's not in the Breton language because French law does not allow it", said President de Rohan...



From left to right, Rhodri Morgan, Josselin de Rohan (President of the Conseil Régional de Bretagne at the time) Lena Louarn, President of Ofis ar Brezhoneg (Welcoming Rhodri Morgan to Breizh in Welsh).

Rhodri Morgan visited a few symbolic places like a farm, the parliament of Breizh and Ofis ar Brezhoneg (the bureau for developing Breton) whose President, Lena Louarn, welcomed him

in Cymraeg and told him about the situation of the Breton language today.

Gi Keltik (courtesy Bremañ)

Douarnenez Film Festival

The 27th Douarnenez Film Festival will take place from the 17th to the 24th of August. It will be dedicated to the Belgians. Not to Belgium, but to the Belgians!

It has been decided to show in the same place and at the same time films in Flemish and in French, which is not usual in Belgium. On the both sides of the linguistic border, which the Belgians themselves often make fun, there are a lot of treasures to discover. There are also many qualities which may be pleasant to us: satire, a surrealist point of view, freelance accents, but also a very deep social commitment, a way to film the other which may be particularly touching.

That may be seen in the titles of the films: *Misère au Borinage* ("Misery in the Borinage") by Henri Storck and Joris Ivens, *Klinkaert and Déjà s'envole la fleur maigre* ("Already is flowing away the thin flower") by Paul Meyer, *Les Amis du plaisir* ("The Friends of pleasure") by Luc de Heusch, *L'Homme au crâne rasé* ("The Man with the shaven head") by André Delvaux, a great national filmmaker if there is one, *Daens* by Stijn Coninx, *Toto le héros* ("Toto the hero") by Jaco Van Dormael, *La Raison du plus fort*

("The reason of the strongest") by Patric Jean, *Taxandria* or *Harpya* by Raoul Servais. Other names will also appear like those of Chantal Akerman, Boris Lehman, and the Dardenne brothers, and also those of young talented men of cartoon film workshops like *Camera enfants admis* ("Camera children admitted") or of companies like *Wallonie Images Production* ("Wallonia Pictures Production") in Liège, *Fugitive Cinéma* of Robbe de Hert in Antwerp, or the CBA in Brussels.

There will not be enough film showings to do justice to the whole of Belgian creativity, so there are also proposed literary meetings with the writer Jef Geeraerts, the Flemish review *Septentrion* (North), with alternative comics in French, exhibitions with the surrealist André Stas and associates, a passionately Belgian bookshop, wild concerts, debates, and palavers about the moods of this little funny country about which we like nothing more than its indefatigable humour!

There will also other sections. There will be one dedicated to new Breton films, in competition or not, one to the unknown treasures of the Breton Film-library and one

to films the directors of which are promoted by the Festival. There will a section about Chechnia with Russian films and documentary films about the Chechen people, their culture, their fight, their hopes. In another one, called the Big Tribe, there will be an opportunity to see recent films of other minorities invited to Douarnenez in the past. And there will also be screenings and workshops for children about cartoon films.

Yves Jardin

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BRETON PRISONERS SENTENCED

Eleven Bretons were brought before the "anti - terrorist High Court in Paris in March charged with being members of the Breton Republican Army and of participating in an attack causing the death of a young woman in a Mac Donald's Restaurant. In fact the inquiry never determined who the author of this attack was - the only attack with a victim attributed to the ARB. The trial was very political and newspapers and TV portrayed them as authors or accomplices in this death.

Verdicts were less severe than the 11 to 18 years sought by the prosecution. Their sentences however ranged from 3 years to 11 years in prison.

Four were acquitted, although they had been imprisoned during the inquiry:

Jérôme BOUTHIER (2 years 6 months of detention), Paskal SCATTOLIN (6 months), Solenn GEORGEAULT (2 months), Yann-Hervé SOLON (1 month). Unfortunately the Parquet Général referred charges against Gaël Roblin, Paskal Laizé and Kristian Georgeault. They will be judged again in Paris.

The State still considers them to be accomplices in the Mac Donald's attack, although no evidence has yet been found as to who planned it. During the inquiry the motive used to keep Gaël ROBLIN in detention was that he was the spokesperson of a Breton liberation party EMGANN. This movement is legal putting up candidates for election. Gaël ROBLIN was in fact a candidate in an election during his imprisonment. The political character of the

trial was therefore evident, the accused were seen as terrorists and not as political prisoners.

Two of the prisoners were sick and had always difficulties to obtain good medical care in detention. Gaël ROBLIN was taken by policemen to the funeral of his father several months ago, but he was not able to meet his family nor was he allowed to attend his father's burial in the cemetery. During their incarceration since 1999, there were many manifestations of support for the defendants in Brittany. Just prior to the trial a huge demonstration took place in Nantes in support of the prisoners demanding the same

human rights as those recognized in other European regions.

The defence in justice of all these persons has been expensive. An association SKOAZELL VREIZH has collected the money to finance the defence of nine defendants who asked the association to assist. By themselves Bretons and their families would not have been able to afford the expense of this trial: Four of them had been in held in detention for nearly four years before coming to trial.

Loik Chapel

See also the Celtica section in this issue.



Gaël ROBLIN, taken by policemen to the funeral of his father several months ago.



**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. Thei 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 prents 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 BITTANY WITHOUT BRETON

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

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

A new ship for Inter Celtic crossings!

With its first voyage on the 2nd of April, the Pont-Aven, the new ship of the Breton company Brittany Ferries, reduces considerably the travel time between Rosko in Brittany and Cork in Ireland, for the benefit of Breton lovers of the Emerald Isle and fans of inter Celtic crossings.

The Pont-Aven is the finest, and most spacious of the *eight* ships of the Brittany Ferries fleet of which Bro-Leon can be proud; as the flagship of the Breton ship-owners it ranks amongst the most modern of passenger ships, along with others constructed at the shipyards of Saint-Nazer. It is 185m long and can take 2400 passengers. With a cruising speed of 27 knots, the Pont-Aven can complete the Rosko-Cork voyage in only 10h 30m.

The first voyage from Breizh to Éire on April 2nd with 1500 passengers was accompanied by inter Celtic ceremonies in both Rosko and Cork, while the onboard live entertainment included the group Cap Caval performing music of Alan Stivell.

Thierry JIGOREL



Cymru



Gyl Ffilmiau Douarnenez

Cynhelir 27fed Gyl Ffilmiau Douarnenez o'r 17eg i'r 24ain Awst. Bydd yn canolbwyntio ar Wledydd Belg. Nid Gwlad Belg, ond Gwledydd Belg!

Penderfynwyd dangos yn yr un lle ac ar yr un pryd ffilmiau yn Iseldireg/Fflemeg ac yn Ffrangeg, sydd ddim yn arfer yng Ngwlad Belg. Mae trysorau i'w darganfod ar y ddwy ochr i'r ffin ieithyddol, sydd yn rhoi syniad o agweddau diddorol y Belgiaid - y ddychan, ond hefyd y gydwybod gymdeithasol ddofn.

Gellir gweld hyn yn nheitlau'r ffilmiau: *Misère au Borinage* ("Galar yn y Borinage") gan Henri Storck ac Joris Ivens, *Klinkaert a Déjà s'envole la fleur maigre* ("Yn barod mae'r blodeuyn tila yn ehedeg i ffwrdd") gan Paul Meyer, *Les Amis du plaisir* ("Cyfeillion Pleser") gan Luc de Heusch, *L'Homme au crâne rasé* ("Dyn y pen wedi'i eillio") gan André Delvaux, gwneuthurwr ffilmiau mawr cenedlaethol os oes un, *Daens* gan Stijn Coninx, *Toto le héros* ("Toto yr arwr") gan Jaco Van Dormael, *La Raison du plus fort* ("Cyfiawnhad y Cryfaf") gan Patric Jean, *Taxandria* neu *Harpya* gan Raoul Servais. Gwelir enwau eraill fel Chantal Akerman, Boris Lehman, a'r brodyr Dardenne, a hefyd enwau dynion ifainc talentog o weithdai ffilmiau cartn *Camera*

enfants admis ("Mynediad i blant camera") neu gwmnïau fel *Wallonie Images Production* o Liège, *Fugitive Cinéma* Robbe de Hert o Antwerpen, neu'r *CBA* ym Mrwsel.

Ni fydd cyfle ddangos digon o ffilmiau i wneud cyfiawnder â phob agwedd o greadigrwydd Gwlad Belg, felly mae cyfarfodydd llenyddol ar y gweill gyda'r awdur Jef Geeraerts, pobl y cylchgrawn Fflemeg *Septentrion*, arddangosfa o waith y darluniwr André Stas, siop lyfrau 'Belgaidd' dros ben, cyngherddau gwyllt, a thrafodaethau am y wlad fach ddigrif hon gyda'i hiwmor diflino.

Bydd adrannau eraill i'r yl hefyd - un am ffilmiau Llydewig newydd, un am lyfrgell ffilmiau Llydaw, ac un am wlad Chechnya gyda ffilmiau Rwsieg am bobl Chechnya, eu diwylliant, eu brwydr, a'u gobeithion. Mewn adran arall bydd cyfle i weld ffilmiau diweddar lleiafrifoedd eraill a wahoddwyd i Douarnenez yn y gorffennol. A bydd dangos ffilmiau a gweithdai i blant am ffilmiau cartn.

Précis:

The Douarnenez Film Festival, to be held on the 17th-24th August, will this year be dedicated to the Flemish and French cultures of Belgium.

End of Welsh commentary

The Welsh Football Association have signed a contract with Sky TV that gives Sky exclusive rights to the live televising of Wales's international soccer matches. Only recorded highlights will be available on S4C and BBC. As well as depriving those who do not pay the extra to receive Sky's satellite service of the right to watch Wales play live, this means an end to live commentary in Welsh which up to now has been available on S4C. It will be a return to the old pre-S4C days when we used to watch games on a television with the sound turned down and a radio providing the Welsh commentary from Radio Cymru!

Robat ap Tomos

Plaid MP Tops 'Hardest Working' League

Adam Price, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, has for the second successive Parliamentary year topped the league of hardest working local MPs. During the course of the year he asked 181 parliamentary questions, participated in 21 debates and had a voting record of 73%. He significantly outperformed Labour MPs based in South West Wales e.g. Denzil Davies (Llanelli) asked a mere 15 Questions, and participated in 13 debates. Constituency party chairman Cllr Tyssul Evans said "As a constituency party we are delighted with the hard work of our MP and AC. Only last month Rhodri Glyn Thomas AC (Plaid Assembly member for same constituency) was officially recognised as the hardest working constituency based AC. We have always fought this seat on the basis of working hard for the interests of the constituency in London, rather than working for the interests of London in the constituency. The electors of Carmarthen East & Dinefwr will have a clear choice at next year's General election - a vote for a devoted and hard working constituency focused Plaid Cymru MP or a poodle for London New Labour."

CYMRU in Brief

English signs in Cardiff

Cymdeithas yr Iaith in Cardiff have taken action against the continuing presence of road signs and other public signs in English only, some of which are new signs erected by Cardiff Council in contravention of the council's language plan. Special new stickers were produced and these are being stuck onto offending signs and notices in the capital.



'Cell Caerdydd at work'

REPORT RECOMMENDS MORE POWERS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A report commissioned by the London government to examine the future of the devolution settlement in Wales has recommended significantly greater powers to be devolved from the London parliament to the National Assembly in Cardiff. The Richard report was published in April after two years' work. Chaired by the Labour peer Lord Ivor Richard of Ammanford, it includes calls for the Assembly to be given lawmaking powers in devolved areas such as health and education by 2011. It also recommends increasing the number of ACs from 60 to 80 because of the extra responsibilities which would come with additional powers. The report has gone much further than political observers had expected, recommending that a process of change should begin without delay. But there is no guarantee that all or some of the report's recommendations will be implemented, and the process could take several years.

The report hints that tax-raising powers may be desirable, without endorsing them. It also calls for the Assembly to use its current powers fully and more effectively, and says ministers should continue to devolve powers from Westminster. The report says giving the Assembly more powers would not necessarily demand a referendum but that the final decision on such a matter should be left to the English Parliament. The report sets out a timetable for changes, beginning next year with a new draft Government of Wales Bill, immediately after the Westminster general election. The bill would be introduced to parliament in 2007, the same year as the next Assembly elections, and be activated in 2008, triggering constituency reviews by the Boundary Commission.

The report also recommends a change in the voting system for the Assembly, from the current first-past-the-post (40 seats) with closed regional top-up lists (for the other 20). The present system has attracted opposition from the Labour party because it deprives them of the majority of seats they would gain under a Westminster-style first-past-the-post system (one member per constituency, electors have only one vote), and from others who see closed top-up lists of the second vote (electors vote for a list of candidates whose sequence has been decided by the parties) allowing the parties rather than the electors to decide who will be ACs. The report recommends that elections would be carried out by the single transferable vote (STV) system of proportional representation with multi-member constituencies, as operates in Ireland, with between four and six ACs per constituency. That suggests anything between 13 and 20

constituencies for the Assembly, as opposed to the 40 which elect MPs to Westminster and presently elect two thirds of the ACs to Cardiff Bay. The STV system would probably give fairer proportional representation to the parties than at present. It was predictably condemned by Labour.

Responding to the report for Plaid Cymru in a joint statement, party president Dafydd Iwan, Assembly leader Ieuan Wyn Jones AC, and parliamentary leader Elfyn Llwyd MP welcomed the move towards primary law making powers, but said the report had "missed an opportunity to be even more radical in its approach." Plaid had called for reform of the Barnett formula - which decides how much money Wales gets from Westminster - and tax-varying powers. "Without these fundamental and necessary reforms, Wales will still have second class powers and will not be able to move forward with confidence," the Plaid leader said. "We cannot move forward on improving our public services or our economic performance without the tools to do the job. We must go beyond Richard if we are to release the full potential of our nation - that's why we are demanding Richard Plus - in other words a proper Parliament - only the best will do for Wales."

Among the most hostile responses to the report was that from Welsh Labour Westminster MPs who fear that an increase in the powers of the Assembly will strengthen the case for a reduction in their numbers. The MPs for Ogwr, Wrecsam, and Blaenau Gwent called for another devolution referendum on the proposed changes with Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, saying that the referendum should include a second question giving voters the option of scrapping the assembly. Secretary of State for Wales Peter Hain was little better, warning that the report would have to win the backing of both Westminster and Cardiff Bay before its recommendations went any further, and that a referendum would be required on a Scottish-style body. The idea of using a referendum on these changes as an opportunity to abolish the Assembly via a second question was endorsed by English Tory MP spokesmen on Wales (there are no Tory MPs in Wales) such as former Shadow Welsh Secretary Nigel Evans.

Indeed, the report caused the re-emergence of the no-compromise unionist face of the Tories, with their leader in Wales, Nick Bourne AC, repeating their opposition to the granting of lawmaking and tax-raising powers and Shadow Welsh Secretary Bill Wiggin, an English MP, saying: "If the outcome of a referendum were positive and included an



Dafydd Iwan

increase in the number of ACs, we believe a reduction in the number of Welsh MPs would be essential." (In whose interests?)

Responses to the report from organisations other than unionist parties were generally favourable. Farmers' Union of Wales president Gareth Vaughan said the report "reflects many of the views expressed by the FUW. I'm particularly pleased that the commission is recommending lawmaking functions which would bring the powers of the National Assembly closer in line with those already enjoyed by Scotland and Northern Ireland." A group of Welsh peers united to welcome the ideas, and said they needed "a swift and positive response". The peers, including former Welsh Lib Dem. leader Alex Carlile, said "Richard's searching analysis can make Welsh devolution a reality. It can match the progress of Scotland and turn Wales into a vibrant democracy. At present, we have only a flawed and feeble version of the old Victorian tag - 'For Wales, see England.' Wales deserves better, and Richard now provides the opportunity for action." Cymdeithas yr Iaith chairman Huw Lewis said "Who would seriously suggest that Westminster knew better than the elected representatives of Wales how our own national language should be developed? The next obvious step is that we should legislate in Wales for the future of our education system - which is different from the system in the other countries of Britain, and requires democratic control."

It is of concern that some members of the general public asked about the proposals expressed opposition to an extension of the Assembly's proposals on the basis of Labour's uninspired money-wasting performance in Cardiff Bay up to now. Labour has been very successful in persuading many people to attribute Labour's (intentional?) misrule in Cardiff Bay to the principle of devolution. With their support from London and their control of the media they are able to keep people from supporting more devolution and the main opposition party, Plaid Cymru, who are most identified with it, by blaming their own misdeeds on their opponents.

Robat ap Tomos

"If it's good for them, why is it wrong for us"

In a speech given at the Spring Conference, the Leader of Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales, Davydd Iwan, reiterated his party's commitment to Welsh independence.

Iwan stated that it was time for Wales to build a "new relationship" with England, arguing that "When Wales, Scotland and England become politically independent our relationship will continue to be based on interdependence and cooperation, but the relationship will be based on equality. Equal nations working together." "What we are saying, loud and clear, is that it was time we entered into a new relationship with England and the other countries of Britain.

"England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and indeed the Isle of Mann and Cornwall if they so wish, we are all national partners in a

collection of islands which have a long and glorious, sometimes turbulent, sometimes inglorious history; it is time for us to redefine the way our partnership works. "Size is of no consequence; if we are serious about the nationality of Wales, now is the time to turn our words into reality".

In direct comparison with the ascension states, Iwan stated that it was "unimaginative" to argue that other nations in Europe like Malta, Estonia and Lithuania could become full members of the EU on 1st May, but Wales could not. "If independence is the key to freedom in Slovenia, if independence is the key to prosperity in Ireland and if independence is the key to new prospects for Latvia, then independence is the right goal for Wales too"

Welsh election observers harassed in Turkey

The treatment given to Welsh election observers in Turkey in March is further evidence of the unsuitability of this repressive state for European Union membership, in addition to its location mainly in Asia. A delegation had travelled to Turkey to monitor local elections on the 28th March. The observers included Plaid Cymru member of the European Parliament Eurig Wyn, and European election candidate Eilian Williams from Ynys Môn. Before leaving, Eurig Wyn had said "The future of the Kurds living in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria is crucial to any meaningful peace process in the Middle East as well as to Turkish aspirations to join the EU. Our role will be to ensure the elections are free and fair."

However, the observers, representing political groups and trade unions, were forbidden from entering polling stations in east Turkey during the elections, amidst accusations of abusive behaviour by police. It emerged later that there had been allegations that up to one hundred people, who had been seeking to vote, may have been detained by the authorities. These allegations are being reviewed by the Human Rights Association.

Speaking from Diyarbakir, a large town in the heart of Turkish Kurdistan, Mr Wyn said that he would be writing immediately to Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament, with a full dossier setting out all the facts of the incident. He stated "I shall be calling on the European Parliament to condemn the Turkish government - who are applicants for membership of the European Union - for this violation of the democratic process."

The Turkish government have given some support to the Blair-Bush neo-conservative axis, and consequently New Labour is leading supporters of the Turkish bid for EU membership.

Take pressure off first-time buyers, says Plaid

Plaid Cymru MPs tabled amendments to the Chancellor's budget in March calling on the Government to abolish stamp duty for all first-time buyers, making it easier for them to step on to the property ladder. This followed a report from Bradford & Bingley building society which shows that first-time buyers are getting older and more likely to ask friends and family for financial help. The report shows that one quarter of first-time buyers take between four and six years to buy their first home. It is estimated that the average first-time buyer pays over £1,000 in stamp duty alone and Wales's first-time buyers are the oldest in the state with an average age of 36. Adam Price MP, Plaid Cymru's parliamentary spokesperson on the economy, said "More than three quarters of towns in Britain are now unaffordable for first-time buyers. This is a drastic situation which needs immediate attention. The Chancellor's proposals in his budget

last week will only serve to drive up the price of houses. Plaid Cymru believe that exempting first-time buyers from having to pay stamp duty will help to take the pressure off those finding it difficult to buy their first home."

Plaid parliamentary leader Elfyn Llwyd MP had earlier, on addressing the Welsh Grand Committee, appealed for Welsh MPs to put aside party politics and to come together to address the issue of the lack of affordable housing in Wales.

The Plaid Cymru MPs together with their colleagues in the SNP also tabled an amendment calling on the Government to hold investigations into lowering the rate of corporation tax in Wales and Scotland. These proposals were included in Plaid Cymru's alternative budget 2004.

Robat ap Tomos

Cymru Annibynnol - A Brief History of the recent Republican revival in Wales

Cymru Annibynnol (Independent Wales) was launched in 2000 as a protest against census 2001 lack of Welsh tick box. It gained significant publicity and momentum in a relatively short period of time.

The party's structure was unprepared to accommodate the rapid growth in membership and it was restructured in autumn 2002. A new constitution was launched and the party regrouped for the 2003 National Assembly elections.

Despite being totally ignored (other than occasionally ridiculed) by the British state media apparatus, the party picked up 6,466 votes throughout Wales on the regional lists - proving that the Welsh nation is not totally brainwashed into servitude. Despite relentless conditioning by Anglo-British propaganda through TV, newspapers, radio, etc., a substantial number of people are still prepared to support the creation of a Welsh Free State.

It also showed that thousands of people around Wales were prepared to support a Welsh Republican alternative without being allowed to know anything about it or its policies. That's conviction that no other party can boast of.

The election also revealed that active support for Welsh Republicanism is evenly spread throughout the nation, north, south, east and west - not isolated in so-called 'Welsh-speaking heartlands' as the Anglo-British media would have us believe.

Mind you, the 38% voter turnout in the National Assembly elections was an all time low. Labour now rules our National Assembly with a majority legitimised by only around 15% of the eligible vote. The UK version of 'democracy', along with political parties in general, has fallen into disrepute. As the saying goes...

"Where there is no democracy freedom will perish. Where there is sham democracy freedom will perish even faster."

Cymru Annibynnol is currently going through internal consultation arising from the realisation that the system we call 'democracy' must undergo radical change if it is to regain public credibility. Early responses indicate that greater grassroots action and a 'power back to the people' on all tiers of governance is what is needed. Look forward to a summer re-launch of the party possibly at the Eisteddfod in Newport this year.

Welsh Republicans are on the road to local empowerment and national freedom. There is no turning back this time.

Simon Gruffydd Foster

British Free Trade: Wales gives, England takes – for free!

Water is life and by natural right belongs to the country it falls on. But not in Wales. In 1989 Welsh water was 'privatised' – which means that people (usually men) possessing fancy pieces paper with numbers and text, backed by Bankers, English Law, the Police (and if need be, the British Army), have become the 'owners' of our water resources.

Predictably, things have gone downhill since then. Our most essential and valuable resource became the plaything of transnational corporate power games. The Welsh nation bowed to its new usurper paying tribute in the form of sky-high water bills.

Ten years on, Welsh water's 'owner' Hyder was facing bankruptcy. That's about all we were told as a hasty rescue package was put together. But the facts tell a different story.

Hyder, means 'confidence' in Welsh – the name being little short of a confidence trick. Hyder was not a Welsh company at all. Not even remotely. It was a trading name for an arm of Western Power Distribution, an American-controlled conglomerate who had picked up our water resources as part of its public utilities portfolio.

To add injury to insult, Hyder's Welsh water business was always profitable. It was Western Power Distribution's bad investments in other business ventures that drove it into bankruptcy. The verdict was clear: Privatisation of essential resources like water is not simply bad, it's a nightmare. Not that the British media would ever report this glaring fact.

To prop up the privatisation agenda, the successor to the spectacular flop called Hyder was billed as a "not-for-profit Welsh solution" calling itself Glas Cymru, literally translated as 'Blue Wales'. But Glas Cymru's Welsh credentials is at best window-dressing. With regards to its 'not-for-profit' spin, the reality is that just about everybody involved Welsh water makes a decent profit – except the Welsh.

Glas Cymru's not-for-profit status is little short deceitful spin. Basically, all it meant is that the money to bail out Hyder's bad debts was borrowed rather financed through selling shares. This deal results in £85 million (or £67 of each and every water bill) in interest payments. In other words, this 'Welsh solution' to managing our water is now resulting in an £85 million a year transfer from Wales to the banking sector whose only contribution has been to type in a few numbers into electronic accounts. It also means that a good proportion of our money that goes to water bills is actually paying of bad debts left by an American company. It's a scam of mega proportions. Unfortunately, under English Law, it's legal.

The 'Welsh' dimension to Glas Cymru is in the selection its 'members'. It's headed by Lord Burns, a favourite of the Thatcher era (former Treasury Permanent Secretary) who as the non-executive chairman, earns £140,000 a year for a position of little if any responsibility and free from liability. Nice job if you can get it. Ditto for other Welsh members, all selected from the Welsh or British upper crust, many of whom are directly connected to the banking sector. A 'Welsh' solution.

Predictably, 'Welsh' Labour was pleased. "I particularly welcome the prospect of Welsh Water being owned once again by a company based, managed and controlled from Wales, based on a principle originated in Wales," said Prif Weinidog Rhodri Morgan.

Although Glas Cymru claims to own and control Welsh water resources, it doesn't actually run the industry. The real work is contracted out to 'very-much-for-profit' companies. Although they still use the 'Dwr Cymru Welsh Water' tag, the fact is that the companies squeezing a profit out of us for supplying us with our own water are not Welsh at all. The business of maintaining the water supply network is contracted out to United Utilities, a profit-making English company. Customer service functions are contracted out to profit-making Thames Water, an English subsidiary of a German-owned conglomerate RWE. Other companies, such as Wessex Water, also take a slice of the pie. Unravel the 'Welsh not-for-profit' spin and we discover exactly the opposite.

So where is our national party Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales in this picture? Should they not be screaming from the rooftops and demanding change to this farce called privatisation? Yes, they should – but no, they are not. Incredibly, Plaid's policy on Water was written by a member of Glas Cymru (who also doubles as a Plaid member). Accordingly it states, without any qualification or backing evidence,

"We need to recognise that re-nationalisation [of the water industry] is neither feasible or necessarily in the interest of Wales and its various stakeholders."

What it neglects to point out is that Welsh water resources have never been nationalised in the genuine sense – owned by Wales for the Welsh. 'Nationalisation' has always meant controlled by the British State thoroughly dominated by English interests. The policy also fails to explain who the 'various stakeholders' are but we can assume they are all the bodies, including members of Glas Cymru, who are pocketing tidy sums of money from their involvement.

With regards to the prospect of Welsh

companies managing their own water resources, the paper takes a familiar ploy in talking us down and virtually dismissing Wales' ability to undertake such operations. "The obstacle", it states, "will be in developing a management, technical and systems infrastructure comparable with those developed by incumbent operators."

No, us Welshies could never manage our own resources as good as the English and Germans do it for us!

The policy paper is warmly endorsed by Arweinydd y blaid Ieuan Wyn Jones who writes in the Forward that the paper is, "a significant event in the evolution of party policy." Significant indeed. Who is left to champion natural justice for Wales if not the so-called 'Party of Wales'?

The only saving grace in the policy paper is a meek suggestion that perhaps we should be seeking some return for the water transported to England. Approximately half of all Welsh water supplies is exported to England for the grand sum of £0. They get our water; we don't even get a thank you in return. It's the British version of free trade. Wales gives, England takes – for free.

Not only that, average domestic water bills in England are substantially lower than in Wales. The average Welsh bill is £278 while the English counterpart is around £228 – a £50 difference. The official excuse for this discrepancy is that it is cheaper to transport Welsh water to England for English consumption than to keep it in Wales for Welsh consumers. Figure that one out.

If Wales began to charge a fair price for its exported water resources, well over £100 million (or around £100 off our domestic water bills) in extra revenue could be generated. If our National Assembly had any vision, common sense, and grit, it would do just that.

They call it free market rationalisation. We should call it what it is – state sanctioned theft on a grand scale.

A nationalised Welsh Water Industry, publicly financed, contracted to Welsh operators, and demanding fair recompense for our water exports, could ensure our water bills could be reduced by some 60% as well as ensuring vibrant, and secure economic opportunities for our rural communities. For the sake of our children if nothing else, it's time we started demanding just that.

© Simon Gruffydd Foster

Simon Gruffydd is Arweinydd (leader) of Cymru Annibynnol, the only political party in Wales espousing republican values and calling for parity with the Republic of Ireland.

Éire

Ó dhean-intinn go sárchleachtas

Reachtaíocht teanga in Éirinn agus san Fhionlainn

Tá dhá theanga náisiúnta san Fhionlainn, de réir bunreacht, an Fhionlainnis agus an tSualainnis. Is cainteoirí Sualainnise iad 5.8% den daonra de chúig mhilliún. Faoi mar a tharla reachtaíodh achtanna teanga in Éirinn agus san Fhionlainn araon le bliain anuas agus shocraigh eagraíocht Sualainnise, an Kulturfonden i gcomhar le coiste na hÉireann den Bhiúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana (EBLUL) comhthionscnamh a sheoladh le staidéar a dhéanamh ar an gcleachtas ab fhearr sa dá thír maidir le feidhmiú na reachtaíochta. Reachtaíodh seiminear mar chuid den tionscnamh seo faoin teideal "Ó hAcht go Gníomh" i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, ar 14 Bealtaine. Bhí slua maith ionadaithe i láthair ó ranna rialtais, comhlachtaí reachtúla agus eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais.



Seán Ó Cuirreáin

An Coimisinéir Teanga nuacheaptha, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, a thug an phríomhóráid. Bhéimigh sé stádas agus neamhspleáchas a oifige mar chomhlacht dhlíthiúil. Cheana féin bhí sé tar éis dul i gcomhairle leis an Ombudsman agus leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga i gCeanada agus bhí dlúthchaidreamh bunaithe aige leosan. Bhí sé i mbun scríobh chuig 650 eagraíochtaí poiblí ag cur in iúl dóibh céard iad na dualgais a bhí faoi agus na cumhachtaí a bhí aige. Cé go mbeadh sé ag plé sa chéad áit le gearáin ó dhaoine aonair maidir le heaspa seirbhíse trí Ghaeilge bheadh sé i gceist aige tabhairt faoi fhadhbanna ar bhonn ginearálta le teacht ar réiteach a chinntíodh nach n-éireadh an fhadhb chéanna arís. Bhí sé i gceist aige, de réir a chéile, cóid sárchleachtais a chur le chéile tar éis dul i gcomhairle le comhlachtaí stáit.

Rinne Pauliina Tallroth, Comhairleoir Rialtais Speisialta san Aireacht Cheartais, Hellsinci, cur

síos ar an gcúlra a bhain leis an acht teanga san Fhionlainn, acht a tháinig i bhfeidhm ar Lá Caille 2004. Mhínigh sí nár pléadh le Sualainnis sa reachtaíocht ar nós theanga mhionlaigh ach mar urlabhra náisiúnta de chuid na Fionlainne. Tháinig cearta teanga na saoránach chun beatha sa dlí i bhfoirm dualgais a bhí leagtha ar chomhlachtaí poiblí. De réir an Acht Teanga tá sé éigeantach go mbeadh an dá theanga feiceálach. Baineann téarmaí an achta leis na meáin uile, an t-idirlíon san áireamh. Agus daoine ag dul i dteagmháil le hoifigí stáit pléitear leo ina rogha teanga. Is é an cleachtas caighdeánach an cheist a chur, "An mian leat Fionlainnis nó Sualainnis a labhairt?"

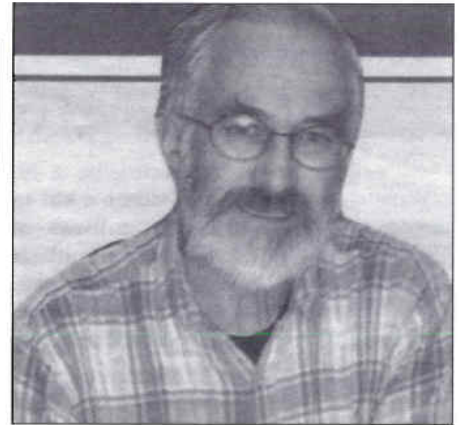
Dúirt Rúnaí Ginearálta na Roinne Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Gerry Kearney, gur gné bhunúsach é san Acht Teanga in Éirinn go mbeadh ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cuntas a thabhairt ar chomhlíonadh a ndualgas. Mheabhraigh sé dá lucht éisteachta nach ndearnadh scéal mór den chostas breise a bhain leis an Acht um Shaoaráil Eolais agus nach raibh aon chúis go ndéanfaí amhlaidh maidir leis an Acht Teanga.

Thug Donncha Ó hÉallaithe, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe/Mhaigh Eo, go géar faoi dhúnadh Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann, buille mór a chuir srian le taighde maidir le cúrsaí teanga in Éirinn. Luaigh sé, mar shampla, an chaoi ina raibh sé dodhéanta teacht ar líon fireannach na gcainteoirí Gaeilge in Éirinn. Bhí meastacháin ann idir 1,700,000 agus 30,000 de réir foinsí éagsúla. Chreid sé gur luigh an fhirinne idir 5% agus 10% den daonra. (De réir Dhaonáireamh 2001 dúirt 41.9% den phobal go raibh cumas labhartha na Gaeilge acu, 9.1% gur labhair siad an teanga go laethúil, 4.1% go seachtainiúil agus 13.2% "go rialta.")

Ag tagairt dó do léarscáil oifigiúil na Gaeltachta nocht sé an tuairim nach raibh an Ghaeilge ina gnáthurlabhra pobail ach sa cheathrú cuid den limistéar sin. Dúirt sé go raibh an ceathrú cuid eile ann ina raibh an teanga chun tosaigh go mór i gcúrsaí oideachais agus in imeachtaí cultúir agus poiblí ach, dar leis, ní raibh de leibhéal úsáide ag an teanga sa leath eile den Ghaeltacht oifigiúil ach an leibhéal céanna a bhí aici ar fud na tíre.

Mar sin féin, dúirt Mac Uí Éallaithe go raibh dhá chúis dóchais aige, an chaoi inar éirigh chomh hiontach sin le TG4 agus an seans go bhfásadh cultúr na n-óg sa Ghaeilge.

Dúirt an tOllamh Kristen Stahlberg, Stiúrthóir an Kulturfonden, go raibh an dea-intinn in Éirinn ar aon dul leis an dea-intinn san Fhionlainn. Bhí bearna sa dá thír idir geallúintí foirmiúla agus an cur i bhfeidhm. Thug sé faoi deara an cur chuige ar dhul thorás pobail in Éirinn agus an chaoi a raibh lucht gnó tugtha isteach i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Bhí sé socraithe san Fhionlainn gan coimisinéir teanga a cheapadh ach díriodh ansin ar réitithe institiúdacha comhtháite.



Donncha Ó hÉallaithe

Chas an toiscaireacht Fhionlannach leis an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív, ag fáiltiú i dTeach an Phrobaist, Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath agus thug siad cuairt ar eagraíochtaí i mBaile Átha Cliath, Gaillimh agus Gaeltacht Chonamara. Bhí siad i láthair freisin ag Fáiltiú an Oireachtais i gCluain Dolcáin. Coiste na hÉireann d'EBLUL (a bhfuil an Conradh Ceilteachmar bhaill eagnaíocht leis) a d'eagraigh an turas.

Mícheál Mac Aonghusa

Summary

A joint seminar, 'From Act to Action', was held in May in Dublin by the Irish Member State Committee of EBLUL and Kulturfonden (Swedish language body) on the implementation of the Language acts. The new Irish Language Commissioner, Seán Ó Cuirreáin spoke on contacts established with his counterpart in Canada. He has written to the 650 public bodies in Ireland, outlining their responsibilities and his powers. He intends not only to deal with individual complaints but also to ensure that the root cause of these is removed.

Pauliina Tallroth spoke on 'Finland's Language Acts – Policy Priorities and Lessons Learned'. Their Act covers all media including the Internet. In initial contact with public bodies the attitude is the best practice of, 'Do you wish to speak Swedish or Flemish?' Donncha Ó hÉallaithe's (language activist from Conamara) talk was entitled 'What can we hope for?' He attacked the closure of Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Éireann as a severe blow to research on linguistic matters in Ireland. He instanced the difficulty in determining the real number of fluent speakers in Ireland. He thought the real figure was about 5 – 10% of the population. On the question of the Gaeltacht he stated that Irish was the everyday language in only a quarter of the area indicated within official Gaeltacht boundaries. In another quarter the language was to the fore in education and community and cultural matters, but in the other half the position was no different to the rest of the country. Nevertheless there were signs of hope with the success of TG4 and the chance that a youth culture would develop in Irish.

Prof. Kristen Stahlberg, Director of Kulturfonden, said that while there was good will evident in both countries there were gaps between official promises and practical implementation

Bertie Ahern's Modest (Motorway) Proposal

The government of Bertie Ahern – and indeed the Taoiseach himself – have, of late, been the subject of considerable criticism (if not unreserved scorn and ridicule!) for the proposed new motorway expansion into the immediate vicinity of one of Ireland's most venerated historical, archaeological, and spiritual sites, that of Tara Hill. Although Mr. Ahern is not the architect of this proposal (the actual Minister responsible being the irrepressible Martin Cullen, the Minister of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government), it is Mr. Ahern who, as Taoiseach, must accept responsibility for all decisions, regardless of the Ministry, his government makes.

While there can be no disputing Tara's significant historic importance (really, how many nations can boast of a specifically acknowledged example of such antiquity, dating from millennia before Christ!?), Mr. Ahern and Mr. Cullen are to be commended, rather than vilified, for their collective foresight and courageous championing of the proposed motorway's intrusion into the very heart of this, one of Ireland's most sanctified sites, despite the onslaught of negative reaction from – seemingly! – all quarters.

But who are these naysayers so aggressively bombarding the government with protestation and political intrigue? A brief examination of the arguments advanced by opponents of the Motorway – and there have been many! – reveal a common, tragic flaw in their ability to either discern or appreciate the real direction of Ireland's future.

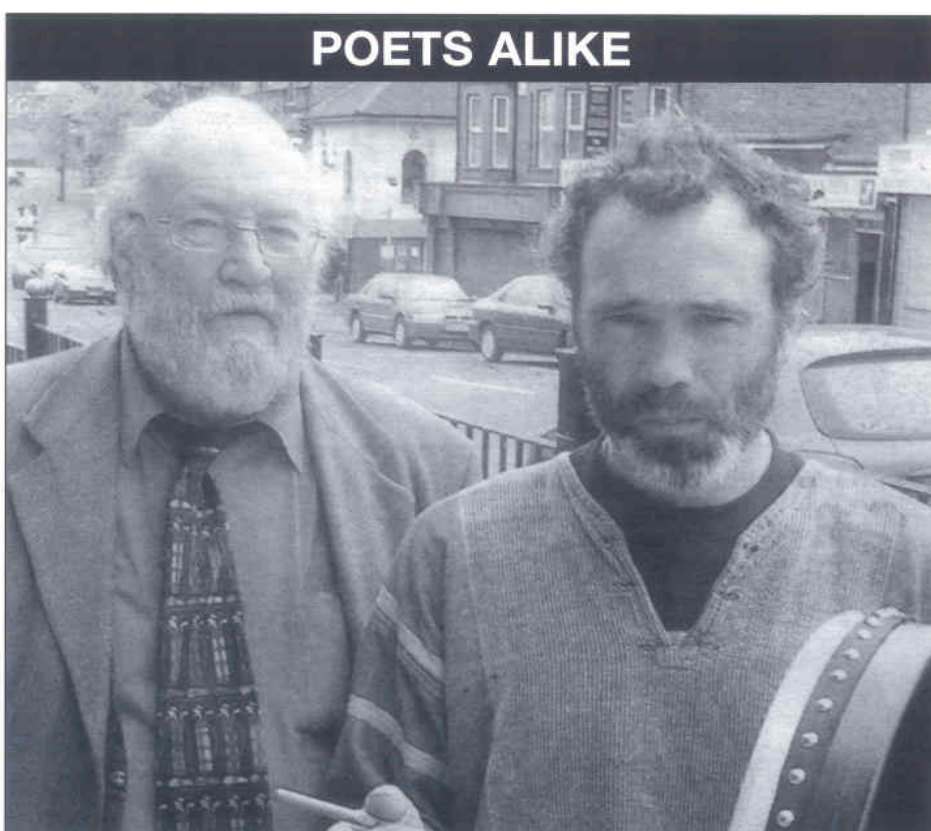
Those opposed to the motorway – whose ranks at times appear to span the entire political and social spectrum – decry the project for a number of apparently valid reasons: academics (archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians, to name but a few) protest the potential loss of access to the inestimable wealth of socio-historic artefacts buried therein, arguing that the construction of a motorway will result in the destruction of irreplaceable objects and data. Perhaps these individuals have been so long in the classroom they don't realize that the construction crews will actually be doing a lot of the work for the archaeologists, as any motorway construction will necessitate some excavation beforehand!

Allied with the academics in their diatribe are those individuals who are to be found in the scholastic sub-stratum of various historical societies, Gaelic-heritage Associations, etc. along with the usual number of the 'Irish-Abroad', most usually from North America (and everyone knows these people are only Irish by origin, and hardly qualify as 'Irish' when compared to a

recently arrived, tax-contributing citizen from the Balkans or Brussels!) who, in their inimitable fashion, are rallying to 'the cause', lobbying the beleaguered Mr. Ahern to abandon his government's grand vision – not to mention his principles and commitments – in deference to the deleterious impact a motorway will have on the aesthetic enjoyment and appreciation of the site by the tens of thousands of tourists who regularly journey to view the location of ancient druidic lore and the coronation-place of kings.

Of course, these disparate elements – along with a significant percentage of the general population – are all suffering from a shared affliction which has plagued the Irish people since time immemorial: our obsession with our past! Academia and their supporters – whose public keening has been duly noted by both domestic and foreign press – are sadly out of touch with the realities of the new millennium, and of Ireland as a proud partner in a greater – European! – Constituency. Examining the arguments of those opposed to the motorway (ie: progress), one cannot help but note that the essence of their dissent is hopelessly rooted in some sort of

philosophical/historical bog. Not unlike those continually beseeching the government for tax-payer's money to support Irish-language programmes and the protection of the Gaeltacht (another dying cause! Do these people not realize that the language of the International Community, the lingua franca of the future is English, not Irish! Do we truly wish to be associated with a language our grandparents spoke?! Do we really need to learn some difficult and perplexing tongue in usage for thousands of years, or would we not prefer a language of considerably more recent development, the language of such internationally recognized and acclaimed figures as Shakespeare and Churchill?!). Quite frankly, the opponents of the motorway – poor souls! – are hopelessly obsessed with yesterday, rather than with the 'Ireland of Tomorrow – Today'. One can harp on about the glory of our Gaelic heritage, recounting the same tired tales over and over again to a new generation, but ignoring the obvious value of a state-of-the-art transportation extension which will greatly facilitate inter-county commerce for at least a decade or two would be highly irresponsible of the government, and an abrogation of Mr. Ahern's esteemed sense – not only of himself, but of the Republic of Ireland (which, as we all know, came into existence as a result of no fewer than seven votes! a rather remarkable instance of consensus by Irish standards!) and, more



POETS ALIKE

Tradition runs strong in the Ó Snodaigh family. In early May Pádraig Ó Snodaigh and son Rónán both read their poetry in Cultúiriann McAdam – Ó Fiaich. Rónán's poems are on a CD, Tonnta Ró, while his father's new poetry book, Cronú, was launched at the event.

(Continued from page 13)

importantly, our rightful place amongst the other nations of the European Community. As for the assertion that the construction and subsequent establishment of the motorway will negatively impact the tourism industry, well nothing could be further from the truth! Rather than detracting from the appreciation of Tara, the government's meticulous analysis of recent trends in the sometimes whimsical world of tourism reveal that the new motorway will in fact facilitate the transport of many thousands more to the ancient site – just imagine how many bus-loads of Yanks could be ferried to and fro each and every hour! And, as they won't be permitted to disembark anywhere near the site (for safety precautions, not that they'd want to anyway, with traffic roaring by a mere 50 meters away!), Mr. Ahern's government is actually protecting the very heritage critics are accusing him of destroying!

Besides, the Irish Tourism Board has assured the government that Tara has been preserved for all time – in photographs! – (available – for a price of course – from local Tourism-Ireland Offices). Rather than wasting their time and energies in discordant dialogue, those who have subscribed to the cabal of misinformation regarding the proposed motorway should instead be embracing Mr. Cullen and Mr. Ahern's visionary agenda for a 'new' Ireland; based on the sound principles of foreign ownership and 'e-commerce' (does not Erin itself begin with an 'e'?). To wit, I offer here a couple of my own, humble suggestions for Mr. Ahern's consideration: why not begin development of an up-scale, trendy series of condominiums directly upon the ruins of Cashel? (well, they are ruins!); or how about continuing on with the motorway theme by constructing a six-lane highway which will

herd tourists (crops of cash-cows) around the Ring of Kerry in record time, thereby increasing the economic boon for the Irish economy? Doubtless, there will be some elements in the rebellious South who will argue even this, but such dissent could quickly be remedied by a program of relocation (i.e.: transportation) of the oppositionists to an area north and west of the Shannon – say Connaught!

Clearly, Ireland finally has a Minister of the Environment and a Taoiseach who have the courage to ignore Ireland's Gaelic heritage, who realize that no site, regardless of its antiquity, is truly 'sacred', and who are prepared to gently guide the people of Ireland away from their illustrious past, away from the confines of the Gaelic-speaking world, and bravely into the 21st. century (when, presumably everyone will speak, read, and think in English) and when progress – in the form of a motorway – will not suffer for the concerns of a people foolishly obsessed with the last vestiges of their cultural identity (which obviously has no place in this country's future!).

Critics of Mr. Ahern should realize that he is not some despotic 'Hollywood' director bent on imposing his own particular vision upon an unwilling audience, but in fact is himself little more than a humble guide in the 'theatre of government', patiently ushering late-comers to their seats before the curtain rises on the spectacle of the grand, new, 'Cosmopolitan Ireland', an Ireland unfettered by sentimental attachments to its past, an Ireland so modern and homogenous it will be virtually indistinguishable from any of Great Britain's other, former colonies. God save the Motorway!

Tadhg Caoimhin O'Caoimh

INJUSTICE TOWARDS GAELSCOILEANNA

Refusal for new Gaelscoileanna.

Parents of planned new Gaelscoileanna in two areas were shocked to be told near the end of the current school year that the opening of their schools for the 2004/05 school year had not been approved by the Dept. of Education. This, despite the fact that all criteria had been met. In the case of the planned Gaelscoil an tSáirséalaigh in Lucan, one of the fastest growing areas on the outskirts of Dublin, 48 children are registered to start this September and another 110 were on the rolls for the next four years. The existing Gaelscoil in the area had to refuse 70 children. In what can only be termed bureaucracy gone mad the Dept. demanded that the children be accommodated in prefabs on the site of the existing Gaelscoil when the area available is too small for growth and of course no provision whatsoever has been made for this. Options are being examined to fight these cases including legal ones.

It can only be said that in the context of the application of the new more stringent rules for Gaelscoileanna in recent years, which has reduced the numbers opening from 5 or 6 some years ago down to 2, the attempt to shut down seven Gaelscoileanna on flimsy pretexts (which was resisted successfully) last year and now these late refusals that the Dept of Education is determined to emasculate the Gaelscoileanna. This must be resisted.

Eight Years Waiting

The parents and children of Gaelscoil Cholm Cille in Santry organised a protest in late May at the long delays in providing a proper school. The school was founded in 1996 and since then has existed in a local GAA club in crowded conditions without proper facilities. Parents are very pleased with the way the school is run however and there is a big demand locally for places (90 applied this year) which cannot be satisfied. They were promised a new school in 1998 and eight years later are still waiting. They held their protest on the site available and built a cardboard school to make their point. The parents intend to continue with their efforts. Another example of how the Dept of Education values Irish medium education!

Left:

*Pupils, parents and friends of
Gaelscoil Cholm Cille in Santry
at the protest.*



Major Demonstration in Support of EU Working Language Status for Irish

Over 5,000 supporters took to the streets of Dublin on 24th April calling on the Government to seek official working status for Irish in the European Union without further delay. The streets were filled with colourful banners, music and lively chants as Gaeilge from the Garden of Remembrance passing the GPO and onto Dáil Éireann. Panu Petteri Hoglund, the author of the on line petition flew from Finland to present up to 80,000 signatures to Sean Ó Neachtain MEP who was there on behalf of an Taoiseach.

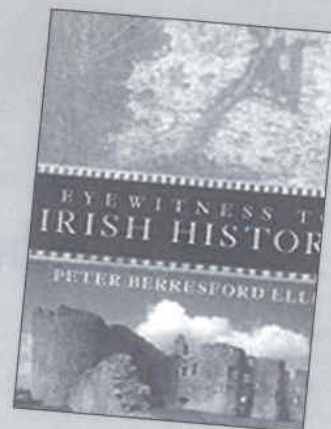
Also, at the march spokespersons from all the political parties present (Fianna Fáil, Labour, Progressive Democrats, Sinn Féin, Green Party. Socialist Party, expressed their full support for official working status for the Irish language in the EU. Bus loads arrived from Galway, Derry, Letterkenny, Waterford, Limerick, Clare, Dundalk, Kerry, Cork, Belfast, including the Gweedore marching band and the Wexford Pikers.

Dr Padraig Ó Laighin spokesperson for Stádas said 'this is not an unachievable

dream, or our beyond reach, it is simply the will of the people and all we asking is fair play for a national language and Ireland's 1st official language.

A spokesperson for Stádas said that the confirmation received recently by the Dept of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs from the European Commission supports the case made by Stádas that there is no legal basis to a 'middle way' - that is an improved treaty status (which we already have) but not having official working status for the Irish language in the European Union. Therefore the government needs only to request official working status for the Irish language in the EU.

In the run up to the local and European elections Stádas have called on voters to ask candidates are they and their parties in favour of working language status for Irish and are they prepared through their party to ensure that the Government confirms its intention to seek this status before the date of the election.



Eyewitness to Irish History

The latest book by Peter Beresford Ellis, "*Eyewitness to Irish History*" (ISBN: 0471266337) has been described as providing a "unique documentary history of Irish civilization, from ancient times to the present"

This collection of historical documents depicts Irish history as a saga of national resistance against British colonialism. Beresford Ellis has collected an abundance of material from letters, diaries, poems, nationalist speeches, medieval chronicles, Irish Republican proclamations and contemporary journalistic accounts.

Subjects covered include the original 12th-century Anglo-Norman intervention; Cromwell's conquest that killed or exiled half the population; the 18th-century Penal Laws that made Irish Catholics the virtual slaves of English colonists; the Potato Famine, in which millions starved while English landlords exported food; and the 20th-century depredations of British paramilitary forces. It's a horrific and often very moving account Irish history.

In the latter part of the book Beresford Ellis turns his attention the *Troubles* in the North of Ireland, where he continues with the theme of the anti-colonialist struggle. The prolific use and reference to primary sources can only strengthen his interpretation of this period and the conclusions he draws.

Peter Beresford Ellis, who is a former Convenor of the Celtic League, is described by the Times Education Supplement as the "pre-eminent Celtic scholar now writing".

As well as being a prolific writer of fictional works (See Celtic News No 1367 Fictional Medieval Detective Unlikely Heroine of Women in Celtic Life) he is the author of many notable historical reference books on Celtic History, including "Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society and Literature", "Hell or Connaught: The Cromwellian Colonization of Ireland, 1652-1660" and of course the definitive history of the Pan Celtic movement "The Celtic Dawn".

Editor



Kernow



A Vue Kembra Gesys Yn Mes?

Na vedha tyller vyth rag Kembra anserhak y'n EU warlergh Romano Prodi, Lewyth an Comysysyon Europek, del vue menegys dre wask bryntya kenedhlek Kembra war an 16 Ebrel.

Eluned Morgan esel a seneth EU rag Party Noweth Lafur o deryvys gans Prodi a vedha res dhe Gembra ombrofya rag eseleth anoweth mar teffa ha dendyl hy anserhogneth. Avel gorthyb Dafydd Iwan, humbrynkyas Plaid Cymru - Party Kembra - a leveryr fatel yw "feth an cas a teffa ha bos Kembra hag Alban anserhak, hanvos an Wlasor Unys avel corf political a vensa hedhy. Pow Saws, Alban, Wordhen North ha Kembra a vya y'n keth scath." Ef a notyas bos "Cuntelles Vienna a 1978 ow rewlya an mayn may whrella dredha ambosow, synys dre gorvow political ues passys, cafus effeth war statys sewyas."

Mr Iwan a besyas ha campolla bos "res dhyn ny sensy y'gan brys dhe'n nessa costen rag Kembra yn le a gafus dybynasow abstract ow tuchya laha kesgwlaek, ha hen

yw restry seneth gwyr gans luen nerth rethyans ha tollek may halla dylla gallus luen rag agan pow ny."

Wosa an deryvas orth cuntelles waynten an party Mr Iwan a gowsas adro dhe'n mater arta der resna, na dalvya dhe dhen vyth "sconya Kembra dheworth hy thyller teyth y'n norvys", ha fatel "yw anserhogneth an fordh ynna."

Précis

Romano Prodi, European Commission President was reported as saying that should Wales gain its independence, it would automatically be out of the EU. Davyth Iwan, Party Leader of Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales responded by saying that an independent Wales would be in the same boat as England and Scotland. In addition, he commented that rather than discuss abstract constitutional matters, he would rather concentrate on securing a Parliament for Wales.

Translator: Daniel Ryan-Prohaska

Tresor Byan Kembra

Orth an guntelles waynten yn mys Ebrel humbrynkyas Plaid Cymru - Party Kembra - Davydd Iwan a dhowysas arethya y'n Sawsnek ow leverel na vyes gwres moy a Gembro bo Kembres dre wodhvos cowwel Kembrek ages godhvos Sawsnek yn unsel. Bytegens, Mr Iwans a leveryr yth yw an tavas Kembrek tresor ma na halla bos gesys dhe verwel yn kerdh. Ef a besyas, "pan eson ny ow scodhya agan yeth ny, yth eson ny ow scodhya pub tavasow oll," ha kynth eson ny sevel orth usya an yeth avel pel droys political, an duryans anedhy hy yw "tra political".

Précis

In a speech given at their Spring Conference, the Leader of Plaid Cymru stated that the Welsh language was a little treasure that belonged to everyone.

Translator: Daniel Ryan-Prohaska

ISKESSEDHEK KERNOW AN BUROW EUROPEK RAG YETHOW NEBES KEWSYS

An Burow Europek rag Yethow Nebes Kewsys yw mayn an Kesunyans Europek a'n jeves Kessedhek yn pub stat esel a syns war y dorn Iskessedhek yn pub rannvro-yeth. Yma Iskessedhek dhe Kernow a-dhia 1995. Negys an Iskessedhek yw kyns oll yn kever avonsyans an yeth a-ji dhe'n Rywvaneth Unys hag Europa. An Iskessedhek a omguntell diwweyth pub blydhen, yn mis Hwevrer hag yn mis Gwynngala ha syns pub diw vlydhen rag dewis soedhogyon hag erell. Nyns eus votya, puptra yw erviris dre gessenyans. Gelwys yw kowethasow radyo ha pellwolok dhe dhos ha bos eseli, dell yw gwrys yn Alban, awos bos devar dhe'n media yn-dann an Chartour Europek rag Yethow Ranndirel ha da via igeri hynsow daromres ynter movyans an yeth ha'n media.

Summary:

Cornwall has had its own sub-committee on the Bureau for Lesser Used Languages since 1995. The main goal of the sub-committee is to promote the Cornish language. It has now called the medias to become members in order to open new ways to promote and broadcast the knowledge of the Cornish language. Such a request has been made in Scotland by the Scottish Bureau.

José CALVETE.

Dhiworth «Nowodhow Kernow» (www.geocities.com/cornishnews) hag An Gannas.

KERNOW ARTA!



'Keltyon Byw' yn Kernow. Chris Humphries, Anne Kennedy Truscott, Ray Delf, Alan Pengelly, Jojo Davey, Cas Davey.

Gwaynys veu arta an kesstrif PanKeltek gans Kernow arta. Syns y veu an kesstrif yn Traighlí yn Iwerdhon dhe'n 15ves a vis Ebryl. Warlyna gwaynys veu an kesstrif ma ynwedh gans Kernow gans kan dhiworth bagas «Treys Noeth». Yma an piwas PanKeltek hevlyna gans an bagas «Keltyon Vyw» a-barth Kernow. Eseli an bagas «Keltyon Vyw» yw Ray Delf, Anne Kennedy Truscott, Cas & Jojo Davey, Alan Pengelly, Chris Humphries ha Jen Dyer. Aga han «Treusporthis» veu skrifys gans Ray Delf ha treyls gans Pol Hodge. An bagas a gesstrivas erbynn Alban, Kembra hag Iwerdhon.

Summary:

Cornwall won again the PanCeltic competition held in Traighlí (Tralee) Éire, represented by the group «Keltyon Vyw» (Alive Celts) with their song «Treusporthis» (Transported) written by Ray Delf and translated by Pol Hodge. Cornwall had already won the same contest last year represented by the group «Treys Noeth» (Naked Feet).

José CALVETE

FREE THE SPIRIT, BREAK OUR CHAINS

At the beginning of the 9th Century when the Church in Cornwall was already nearly 700 years old, it was not under the control of either the Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury or the Pope in Rome, yet it was in communion with both. This Cornish Church was part of the original Celtic Church established in these isles centuries before the first missionaries arrived from Rome to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons in 597AD.

The Celtic Church was renowned for its holiness, tolerance and lack of the legalistic and destructive authoritarianism often seen in the Anglo-Saxon church. There is no record of the Celtic Church ever persecuting or oppressing anyone. It had a strong sense of the presence of God in the world and a deep respect for his creation. Women had equal status virtually with men and often held positions of authority over them. Church leaders were elected - power, status and influence depending on personal holiness, not on the grounds of gender or political sycophancy.

This golden age of the Celtic Saints in Cornwall ended when the Church in Canterbury assumed control over the Cornish Church in the wake of the Anglo-Saxon military assaults on Cornwall in the 9th and 10th centuries. Religion from now on was to be used as a means by which to politically control Cornwall, with bishops being appointed by the Monarch. But far, far worse was to come.

In 1549, soon after Henry VIII seize control of the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury of the newly created Church of England, Thomas Cranmer, sought to impose an English-language prayer book on Cornwall and to end traditional religious practices. The people of Cornwall rose in defence of their language and civil liberty to worship as they wished. Cranmer egged the king's forces on who defeated Cornwall's, slaughtered all 900 of their prisoners and then proceed to massacre at least 10% of Cornwall, patriotic Cornish clergy being executed and replaced by English ones.

Archbishop Cranmer never showed a twinge of remorse, gloated when the uprising's leaders were hung, drawn and quartered and made the chaplain to the king's victorious forces Bishop of Exeter as a reward for his services and so he could exert control over the Cornish Church. Cranmer has since been greatly honoured by the Church of England by being granted

his own annual saint's day, having a theological college named after him and by being nominated "Man of the Millenium" by his successor, the last Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey.

Today, in such ways, the Church of England in Cornwall continues to follow its traditional, historic political purpose of undermining Cornish national identity and freedom; it flies the English flag from our churches, not our own; there has been only one Cornish-born Bishop of Cornwall in 1000 years; our current bishop refers to Cornwall as a "county of England" in the House of Lords and on his website; lip service is paid to the reintroduction of Cornish in worship and the Church ignores the current fight to secure recognition of Cornish ethnicity; plans are now well advanced to enable the Diocese of Cornwall to be merged with that of Devon with the focus of control being centred in Exeter. In exasperation, some Cornish Christians have come together to defend Cornwall's territorial integrity and to ask the Church of England to stop trying to anglicise Cornwall.

Fry an Spyrys (free the spirit in kernewek) is our campaign to cut the Church-State link by disestablishing the Church of England in Cornwall. The Church of England in Ireland was disestablished in 1869 and that in Wales in 1920, both on the grounds of fairness to other religious denominations and to reconnect the church with the Celtic people it served. Today there is a Church of Wales and a Church of Ireland. A Church of Cornwall must surely be next.

We will be seeking the Celtic League's help in the months ahead in putting pressure on the Church of England to change its ways and make amends for all it has done and still does to undermine Cornwall's national identity, dignity and freedom. Help us free our Church after a thousand year of bondage.

Fry an Spyrys, ha tor agan chaynys!

Find out more about FaS and the 1549 Rising at www.freethespirit.org.uk

FaS would be delighted if Carn readers wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Hon. Rowan Williams BA MA DPhil DD, about this issue. His address is: Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU. He is addressed as "Your Grace."

R. Tal-e- bot

NOWODHOW KERNOW

(www.geocities.com/cornishnews)

This web site is designed to give the latest news for Cornwall in the Cornish language. The information is pulled from a wide range of sources, including newspapers, television and radio.

It is written by Matthew Clarke who can be contacted by email: pennlorwydh@hotmail.com

CENSUS 2001

Many will remember the campaign before the 2001 Census demanding a Welsh tick box. The ONS (Office for National Statistics) is in the process of drawing up the plans for 2011 and it would be a disaster if we left it to the last minute again to assert our identity.

Progress has been made of course. The ONS published guidelines in January 2004 for the collection of Ethnic Data where an additional question on National Identity is suggested allowing Welsh, Scottish, Irish and English people to identify themselves. While I have yet to see any evidence that this question is being asked (the Dfes for example has no plans to offer the question), it is a small step forward. Certainly it hasn't matched the fanfare of publicity in January accompanying the announcement when it was claimed that the Tick Box Fight Was Won (BBC 11.1.04)

The ONS will begin consulting on the actual questions they will ask in the 2011 Census toward the end of this year. They have already received unsolicited submissions on a Welsh Tick box for Wales (why not Kernow and England as well?), and a language question for each. It's important that we monitor this process and make every effort to campaign for these questions when the consultation process starts. Representations from Welsh organisations in England and further a field would show the strength of feeling and avoid the claims made last time that there was no demand for this information. The new Tick box fight should be starting now not in 2010.

To keep abreast of developments it's worth looking at the ONS website www.statistics.gov.uk and type in 2011 Census in the search box or contact them for their free magazine Horizons at FREEPOST National Statistics (1).

Huw Jackson
Ysgrifennydd, Plaid Cymru Llundain

Mannin

Mraane Celtiagh ayns Shennaghys Impirolee yn Eash Noa

Hie yn Cohaglym Celtiagh Eddyrashoonagh er cummal mleeaneey ayns Purt Chiarn ayns Mannin. She 'Mraane Celtiagh ayns shennaghys' va ard-chooish ny leaghtyn va currit son gagh cheer. She Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhairt loayr son Nalbin va'n ynrican dooinney ass ny shey leaghteyrn. Va'n chooid smoo jeh'n leaght echey mychione y staydys jeh mraane (berchagh as boght) ayns Nalbin Ghaelagh roish my daink y Baarle as Sostnaghys stiagh. Ec y tra a v'ayn, she seihll feniaghtagh va ny deiney gearree - daanys ayns caggey as jannoo boggys mychione troshid. Chammah mraane as deiney va jannoo obbyr chorpagh chreoi, agh va ny mraane jannoo yn obbyr thieoil neesht - myr v'eh as (t'eh) feiy ny cruinney. Agh ny yei shen as ooilley, s'cosoylagh dy row stayd ny mraane Gaelagh beggan ny share na stayd ny mraane elley ayns Nalbin. Myr sampleyr, ayns y Ghaeltaght va ny smoo seyrnsys ec ny mraane bentyn rish poosey. Va poosey son graih ny smoo cadjin. As cha row ny mraane Gaelagh gyn pooar. V'ad soilshaghey ny barelyn oc mychione cooishyn politickagh nyn glein. Ayns Nalbin Ghoaldagh, shimmei 'buitch' voght va currit gy baase er agh agglagh, agh s'goan va'n lheid ayns Nalbin (ny Mannin). As va Nalbin Ghoaldagh gra 'barbaragh' rish Nalbin Ghaelagh! Myr shione dooin, haik cragh as glenney kyn-neeagh er Nalbin Ghaelagh lurg 1745.

Loayr Ann Matthews (Nerin) mychione mraane sy ghleashaght phoblaghtagh eddyr 1850 as 1930. Sy nuyoo cheead jeig, shimmei peiagh smooinee dy jinnagh ashoonaghys cur lesh cormid - cormid eddyr mraane as deiney, as cormid eddyr sleih oasle as ny h-obbreyn. Hug ny Fenee aggle vooar er ny Sostnee, as mysh 1850, va deiney ayns y ghleashaght goit as currit ayns pryssoon. Agh haik ny mraane oc as mraane elley ry cheille dy ghol er lesh y chaggey.

Tra ren y reilys gaghtey noi'n Chommeys Thallooin (Land League), ren ny mraane y red cheddin. Agh hug Parnell, fer-toshee yn Chommeys, gleashaght ny mraane fo chosh. As va'n skeal shoh cadjin ayns ny leaghtyn elley ec Purt Chiarn: deiney ayns gleashaght pholitickagh currit ayns pryssoon (ny marrooit), mraane goaill nyn ynnyd, as eisht deiney sy ghleashaght hene cur ny mraane fo chosh. (Mennick dy liooar, t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel y caggey eddyr mraane

as deiney ny smoo gear na caggaghyn elley.) Ayns 1893, va Conradh na Gaeilge (y Commeys Yernish) currit er bun. Sy toshiaght, she sheshaght chultooril v'ayn dy hauail y chengey as cur ee er y toshiaght. Agh haik y Commeys dy ve ny ghleashaght pholitickagh niartal ren leideil gys yn Irree Magh ayns 1916. V'eh jeeaghyn dy row yn Commeys cooilleeney ashlish y chormid. Haik mraane as deiney dy ve nyn olteynyn jeean gyn boirey erbee, haik sleih boght as sleih berchagh stiagh. Tra va Sinn Fein currit er bun ayns 1916, haghyn y red cheddin. Va ny gleashaghtyn shoh sy lling jeianagh: cha row ad noi mraane. As ayns ny laghtyn shen, ben aeg 'chooyrtoil' nagh row poost, begin jee goll mygeayrt marish ben-arrey. Agh, atreih, lurg daue v'er chur Steat Seyr Nerin er bun, cha row ashlish y chormid cooilleenit.

She Ann Trevenen Jenkin loayr son y Chorn ec y Cohaglym Celtiagh mleeaneey. Ta Ann er nobbraghey son y Chorn as y cultoor Cornagh rish ny shlee na lieh-cheead blein. V'ee nane jeusyn hug Mebyon Kernow er bun. She spotch v'ayn ec y tra shen, heill sleih dy liooar, agh ta reddyn ny share nish er aghtyn ennagh.

Loayr Ann Jenkin mychione mraane Cornagh ayns shennaghys ren caggey noi tranlaase as genney argid. Goll rish ny leaghteyrn elley, hoilshee ee yn doilleid jeh geddyn stoo son lheid y leaght. Bunnys car y tra, va (as ta) bea ny mraane coontit dy ve myr ayn-coonee jeh bea ny deiney oc. Kyndagh rish shen, cha nod oo feddyn magh monney mychione ny mraane, son y chooid smoo.

Ta Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan y ven-toshee jeh Unnid ny Laue-screunyn ayns Lioarlann Ashoonagh Vretyn. She ish loayr son Bretyn. T'ee er chur magh ram stoo screet mychione shennaghys as cultoor vraane Bretagh. Cha nel Ceridwen shenn, agh cha nod mraane aegey t'ayn nish credjal dy row ee troggit ayns seihll raad v'eh noi'n leigh my va mraane ennagh geddyn y faill cheddin as deiney va jannoo yn obbyr cheddin. Va geayrtyns noi'n leigh as v'eh doillee dy gheddyn noi-yiennaghtaneyn. Un vleyn as feed er dy henney va doilleid ec Ceridwen as ish prowal dy eeassaghey argid dy chion-naghey thie - va shen red va deiney jannoo. Yeeagh Ceridwen erash ayns shennaghys as loayr ee mychione ny shennvoiraghyn eck as

yn agh haink meanvrastyl rish ayns Bretyn. Goll erash ny sodjey, hoilshee ny shenn leighyn Bretagh (Cyfraith Hywel) dy row ny smoo cairn ec ny mraane Bretagh na v'ec ny mraane Sostnagh. Erskyn ooilley, va cair scarrey-poosee ec ny mraane Bretagh. Dy jarroo, dod ben Vretagh 'geddyn rey' rish e dooinney my v'eh ny annoonagh ny strinnoogh. Ghow ny Sostnee ymmyd jeh lheid y leigh Bretagh shen dy ghra dy row ny Bretnee scammyltagh as maarderagh - cha dod ny barbaree shoh reill ad hene, dy jarroo.

Loayr Breesha Maddrell son Mannin, mychione kiare mraane Manninagh t'er nyannoo obbyr vooar son cultoor Vannin - Sophia Morrison (1859-1917), ren breeaghey Mona Douglas. As ren Mona breeaghey Annie Kissack as Clare Kilgallon sy lling aynyn. Va Sophia mie-ynsit as ren ee troailt ayns cheeraghyn dy liooar. Va enney mie eck er Celtie niartal elley. Ren ee grein-naghey Goodwin dy chur magh 'First Lessons in Manx' as hug ee magh lioaryn screet eck hene. Erskyn ooilley, hoig ee dy vel gagh red croghey er paitchyn as sleih aegey. Phrow ee dy chur Gaelg stiagh ayns scoillyn Vannin - she red scammyltagh t'ayn dy ren shen goaill bunnys keead blein. Greinnit liorish Sophia, ren Mona Douglas obbyr yindyssagh son Mannin. Haggil ee beaal-arrish as arrangeyn, screet ee lioaryn as draneyn. as hug ee yn ghleashaght Aelagh Vannin er bun. Va Annie Kissack as Clare Kilgallon ayns Aelagh Vannin. Ta Annie gobbraghey son Mooijer Veggey, y ghleashaght ro-scoill Ghaelagh, as hug ee Caarjyn Cooidjagh, y cheshaght-arraney-deryn, er bun. Hug Clare sheshaght-arraney-deryn elley, Cliaagaree Twoaie, er bun. Myr shen, chroo Sophia sorch dy reeraghtys.

Loayr Rozenn Milin son y Vritaan. Ta Rozenn aeg, agh hannah, t'ee er ve ny ben-aitt, er nobbraghey ayns radio as chellveeish, as er ve ny stiureyder jeh colught-chellveeish. Dooyrt ish dy row kuse dy von-deishyn ec ny mraane Britaanagh cosoylit rish ny mraane Frangagh, agh ren ny mraane Britaanagh surranse dy mooar kyndagh rish y chenn stereoplait v'ec ny Frangee - ny Britanee 'almoragh' as 'bolvaneagh'. As loayr Rozenn mychione y doilleid jeh cleaney e moir dy loayrt Britaanish ree.

Précis

At the 2004 International Celtic Congress held at Port Erin, the lecture theme was 'Celtic women in history'. Some of the lecturers highlighted the difficulty of addressing such a theme because of the historic (and continuing) marginalisation of women.

Brian Stowell

Campaign for Greater Recognition of Manx Gaelic

Member of Tynwald and former Manx language development officer Phil Gawne MHK is working to ensure greater recognition is given to the importance of Manx Gaelic. Following a series of questions on the legal status of the language to the Attorney General in the March Tynwald sitting Mr Gawne has been working to persuade the Manx Government to ratify to part III the provisions of the European Treaty for Regional or Minority Languages in respect of Manx Gaelic.

The Attorney General gave a fairly positive answer to Mr Gawne's question on the validity of legal documents drawn up within the Isle of Man when drafted in Manx Gaelic. Since then he has discussed with the Attorney General the possibility of him agreeing to advise the Manx Government that in his view the Isle of Man could sign up to relevant judicial sections of the European Treaty. While no agreement has been reached so far Mr Gawne is hopeful that a positive move will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Manx Government agreed to have the minority

language treaty ratified to part II in January 2003 but Manx language groups were disappointed that Government failed to ratify to part III. Part II gives a fairly limited degree of protection to the language whereas part III gives much greater security.

It appears that the Manx Government was concerned that it would not be able to comply with the provisions of just two articles of the treaty - the article relating to the judicial system and one relating to public administration. In a letter to Mr Gawne the Chief Minister has already indicated that there are sections of the article on public administration that his Government could sign up to so the judicial section is now the only remaining obstacle.

Mr Gawne has confirmed to CARN that he will continue to press the Manx Government on this matter which he believes would both enhance international perceptions of the Isle of Man as well as provide long term security to existing Manx language provision.

Manx Nationalists oppose Identity Cards

The recent AGM of Mec Vannin roundly rejected the notion of compulsory identity cards in the Isle of Man, with the following Resolution:

8. This AGM utterly rejects the notion of a compulsory national identity card.

Despite the brief nature of the Resolution, the issue was debated at several stages and represents a final form of a "softer" draft proposal.

The meeting concluded that there were no grounds for such compulsory identity primarily due to the fact that the "pro" lobby had singularly failed to demonstrate the value of such measures.

There was also the question of cross-citizenship inequality. With the very large number of itinerants in the Island who would be subject to other jurisdictions' criteria, effectively, the only people who would be subject to compulsory identification in addition to a huge range of existing incidental identification methods (passports, credit cards, driving licences etc) would be the people who had every right to be here in the first place. The whole thing becomes self defeating.

The Party has conveyed these views to the Island's Department of Home Affairs.

Mark Kermode
Chairman, Mec Vannin

Mannin Designated 'Grey' Area for Money Laundering

Mec Vannin has written to the Isle of Man's Treasury Department indicating the party's desire to take part in a proposed review of company law in the Island.

The proposed review is in response to a recent decline in company formation in the Island and it is clear that this review is intended to encourage more company formation and the consultation exercise is aimed primarily at those involved in company formation. As such, there is a real likelihood that, unchallenged, the exercise could leave the door open for even more abuse of the tax-haven status of the Island for money laundering and other unsavoury activities.

The Isle of Man is currently listed as a "grey" area for money laundering along with

the likes of Monaco. The United States' FBI identifies the Isle of Man as a "primary" for money laundering, though the self reporting framework has prevented it from being put on the FBI's blacklist for money-laundering jurisdictions.

Several recent inquiries and trials into corruption in the Republic of Ireland (notably the Flood Tribunal) have invariably involved the Isle of Man as a repository for undeclared / fraudulent / criminal proceeds. Despite claims of high regulation, the party will be submitting evidence (including names) that the Island is, as things stand, acting as a ready vehicle for individuals and bodies with known connections to money laundering on behalf of organised crime.

Mark Kermode

PEEL CITY GUARDIAN

PUBLICATION RESUMES

April 2004 saw a restart of publishing of the newspaper 'The Peel City Guardian'. Established in 1882, the Guardian closed down in 2001. Now Peel Heritage Trust, a local-government derived body, active in promoting local heritage, has been given ownership of the Guardian title and they plan to publish new editions quarterly. The Trust says that local news from Peel and the west of Mann has suffered a reduction in coverage in what they refer to as the 'Principle Island newspaper' [Isle of Man Examiner]. Incidentally, the company who own the Examiner, Isle of Man Newspapers, own all three weekly Island papers: The Examiner, The [Not] Independent and The Courier. Perhaps the Peel City Guardian will provide local coverage where IOM Examiner has failed.



Page three of the latest edition Peel City Guardian carries a story about the gift of a valuable medal to the Leece Museum in Peel. With reference to the torpedoing and sinking of the British ship the 'Lusitania' by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland near Kinsale on the seventh of May 1915. As the Guardian article informs us, the Peel fishing boat PL11 'Wanderer' was the first on the scene and performed a brave rescue. Taking on board 160 survivors and also towing two lifeboats which contained a further seventy people. The Wanderer was perilously overloaded. Meeting another vessel, the British Admiralty tug 'Flying Fish' all the rescued people were transferred off Wanderer and taken to the nearest port, Queenstown (Cobh). In recognition of their heroism, the crewmen of the Wanderer were each presented with a commemorative medal produced in 1915 by the Manchester Manx Society.

M. Lockerby

Celtica

Celtic Music and Culture in South America

I have been giving regular news and information about Celtic activities in South America, especially in Argentina and Uruguay these two last years. Once again I am happy to give you more news about my friends and their tireless activity spreading Celticism in South America. This time I will tell you of four important events.

Uruguay:

The first event took place in **Jacksonville**, near **Montevideo**, Uruguay. The group called "**Música en El Templo**" which organized the **First Interceltic Festival in Montevideo** last year has now arranged a concert of Irish music in Uruguay. The group is led by **Daniel José Stewart** a young Uruguayan of Scottish descent who is also a member of the "**Southern Cross Pipe Band**" of Montevideo.

They have invited a Uruguayan quintet formed in 1999 called "**Grianán**" that plays Irish music. They also play traditional music from other Celtic countries such as Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Mann and Galicia.

Since their beginning, this group has performed in numerous events organized by the Scottish and Irish communities of Uruguay. They are at present preparing their first CD. The "**Grianán**" are: **Conrad O'Neill** (Guitar, vocals), **Leandro Bonilla** (Uilleann Pipes, tin whistle), **Laura Lindner** (Fiddle), **Raúl Canedo** (Low D whistle, tin whistle), **Fabián Romero** (Bodhrán), **Mariana Padrón** (Vocals) and **Karen Higgs** (Vocals).

They also perform regularly in a Pub called "**The Shannon**" in Montevideo. More information about the group at : www.geocities.com/grianan_1999

More information about events organized by "**Música en El Templo**" at: s2art@movinet.com.uy



Argentina:

Another important musical event is taking place in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. The **Movimiento Celta Argentina** have organized a free concert of Celtic music on May the 5th called "**Concierto de Música Celta por la Paz**", inspired by the awful bombings which took place in **Madrid** in March. The idea was inspired by the Celtic ideal of peace and unity intrinsic to Celtic music. The event takes place in the famous "**Salon Dorado**" of the **Casa de la Cultura de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires**. **Abrego, Achaiva da Ponte, Avalon, Bran, Coro Ceolraidh, Fardaxu, Fingals** and **Os Druidas**, are the groups performing, all leading groups of the Asturian, Galician, Irish and Scottish communities in Buenos Aires. The event has received support from other cultural groups such as *Ballet Celtic Argentina, Sete Netos, Kells, O'Connor Band, Celtic Underground*, etc.. and is mainly supported by : Programa de Colectividades de la Jefatura de Gabinete la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Parlamento Internacional por la Paz y la Seguridad, Radio CADENA SOL – FM 89.5 MHZ (www.fm895.com.ar) and the Radio Programme "**PLUM PUDDING**" with the participation of the *Irish and Spanish Embassies, the British Council, EU –Educacion de Irlanda, Cámara de Comercio e Industria Argentino Irlandesa, Federación de Sociedades Argentino-Irlandesas, Instituto de Cultura Gallega*,

Centro Galicia Buenos Aires and Centro Asturiano. For further information please contact : **Susana Shanahan** at movceltar-gentina@ciudad.com.ar

Colombia:

Awen (www.awencelta.net) a Celtic music group from Colombia will also join the event called "**Concierto de Música Celta por la Paz**" inspired by the awful bombings which took place in **Madrid** in March organizing a concert in **Casa del Valle del Cauca** in **Bogotá, Colombia** on May the 8th while they will celebrate a Beltaine feast. For further information please contact: **Javier Pinzón Franco** at montsalvad@hotmail.com

Argentina:

Susana Shanahan, again, is also organizing a Celtic event on May the 16th in the "**Club del Vino**" in **Buenos Aires** making one of her dreams come true. The show called "**Sonido Celta**" (Celtic Sound) is a "magical look at the roots of Celtic music and speech" as she aptly describes it. Her friend **Eliseo Mauas Pinto** with his Celtic harp and his group **Bran** plays the music while **Oscar Orquera** reads ancient Celtic stories. **Eliseo Mauas Pinto** is the only Celtic Harp player in South America. He has even been recognised by **Alan Stivell**...

José CALVETE.

NEW LANGUAGE ACT PROTEST IN BANGOR

Cymdeithas yr Iaith held the latest in the series of protests for a new Welsh language Act in Bangor on March 13th. Similar protests have been held in Cardiff, Aberystwyth, and Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen. The aim of these protests is to draw attention to the weakness of the 1993 language act and show the need for a new act. Spokesman Rhys Llwyd said "The 1993 act was one for the public sector, but since then almost every service that touches the lives of Welsh people has been privatised, and there have been significant developments in information technology. The 1993 act does not touch these fields." Cymdeithas held a meeting with the new Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Quango in April to present the evidence for the need for a New Language Act.

R. ap Tomas

Breton POW trial: Verdict

At the beginning of April the verdict was passed on the Breton POWs (Prisoners of War) whose trials had been taking place throughout March 2004. In total 11 Bretons stood trial, 6 of whom were already in detention and the others were awaiting trial. Those on trial were accused of being involved in 17 bomb attacks, including the attack at McDonald's at Quévert, in which an employee died. Below is the verdict on the 6 Breton POW's who were being detained:

Kristian Georgeault: 11 years jail, minimum mandatory sentence. The prosecutor had demanded 18 years, with a minimum of 10 years. Kristian admitted being involved in several bomb attacks, but not that of Quévert. Kristian has already served nearly four years.

Gaël Roblin: 3 years of jail. The prosecutor had demanded 15 years, with a 10 year minimum sentence. Gaël already served nearly four years and was released.

Paskal Laizé: 8 years of jail, with no minimum. The prosecutor had demanded 12 years. Paskal has already served nearly four years.

Stéphane Philippe: 6 years of jail, no minimum sentence. The prosecutor had demanded 10 years, with 6 years minimum. Stéphane has already served nearly four and a half years.



Kristian Georgeault:

Alain Solé: 6 years, as demanded by the prosecutor. He has already served nearly four years, and could be released before the 6 years.

Jérôme Bouthier: acquitted and released, as required by the prosecutor.

All prisoners were cleared of involvement in the Quévert bombing.

In response to the trials Bernard Moffatt, General Secretary of the League, stated that: "The League share the concerns of some in Brittany who believe the case against these men may have, to a certain extent, been contrived for political ends by the French government. The trial may be over but questions still remain."

In response An Scoren Kernewek wrote to the French Embassy in London and the Ministry of Justice in Paris asking for answers as to why:

- ◆ the provisional detention of the prisoners lasted so long (in some cases for over four years)
- ◆ a special court of assize was set up to try the prisoners
- ◆ the sleep of some of the prisoner's (e.g. Alain Solé and Gael Roblin) was deliberately disturbed during the night of Tuesday 2nd /Wednesday 3rd March, at this important time during their trial
- ◆ the presiding Judges at the trial were concerned with who, among the 11 defendants, participated in the March for Breton Freedom (an unrelated event)
- ◆ the trial continued despite the prejudicial nature of the French press, which insinuated during the trial, that the defendants were members/supporters of the ARB (Breton Republican Army) before the verdicts had been passed

The Celtic League has been campaigning for the release or trial of the Breton POWs since 2001. We will continue to write letters of support to those who are still detained and would like to thank all those who done the same.

E Bost:

celticleaguekernowbranch@hotmail.com

R. Tal-e-bot

Amnesty for Ill Prisoners?

In February 2004 the Court of Cassation confirmed the suspension of a 10-year prison term being served by Maurice Papon, a former high-ranking government official and Paris police chief, in view of his age and state of health. Maurice Papon was released from prison in September 2002 under the provisions of a law of March 2002 on the rights of ill people. Under the law, prisoners' sentences can be suspended if they are critically ill or suffering from a chronic condition incompatible with their detention.

In March last Amnesty International retransmitted its request to the Minister of Justice, made in December 2003, for information about the number of people who had been released under the law and its concern about the current circumstances of a number of individual detainees and prisoners suffering from serious and chronic medical conditions. To date Amnesty International has received no reply from the government.

FRENCH FEAR LANGUAGE FREEDOM

The move by the Spanish government to seek recognition at EU level of the official languages in Spain other than Spanish, i.e. Basque, Catalan and Galician, is to be welcomed. Not only does it signal the new government's determination and commitment to language pluralism but also it sends a clear signal to the Basque people about respect for their culture which has the

Alain Solé was arrested in 1999 in connection with alleged illegal activities by Emgann, the Breton nationalist group. He spent nearly five years in provisional detention and was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment in April last. In June 2003 he underwent a triple bypass operation at a Paris hospital. He has reportedly become insulin-dependent in prison. Several applications for provisional release have been rejected by the Paris Appeal Court.

potential to open the door to a peaceful settlement of that intractable problem.

The move has been welcomed by many in Europe including the European Parliamentary leader, Pat Cox.

However, a less positive but entirely predictable response has come from the government of France. Its Foreign Minister, Michel Barnier, has cautioned against the move warning against what he described as "the reopening of difficult issues".

The French attitude speaks volumes about the monolingual arrogance of that State. Not content with repression of those national languages within its own boundaries (such as Breton) it now seeks to dissuade neighbouring governments from pursuing more liberal policies.

What is clear from the intervention of Michel Barnier is that France fears linguistic self-determination for those National minorities within its borders. France is a State 'swimming against the tide' in Europe where linguistic self-determination is no longer an aspiration but a right.

Bernard Moffatt

CALL FOR RETURN OF STOLEN O'KEEFE CHALICE TO IRELAND

In Ireland, prior to the destruction of Gaelic society, it was not uncommon for the various Clans to commission the creation of ecclesiastical accoutrements for local clergy usage. Of these, chalices – which would be used to celebrate mass – were among the most common, as evidenced by the examples which remain today, either in museums or private collections. The Clan O'Keeffe (O' Caoimh) for example, has at least two such chalices, one dating from 1735, while the other, created in 1590 is one of the oldest Irish ecclesiastical chalices known. Commissioned by the branch of the O'Keeffe's whose ancestral lands were in the area of what is today called 'Newmarket', (in Irish 'Kilmacroghan') County Cork, this chalice – now known as the 'Mount Keefe Chalice' was dedicated and presented to the clergy of the area and was used for church services up until the time of the Penal Laws (1695 – 1829), when the practice of the Catholic religion was made a crime according to English Law.

It was during this dark period, when Catholics were forced to observe mass in hidden locations in the hedges, hills, and woods, that a gathering assembled for mass were surprised by a troop of redcoats (i.e.: the English army) who, as was all too common in this epoch, murdered two priests (a Father Gallivan and a priest from Kerry whose name has been lost with the passage of time), then proceeded to loot the nearby O'Keeffe household, taking the chalice with them. While these facts were – given the references and accounts documented by both the O'Keeffe's and others – public knowledge, not surprisingly there was no legal recourse, for it was the 'law of the land' at the time which was actually responsible for the crimes.

For many years nothing was known regarding the whereabouts of the chalice, but in 1915, upon the death of Mr. Robert Day, an amateur historian and avid antiquarian, the 'Mount Keefe' chalice – along with a number of other ecclesiastical chalices – was listed as being amongst his possessions to be disposed of by sale. This in itself is more than a little strange, for Mr. Day had previously been President of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society and had written extensively regarding the numerous other chalices in his possession, yet never wrote or otherwise mentioned the 'Mount Keefe' chalice, although it was without question the oldest – and by all accounts the most beautiful – in his collection. Given Mr. Day's considerable

The sexfoil base rises from a horizontal die-struck foot ring. Two faces of the base are engraved with pairs of cross-hatched leaf sprays, each enclosing a shamrock; the third is engraved with the Crucifixion, surmounted by a shamrock-like device with rays and flanked by the emblems of Christ's Passion. Within the foot are six vertical strips added during repairs. The hexagonal shaft terminates in hexagonal punched wires; the knob is Melon-shaped and chased with segments, three of which are engraved with flower heads. The base of the bowl is clasped by a shaped calyx, with alternate petals cross-hatched.

A contemporary inscription under the foot-ring reads 'COK * ME * FIERI * FECIT * ANNO * DOMINI * 1590; there is also a later inscription 'The Mount Keefe Chalice – reconsecrated Burton Park AD 1916.

This chalice was made by an Irish goldsmith for mass use according to the Roman Catholic rite. In common with most contemporary Irish liturgical plate, it bears no goldsmiths' marks but there is a dedicatory inscription, noting that it was made to the order of COK, probably a member of the O'Keeffe family, in 1590.

knowledge of the history of the region it would appear reasonable to deduce that Mr. Day was well aware of the 'Mount Keefe' chalice's patrimony, and thus reluctant to publicize his possession of what he knew to be 'stolen goods'. The chalice was quickly purchased by the Purcell family of Burton Park (who were friends of Mr. Day) reconsecrated (?) and given a new inscription on the bottom to mark their ownership. The Purcell's retained possession of it until 1929, when Mrs. Purcell sold the chalice to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V & A) in London, where it remains to this day. Learning of the chalice and its bizarre history I first approached a number of members of the Clan O'Keeffe around the world (Australia, the U.S., Canada, and of course Ireland) and sought their counsel. The overwhelming majority of those I spoke to share my belief that, as the chalice had been illegally taken from us, it would behove the V & A to return our property. It was, however, agreed that the most sensible option would be to have the chalice returned to a suitable museum in the Republic of Ireland, where it could be seen and appreciated as a symbol of our ancestors' struggles and a link to our collective Gaelic heritage. Thus, in the fall of 2003, I wrote to the V & A, explaining the circumstances of the chalice's theft and, while in no manner blaming the V & A for their acquisition of the chalice (in fact I expressly thanked them for their stewardship in caring for it!), informed them that those members of the Clan O'Keeffe for whom I spoke in this matter would greatly appreciate having the chalice returned to Ireland. Several months



The Mount Keefe Chalice, Silver-gilt, Irish, unmarked, dated 1590, H 19cm, WT 276 g.

later, I received a letter from Dr. Teresa Murdoch, a Deputy Keeper, who informed me that the V & A had purchased the chalice 'in good faith' and that, in their opinion, now possessed 'good title' to it. Being familiar with the policies and attitudes of British museums (who tend to be rather zealously protective of their 'swag'), I cannot confess to any great surprise with their response; what *did* surprise and even *shock* me, however, was that the V & A were already in possession of an O'Keeffe 'family history' booklet documenting both the murders and the subsequent theft of the chalice!

Now, given the substantial and acrimonious history of English rule in Ireland – not to mention their comportment in their numerous other colonies and their well-publicized reluctance to return any of the numerous cultural treasures accumulated during their colonial Heyday – perhaps I was guilty of a degree of naiveté in assuming that, once they had learned of the *criminal* aspects of the chalice's theft from the O'Keeffe's, the V & A would welcome the opportunity to exercise some semblance of moral/ethical responsibility and immediately seek a resolution which would be agreeable to all parties (for example, a 'long-term' or 'permanent' loan as I suggested to them in my letter). Such concepts were, however, quite obviously outside the realm of consideration for the V & A, leaving me little recourse but to seek an informed legal opinion. I shall discuss this and other aspects of the claim in a future article!

Tadhg Caoimhin O' Caoimh/Timothy Kevin O'Keeffe

3RD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

This will take place on the island of Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, from the 23rd to the 25th October. Irish speakers have long worked in Guernsey. During the Festival you will find out what happened to them when the Island was invaded in 1940. Irish speakers now work in banking, medicine and education in Guernsey and it is they who invited the Festival to the island. It is being organised by the island branch of Coláiste na nGael.

Rooms have been block booked in an hotel in the historic heart of St. Peter Port but places there are limited. Those travelling from England will depart from Gatwick. For full details contact Dónall Ó Ceilleachair at 0044 (0) 2083485016 or Cathal at 0044 (0) 450412.



Dónal Ó Ceilleachair and other Irish speakers queue to sign the petition demanding EU working language status for Irish. The petition was handed to Bertie Ahern, Irish Taoiseach, when he visited Manchester in March.

WEB FREEDOM CURTAILED – WAS THERE SOMETHING TO HIDE?

There have been suggestions that freedom of speech in one of western Europe's oldest democracies has been compromised following what some see as a politically inspired closure of an Internet chat forum.

The Isle of Man government boasts it has the oldest parliament in the world and yet it seems some have difficulty coming to terms with some of the new technology which today's world has produced.

When the Internet first developed more general usage about ten years ago, globally, it was seen as a mechanism to challenge conventional communications media which is sometimes through either commercial pressure or political patronage compromised.

On the Isle of Man a similar pattern has emerged in recent years with web-sites and internet forums projecting a more cutting message than that afforded by the mainstream.

The Island has limited established media outlets. There is no TV station (the Island is afforded small coverage as part of the Border TV commercial area while BBC-TV coverage is non-existent). The Radio Station is funded via a mix of commercial and public subvention (the

latter, some believe, conditions its coverage) and there is a single newspaper group (part of a UK conglomerate).

The take-up for the 'independent' internet forums was very limited. However, it is a measure of the irritation they seem to have engendered that action as draconian as a 'switch-off' has occurred.

Some who accessed the newsgroups were sceptical of the veracity of some of the claims made on them about politicians and commercial undertakings active in the Island. Paradoxically, now many may believe that those criticised did have something to hide after all!

Bernard Moffatt

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Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution
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