

celtin

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



ALBA

Is e 'n t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach

Sna làithean a dh'aom thadhail an fheadhainn ro bheartach is ro chumhachdach baile Simla air na beanntan arda sna h-Innseachan. Chaidh iad an sin a h-uile samhradh bhon a tha e fionnar an seo. Mata, bha iad a' dol ann fhad's a bha na Sasunnaich a' riaghaladh thairis air na h-Innseachan co dhiu — bhon a bha e ro theth ann an Delhi.

An diugh, tha fògarraich à Tibeat ro bhochd is gun chumhachd sam bith an sin. Theich iad on dùthaich aca bhon a tha na Sinich a' dèanamh geur-leanmhainn air a' chànan aca, air a' chreidamh aca agus air an dualachas aca — dìreach coltach ri geur-leanmhainn is dearmad na Gàidhlig o làithean Rìgh Chaluim Chinn Mhòir. Nach fheumadh e na faclan aig Mairead na Mallachd, a bhean, eadar-theangachadh o Bheurla gu Gàidhlig oir cha robh duine ann an Eaglais na h-Alba, an uair sin comasach Beurla a thuigsinn!

Ach tha na Tibeatannaich a' dèanamh spàirn air sgath na cànan aca is an dualachas aca dìreach mar a tha sinne a' dèanamh an diugh. Tha croileagan aca cuideachd, ged a tha iad a' fuireach ann an *slum* ro bhochd.

Lorgaidh duine sam bith an sgoil bhochd thrugh aca ann an Simla sios braighe far a bheil na taighean aca air an togail le drumachan-ola còmhnaidh. Tha mu fhichead leanabhan ann, eadar trì bliadhna is sia bliadhna a dh'aois. Ach chan eile mòran diofar eatorra agus na croileagan againne far a bheil ar clann eadar dhà gu leth is còig bliadhna a dh'aois.

Coltach ris an dualachas Tibeatannach, 's ann 'sa na Gàidheil òg againne... a tha ar dòchas ris an àm ri tighinn. Arsa an Dalai Lama, a tha 'na cheannard air na Tibeatannaich, "Faodaidh an fheadhainn òg againn 'sna Innseachaich a bhi ann an cridhe a' chaitheamh-beatha chràbhach chiùin a thogras sin a chur air bonn a-ris." Mata, air an laimh eile, tha dùil againn gum bi ar Gàidheil òg a' cur ar cànan an àite na Beurla feadh Alba neo-eisimealach uile gu leir.

Ma thèid thu a-steach don chroileagan Tibeatannach ann an Simla cluinidh tu na pàisdean a' gabhail òrain Tibeatannach

agus an deidh sin a' toirt a-staigh an t-òran "Bha tuathanas aig Seann Dòmhnallach" far an robh muncaidh ro fhiadhaich!

Agus nì iad eacarsaich aig an aon àm coltach aig a' cheart àm ris an fheadhainn òg againne mar "Làmhann anns a' bhùrn" (no uisge)

I

Làmhann anns a' bhùrn
Làmhann anns a' bhùrn
Spliosaidh, sploisidh, splaisidh
Tha mo làmhann anns a' bhùrn.

II

Siabann air mo shròin
Siabann air mo shròin
Spliosaidh, sploisidh, splaisidh
Tha siabann air mo shròin

III

Frasaidh mi am bùrn ort
Frasaidh mi am bùrn ort
Spliosaidh, sploisidh, splaisidh
Frasaidh mi am bùrn ort

no òran a tha rud beag èasgaidh...

"Tha Sara a' dannsa"

I

Tha Sara a' dannsa, a' dannsa, a' dannsa
Tha Sara a' dannsa, a' dannsa fhathast.

II

Tha Sìm ag ithe, ag ithe, ag ithe 7c

III

Tha Màiri a' ruith, a' ruith, a' ruith 7c

IV

Tha Iain a' snàmh, a' snàmh, a' snàmh 7c

V

Tha Dòmhnall ag òl, ag òl, ag òl 7c

VI

Tha Eilidh a' coiseachd, a' coiseachd, a' coiseachd 7c

VII

Tha Fionnlagh a' leum, a' leum, a' leum 7c.
Agus tha òrain na bodhaig againn cuideachd... "Cluasan, siùlean, sròn is beul"

I

Cluasan, siùlean, sròn is beul
Sròn is beul, sròn is beul
Cluasann, siùleann, sròn is beul
An ceann a h-uile creutair.

II

Corrag bheag is òrdag mhòr
Òrdag mhòr òrdag mhòr
Corrag bheag is òrdag mhòr
Air làmh a h-uile creatuir.

Mata, sin agad e! Chan eil mòran diofar eadar croileagan Tibeatannach is fear Albannach. Bhiodh na Tibeatannaich fìor thoilichte Tibeat neo-eisimealach fhacinn, far an robh croileagan Tibeatannach anns a h-uile àite, agus tha sinne air an aon ràmh, gu dùrachdach, a thaobh saorsa na h-Albainn is na croileagan againn.



Gilleann Tibeatannach san croileagan aca.
Tha am fear as lugha de na gilleann trì bliadhna gu leth a dh'aois.

Ma bhios leughadair deònach na croileagan a chuideachadh, sgrìobhadh e gu Fionnlagh Mac Leòid, CNSA, 53 Sràid na h-Eaglaise, Inbhir Nis IV1 1DR, Alba/Scotland. A chionn gun lean na croileagan gu sgoiltean, colaisdean is oilthighean sa Gàidhlig agus Alba far a bheil ar cànan Albannach an àite Beurla chruaidh Shasunnach!

Gilleasbuig Mac Mhuirich
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

This is a discussion of pre-school teaching through our Scottish language.



- **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** offers a range of full-time and short courses (April-Sept.) in Gaelic, piping, fiddle, clarsach, step dance, tin whistle and accordion. For further information: Gavin Parsons, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Slèite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach IV44 8RQ, Alba/Scotland.
- To celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of The Edinburgh International Festival, The Edinburgh Fringe and the Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival the University of Edinburgh is offering courses on drama, music and film studies. Dates: 10-30 August, accommodation available. A number of short courses for adults, including Gaelic, are also on offer throughout the summer. Contact: International Summer Courses, Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Edinburgh, 11 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9LW, Scotland.

New Verses for an Auld Sang

by James S. Adam, published by
The Herald Press, Arbroath, 1995,
price £4.65

This is a splendid collection of verse about Scotland. The poems are largely in Scots although Gaelic has its part as Scotland's other living language but James Adam makes a point of going beyond bilingualism into trilingualism following on the work of William Neill in that field.

The opening verse "Scotia" is an unyielding affirmation of why we need to stand on our own feet, on our own platform and proclaim the importance of the Scot's view of himself/herself together with the need to be free to be ourselves.

The book is, however, also seasoned with some gently reflective poems in English together with a few light-hearted items poking fun at ourselves and some of the queer notions we have from time to time.

There is fun along with the passion and both the fun and the serious challenge poems express evocatively the historic and innermost aspirations of most Scots.

British Telecom

In the last year or so many new, multilingual payphones have appeared throughout Scotland. Despite providing instructions in six languages including Welsh, Gaelic is not included. The argument initially started when BT refused to include Gaelic in two multilingual boxes on the Isle of Lewis, despite the fact that Comhairle nan Eilean the local authority has a bilingual policy and that the large majority of inhabitants speak Gaelic.

Gaelic bodies such as Comann an Luchd Ionnsachaidh (the Gaelic learners association) have been conducting a campaign for Gaelic in all such payphones in Scotland. Unfortunately this campaign has not yet met with any success as BT are showing a very inflexible attitude on this matter and are justifying their position with the flimsiest of arguments. They have argued that there is insufficient demand for Gaelic, pointing out that 20% of the Welsh population speak Welsh as compared with only 1.4% of those in Scotland speaking Gaelic. This argument seems to neglect the

fact that far more people in Scotland speak Gaelic than speak Welsh. While the boxes are standardised throughout the "UK", it is surely possible for them to make an exception for a country as large as Scotland.

In the standard letters which BT have been sending to campaigners, they say that they would consider providing Gaelic instruction "if there should be an upsurge in the use of Gaelic, which mirrors the situation in Wales". They give no indication of what constitutes such an "upsurge" and seem oblivious to the fact that most involved with Gaelic would argue that there has been one in many senses. If you want to see Gaelic included on all Scottish multilingual payphones, write to:

Eric Richardson, Payphone Customer Services Office, BT Payphones, 35 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2YZ, England.

Alasdair MacCaluim

New Gaelic Radio Service

By the time this article is in print, the new BBC Gaelic radio service should be in operation. This represents both an advance and a retreat for Gaelic radio. Previously all of Scotland was able to receive one hour of Gaelic radio every day excepting Saturdays on MW with the West Highlands and Islands receiving the full Radio nan Gaidheal service on FM. Under the new regime, the full range of Gaelic programmes will also be available throughout the Central Belt on FM. An improved FM service will also be available in Caithness, Badenoch and Strathspey. These changes mean that the majority of Scots will receive more Gaelic radio.

Unfortunately, the small amount of Gaelic broadcasting on MW is to cease with the commencement of the FM service. Gaelic radio will no longer be available in areas without dedicated FM transmitters. Many have said that the new set-up is a 'national service'. It is clear from looking at the areas which are to lose Gaelic radio that it is no such thing. There will be no Gaelic radio at all in the Borders, Tayside, Dumfries & Galloway or the majority of Grampian and Fife. Even the whole of the Highlands will not be covered. Outwith Scotland, the numerous Gaelic learners in England, Wales and Ireland will also lose their opportunity to hear Gaelic on the radio.

There can be no doubt that the new service will be a great improvement for those able to receive it. There can also be no doubt that it is unacceptable that so many are to lose Gaelic radio. The BBC seems determined to remove MW Gaelic programming despite protests from the Gaelic movement. Surely the BBC can satisfy the eminently reasonable demand of campaigners for a few Gaelic broadcasts on MW each week. Even if they are unwilling to retain the present service, the BBC could provide a reduced service of two or three hours a week.

In the long term, the only acceptable solution to the radio problem is a 24 hour Gaelic radio service available throughout Scotland.

If you want to see the retention of Gaelic on MW, write to: James Boyle, Head of BBC Radio Scotland, Radio Scotland, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, G12 8DG.

Alasdair MacCaluim

Kilmarnock Edition

A series of booklets by Puio Mereu, Via E Frediani 4, 00154 Rome, Italy. Written in Italian these booklets deal with Celtic traditions, music and poetry. For further information write to the author, address above.

Scottish Political Situation

The British Government and Official Opposition are getting in a lather about the prospects of a General Election within the next fourteen months. The average elector is just praying for polls to be over. The vast majority in order to see how a new era dawns, the rest couldn't care less as long as their pockets are not too badly affected.

With the blatant disregard shown by Tory ministers to Scottish and Welsh opinion it merely underlines the mood in the Celtic countries to vote overwhelmingly for change. For the Scots the likely arrival of a Scottish Assembly is the major prize. For the Welsh who hope for similar changes they await the Labour Party settling in its own mind just what it will promise the Welsh should it win.

For those of us who live in Scotland the behaviour of Labour is not always sure footed. Their councillors in certain places like Monklands in north Lanarkshire appear just like the old Labour the London party has tried to leave behind. For the suspension of the whole Labour membership of the Monklands goes to the root of mismanagement and favouritism which is always the temptation of ruling in a one party state for so long. This raises the anomaly that while Westminster elections will be conducted by "first past the post" once again this will not reflect the true balance of opinion in Scotland.

While the promised Assembly will have the Additional Member System to top up the parties. However the LibDems with 10 MPs at present run at only 10-11% of the vote. Labour registers 47-50% of the polls but has well over 60% of the seats. And scandalously the SNP is trying to break out of the electoral straight-jacket which gave them over 20% of votes but only three MPs. Of course since then Roseanna Cunningham won the seat of Perth & Kinross for SNP in a by-election last May and the party has done well in local and European elections. But the Nationalist progress is always measured by the voters in the number of MPs they can win.

Next year in April, if that is when John Major chooses to stand and fight, the SNP will need to show substantial gains in seats to put Independence in Europe on the fast track. **Carn** readers will be kept abreast of the developing situation. The political situation in Scotland shows a consistent placing of Labour first and for the fiftieth month SNP at over 20% of votes, well ahead of the Tories and LibDems.

Rob Gibson

Manannan's Gift

Those who live in Scotland are part of an ancient system of monarchy. They benefit from the tolerant, stable and law-abiding environment which is the Kingdom of Scots. Our customs, traditions and natural resources are the collective legacy bequeathed us by previous generations. This rich heritage is not a free gift; with the benefits there is an implied acceptance of responsibility. It should be clearly understood that the good times, the years of peace, are guaranteed by the nation's collective will to endure the less auspicious years. By our sacrifice and suffering in the wars of the past we have earned the bounties of the present. Only through a willingness to meet these challenges in the future can we hope to maintain our legacy.

Those Scots who spend the years of peace in servitude to alien masters will face a dilemma when less settled times return, as they surely must. Those of us who neglect the body politic when avarice beckons will be ill prepared for the onset of inclement conditions. It has ever been the bane of nations that only constant vigilance can protect an institution which is greater by far than the sum of its parts.

Fools question the worth of a system they do not understand. If the nation is of such low value why then were past generations prepared to fight for it? To spurn our legacy is to imply that our forebears were wrong in their vision of the world. To suggest that many generations of fools have produced a modern, enlightened and wise generation is a popular but flawed philosophy.

The Scottish nation is essentially about loyalty to a shared ideal. It is strongly based on Celtic traditions, incorporating elements of Judaic, Norse and Saxon mythology. To define the positive ideals which we stand for is necessarily subjective and open to hair-splitting arguments. When our history is viewed over a long period, a few broad generalisations are possible. We have a collective will to resist imperialism and external aggression. For a European nation we have shown an unusual degree of tolerance towards Hebrews. As befits a Celtic nation we have a love of learning. Scots have demonstrated a particular aptitude for the practical application of education. Whether these attributes can be successfully adapted to meet the current difficulties is a question which has yet to be answered.

The primary challenge for our generation is to extend the territorial limits of the nation to include the waters off our coast. In so doing we will bring the 1934 Petroleum Production Act to the North Sea oilfields. To bring the rule of Law to Europe's largest oilfield is a noble and just undertaking. To challenge the gangsters off our coast and in our midst will surely inspire an heroic song or two.
Tae ilka coo her calfie.

© Leroy Beattie

Bail' Ur Ostaig

Bail' Ur Ostaig, to be built on a superb coastal site in the southern part of Skye, will be a world centre for the study, interpretation and enjoyment of Gaelic and of everything connected with it. On behalf of everyone involved in this exiting project, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, principal promoter of the new centre and Scotland's Gaelic-medium college, invites you to help make Bail' Ur Ostaig a reality.

Bail' Ur Ostaig will cost some £25 million. An application for assistance has been made to the Millennium Commission which has been established by government to finance ventures intended to mark the year 2000 and the start of the third millennium.

Bail' Ur Ostaig will build on the many educational achievements of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. But Bail' Ur Ostaig will be more than an educational institution. It will be a place to which people from every corner of the world will be able to turn for information about our Gaelic language and

culture. Thus the Bail' Ur Ostaig library - which will include video and audio material as well as printed texts - will be accessible internationally by way of the latest computer and communications technologies.

To make Bail' Ur Ostaig a reality, we need to convince the Millennium Commission that the project enjoys widespread backing in Scotland and beyond. If you'd like to see Bail' Ur Ostaig take shape, please let the Millennium Commission know of your support.

Heading your letter Bail' Ur Ostaig, write to: Jennifer Iles, The Millennium Commission, 2 Little Smith Street, London SW1P 3DH.

It would be appreciated if you could copy your letter or let us know that you have written to the Millennium Commission. Thank you for your help. Norman N. Gillies, Director, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Teangue, Sleat, Isle of Skye, IV44 8RQ

BREIZH

Skinwel Gouezelek Bro-Skos

Bremañ ez eus pevar bloaz abaoe ma'z eo bet savet ar c'hengor karget da ziorren ar servij skinwel gouezelek e Bro-Skos. Dav eo kounaat n'eus ket a ganol a-ziforc'h evit ar servij-se: dre ganolioù BBC Scotland, Grampian hag ITV eo e vez skignet ar programmoù er yezh-se ha ganto ivez e vez aozet an darn vrasañ anezho.

En ur rentañ-kont roet gant ar c'hadoriad Roy McIvor e tisklêrias hennezh e oa bet mat ar c'henober etre ar c'hengor, ar genderc'herien programmoù hag ar bellskignerien er prantad 1994-1995, ha dalc'het o doa ar programmoù pennañ da vezañ deuet-mat d'an arvesterien.

"Prizañ a reomp", a lavaras, "an harp hon eus bet digant ar genderc'herien e-kerzh ar bloaz kellidel tremenet pa zeuas digresk en arc'hant o tont d'hor c'hef ha rouestl en hor raktresoù gant se. En abeg d'an diaesterioù-se n'omp ket bet evit pourvezañ programmoù ken liesseurt ha ma c'houlenne an arvesterien. N'hon eus ket gallet gouestlañ 25% eus hor c'hellidsteunv da filmoù aozet gant kompagnezhioù dizalc'h evel ma oa hon dezv. Strivet hon eus da gaout muioc'h a arc'hant digant ar gouarnamant. Un tammig kresk omp deuet a-benn da gaout evit 1995-'96 met n'eo ket savet hon enkefiad d'al live ma oa en derou. C'hwil 'oar e klask ar gouarnamant dalc'hmat krennañ an dispignoù forañ!

War un dro gant ar c'henlabour hon eus diazezet gant "greanterezh" ar skinwel e Bro-Skos emaoomp oc'h astenn ar rouedad darempredoù hon eus skoulmet gant kenderc'herien ha pellskignerien programmoù e yezhoù keltiek all. Kenlabourat a reomp ivez evel-just gant kevredigezhioù an emsav gouezelek. Gant ar strollad-ren zo karget da ziorren ar skinwel iwerzhonek ez omp en em glevet evit sevel ur c'hengef a roio harp da aozañ steudadoù programmoù nevez. Roet hon eus arc'hant evit lakaat aozañ daou film video evit ar vugale, ul levr zo bet moulet evit bezañ implijet gant unan anezho. Darn eus an dispign zo bet sammet gant ar ganol ITV evit an eil, "An Taigh Tapaidh", ha gant BBC Scotland ha Teilifís Éireann evit egile, "Mire Mara".

Evit gourdonañ kenderc'herien hon eus en em glevet gant Skolaj Sabhal Mòr

Ostaig (a geenn danveziou pleustrek trede-live e gouezelek). Enrollet e voe studieren, d'ar wezh kentañ e 1994, da vezañ stummet e-pad daou vloaz. Kenbrezegeoù hon eus dalc'het ivez gant arbennigourien war dachenn ar c'henderc'hañ, hag un enklask hon eus graet evit gouzout pere e oa an ezhommoù evit barrekaat an dud da seveniñ o labour.

Ur c'holl zo bet etre leve (enkefiad) ha dispign. Kementad ha talvoud ar programmoù hon eus skignet o deus koustet deomp muioc'h eget na oa en hor c'herz evit ar bloaz kellidel."

An deriñvad-konterezh roet gant ar c'hadoriad a oa evit ar bloaz kellidel echuet d'an 31-3-95.

Roet e oa £8,738,000 gant ar Stad, war-dro £750,000 nebeutoc'h eget er bloaz a-raok. An dispignoù a save da £8,384,000 evit ar c'henderc'hañ, £179,000 evit an diorren, £95,000 evit ar c'has-war-raok (bruderezh?), £151,000 evit ar stummañ, £141,000 evit an enklaskoù e-mesk an arvesterien. Kemeret e oa bet ahendall £486,000 gant an dispignoù mererezh.

O tele'her kont ouzhpenn-se eus kargoù ha kampi e oa ur c'holl a £674,000, un tamm mat nebeutoc'h eget er bloaz a-raok (£1,156,000).

A.H.

Gerioù nebeut anavezet

Kengor : committee; kanol : channel; kenderc'her : producer; pellskigner : broadcaster; kellidel : financial; kellidsteunv : budget; deriñvad : report (loanword from Cornish).

Summary

In his report for 1994-'95 the chairman of the Scottish (Gaelic) Television Committee expressed satisfaction with the operation of the arrangements made for the Gaelic television service even though a drop of £750,000 in the annual government grant had limited the range of the programmes provided. Co-operation was being developed with the agencies involved in television in other Celtic languages.

Bruderezh

Ret din lavaret ne gomprenan ket gwall var penaos ez a en-dro an Internet, a vez meneget bremañ ken alies. Koulz eo din d'am oad lezel tud yaouankoc'h da c'hoari gant an n'oun-dare-petra-se, ha gwell a se ma c'hallont tennañ splot dioutañ evit degas muioc'h a dud a-du gant an Emsav breizhat. War a glevan e vez skignet a bep seurt stronk en doare-se ivez. N'eo ket hepken ar Stadoù a dremen kasadennoù an Internet dreist d'o galloud-evezhiañ, met an tadoù-ha-mammoù ivez, hag int lakaet nec'het gant ar pezh a wel o bugale. N'eus mui harzoù da netra, e neblec'h. Ma! daou du a vez da bep pladenn, koulskoude.

Er gelaouenn vizek kembreat-amerikan *Ninnau* (Kerzu '95) ez eus anv eus un 'embanner' pe koumananter, Cyber-Cymru, a skign keleier ha stlennadur a-zivout ar broioù keltiek all. Gant Breizh e oa Kroget a miz Kerzu

Hervez *Ninnau*, hag a zo deuet da vezañ kreñv a-du gant Plaid Cymru abaoe ur pennad, en deus graet Dafydd Wigley, prezidant ar strollad-se ha kannad e Westminster, kalz berzh gant un droiad vruderezh er Stadoù-Unanet e miz Here '95.

E bal a oa tennañ splot eus ar garantez a vag an dud a orin kembreat evit bro o zadoù hag o mammoù (kozh, kuñv, you ha tout) hag o degas da harpañ an emsav broadel, evel m'o deus gouezet Iwerzhoniz ober a-werso. Bodadegoù a voe aozet evitañ en un nebeut kêrioù e reter ar Stadoù hag e California.

Du-hont, e Monterey, e prezegas e tri emvod a studieren. En ur skol stag ouzh un Ensavadur Studioù Etrevroadel e tisplegas labour un Ajañs da ziorren Kembre hag a striv da zedennañ estrenien da engouestlañ arc'hant en embregerezhioù kembreat.

Dirak 150 den e komzas a-zivout "Diempredigezh Peoc'hus Breizh-Veur", un argerzh a roio tu da Gembre da vezañ kevatal gant Bro-Skos, Bro-Saoz hag Iwerzhon en Unaniezh Europat.

Sur a-walc'h ne lavare ket an dra-se gant ar soñj e plegfe Republik Iwerzhon da gevrediañ gant Bro-Saoz en ur seurt is-unaniezh e-barzh an Unaniezh Europat. Un hevelep emglev a vez kinniget gant tud'zo evit diskoulmañ kudenn Norzhiwerzhon: spi o deus e lamje ur skoilh bras d'ar c'henlabour kefridiel etre an div rannbarzh eus Iwerzhon. N'eo ket Republikanenn Sinn Féin hepken a yafe a-enep ar mennad-se... Daoust ha ne vefe ket distreiñ e-barzh ar Rouantelezh Unanet?

P'emaon gant *Ninnau*, menegiñ a rae e oa koumanantet holl gerioù bras Breizh d'ar World Wide Web ... gwiad ar bed a-bezh! - (Me'laka ez eo ur gevrenn eus an

(contd.)

Internet). Peurvuiañ e reont gant ar galleg koulz ha gant ar saozneg, met lod a ra gant ar brezhoneg. En "takad" miret da Gemper e vezer "heñchet war-du ar brezhoneg". Un takad all ("site" a reer eus an dra-se e saozneg) zo miret d'ar C'Hengor Etrebroadel evit Difenn ar Brezhoneg: aze e c'haller deskiñ traoù diwar-benn ar sonerezh breizhat ivez.

Evel ma lavarer en iwerzhoneg, dibaot an takadoù na gavfes ket ligistri.

A.H.

The Welsh-American monthly Ninnau (Address: 11 Post Terrace, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, USA) carries reports of the activities of the numerous Welsh societies of N. America. It contains also a lot of very interesting material about Wales. The successful tour made in October by Dafydd Wigley to present the Welsh case for self-government in the USA is well covered in the December issue from which we also learn about the dissemination of information about Brittany on the Internet, thanks to Cyber-Cymru and the World Wide Web.

Breizh- Bro-Astur

Ur gevredigezh "Breizh-Bro-Astur" zo bet savet a-benn bodañ an holl Vretoned pe strolladoù breizhat dedennet e mod pe vod gant Bro-Astur. Fellout a ra deomp diorren an darempredoù etre hon div vro e pep Keñver, an eskemoù sevenadurel dre vras, etre ar sonerien, an arzourien, an emsaverien evit ar yezhoù, h.a. Kounaomp ez eo bet hon div vro unanet a-viskoazh gant ar Mor Atlantel ha pergen en oadvezh ar meurvein, hini an aergem ha maez ar Gelted Kozh. E-touesk broioù ar Warg Atlantel emaint hiziv.

Ar gevredigizh zo ganet diwar unan all a oa he zachenn war Bro an Oriant hepken. Ne vior ket souezhet o c'houzout emañ c'hoazh he seziz e Kêr ar Gouelioù Etrekeltiek hag ez eo Oriantiz a ya d'ober ar bras eus hec'h izili ha pergen eus he renerien: ar brezidantez Magdeleine Gonzalez-Derian, ar sekretour Gwenael Emelyanoff, an teñzorier Jean-Claude Corlay. Spi he deus e Kavo izili e Breizh a-bezh ha pelloc'h marteze. Titourioù: "Breizh-Bro-Astur", Ti ar C'hevredadoù, B.P. 58, Keoded Salvador Allende, 56100 An Oriant.

Festival for DIWAN in Kemperle

A four-day festival in support of the DIWAN school in Kemperle was organised by Youenn Craff in January at the instigation of the parents. This is Youenn's report to **Carn**:

"What was remarkable is the fact that Breton took a prominent role in the festival's numerous performances. In all the festivals I have attended and in which there was a favourable attitude towards our language, it was accorded a rather marginal role only: there would be only Breton lessons or a mass in Breton on the side, bilingual announcements or sometimes they might be in Breton only. Even Gouel ar Brezhoneg, the national festival of the Breton language, I found rather disappointing*. That is how it is since the (Catholic) association **BLEUÑ BRUG** ceased tens of years ago to stage competitions at its annual festival. In Kemperle, there was a big change even though I'd have liked more stage performances in Breton.

The festival opened with a talk in the Kernev dialect of the area about the endeavours of our association "Kelc'h Kervarker" and its theatre group in the 70's to regain for the language some of the ground since the war in public life. At the time no plays were being presented in French in and around Kemperle either. I must say that I had to give explanations in French for the benefit of listeners who did not know Breton.

On Friday 19, Strollad ar Vro Bagan gave a morning and an afternoon performance of the play "Ar Roue Marc'h" (which they had also presented last summer in Connemara (See **Carn** 92)). It was attended by about 750 children. In the evening, Gwenole ar Menn, ethnologist, and Goulc'han Kervella, writer and director of S. ar Vro Bagan, spoke to 150-200 people about the Theatre in Breton from the Middle Ages to the present.

On the 20th in the afternoon, plays, dances, songs and stories were presented by seven groups of children from Breton schools, to the same number of children as the previous day. In the evening a large number of adults also attended stage performances. Some 1500 people attended the following fest-noz (=céilf).

On Sunday, there were again plays, in French for children, and in Breton (the latter by the Kelc'h Kervarker group). I think it is the first time in many many years that a festival began and finished with substantial items in Breton only, not just for the opening and concluding words.

Many of those who came were keen on the use of our local dialect, they identify better with it than with standard literary

Breton which very few would be familiar with. There was a demand for regular meetings between native speakers and the "nevezvrezhonegerien" (who have learned it in various ways) to practise it for normal conversation. This is already being done in several other areas and increasingly so as exemplified in the numerous newspaper cuttings reproduced in the fascicules of *Keleier ar Brezhoneg* published by the Breton Cultural Institute".

* Gouel ar Brezhoneg has normally at least one play in Breton. Its organisers last year requested those presenting concerts to make announcements in Breton. They depend however on a large number of voluntary helpers, they are not all good Breton speakers...

L'Avenir de la Bretagne,

monthly, For a Free Brittany, 20 pp.
Subscription 200 F (but 250 F. outside State)

In the last issue, a double one because of the pre-Christmas strikes, Yann Fouere writes about the limits of independence and, in a second article, refers to a "lecture in political philosophy" given by the Pope when he addressed the United Nations in October and made a clear distinction between State and Nation, calling for a Charter of the Nations which would recognise to nations and minorities the right to exist, ... to educate the younger generations in accordance with their own traditions... No State, he had said, no other nation, no international organisation had the right to say that a given nation was not worthy of existing. The Pope in effect advocated a new way to organise political structures. This had been outlined in great detail several years ago by Y. Fouere in his book "*L'Europe aux Cent Drapeaux*".

The pope is due to visit Brittany on September 20, after going to Reims to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of the Franks' conversion to Christianity. Will he renew his New York call that it may apply to our country or will he yield to the pressure of the French hierarchy which, according to the Catholic Breton language periodical *IMBOURC'H*, subscribes to the State doctrine according to which there are no minorities in France? A committee, which has received support from a large number of people involved in the cultural movement, has been set up with the aim of impressing on the visitor the need to openly recognise the Breton

Uxellodunum, tombeau de la civilisation gauloise

by Jean-Marie Chaumeil. Forward by Prof. Chr. J. Guyonvarc'h. 189 pp., 110F. Publ. Liv. Editions, Gwernalez, BP15-, 56320 Ar Faoued, Brittany

This work is not only a compendium of what can be known to-day about the capture by the Romans in 51BC of the fortified oppidum of Uxellodunum, in the territory of the Cadurci corresponding to the present département of Lot, in the South of France (One *l* in the name appears to be superfluous, if *uxello* means *high*, as *Ir. uasal* and Breton *uhel*!). That event marked the end of the Gauls' resistance to the invaders. Its disastrous consequences for Gaul is not realised even by some Celtologists. Chaumeil, judging by the title, is not one of them. He makes a clear, precise and comprehensive exposé (taking two-thirds of the book) of the present state of knowledge about the ancient Celtic society and civilisation.

I am glad that though endowed with an astonishing capacity to draw from various sources and with a remarkable power of assimilation and synthesis he has taken as guides two reputed Celtic scholars, Chr. J. Guyonvarc'h and François Le Roux, his wife. In having to make a choice between different sources he may not always have been so lucky, as for instance in the case of some etymologies. But that is exception.

One of the few criticisms I would make is for using the term "Welsh" although, at the time he deals with, none of the peoples of Britain was known by that name. For the people who then occupied the land from the now-called English Channel to as far N. as the middle of Scotland, possibly also the North-East (if the Picts were to be established as P-Celts), the general name in French is *Bretons* ("d'Angleterre", another oddity!).

One cannot distinguish between Celts and Gauls. Even if "the Celtic Empire" did not constitute an organised State but rather a conglomerate, it possessed nonetheless a deep unity of language, culture and religion. Among its constituents, the Gauls did not play any special role or enjoy preponderance or even a greater unity, being themselves a conglomerate.

One feels also here and there that although he hails from Occitania, i.e. the area where the "langue d'Oc" is spoken, and although he has an extraordinary sense of history and a vast erudition, he bears the imprint of an anachronistic myth of the Hexagon according to which the French borders were destined from all antiquity to form such an almost perfect geometrical

figure when in fact they are recent and artificial.

Furthermore I am sorry but I cannot accept his "consolations" - let us not delude ourselves! France remains the Romans' best pupil, in its mentality and its structure, much more so (paradoxically) than Italy! Twice at least, at the Renaissance and even more at the Revolution, it definitely rejected what might have survived of the Celtic civilisation which Gaul had so brilliantly illustrated.

One might regret the lack of maps but there is a remarkable introduction and, at the end, testifying to a pedagogical concern, a copious historical lexicon and two bibliographies (books, magazines). All in all, this work is the best introduction to a more extensive study of the civilisation of the ancient Celts.

Y. Bouessel du Bourg.
Translated by A.H.

Passing of famous provincial figure



Pierre-Jakez Helias

Pierre-Jakez Helias, who achieved fame with the publication of "*Le Cheval d'Orgueil*", a book which he had written simultaneously also in Breton, died on August 14, 1995 aged 81. In it he described the rural life, customs and traditions of his native Bigouden country,

SW of Kemper, at the turn of the century. Its huge success was due to no small extent to the nostalgia it evoked among many of the city people throughout the world for a lost way of life common to the peasants of those days, everywhere so to speak: it was translated into 18 languages, including Russian and Chinese, and a film was made of it in France, which showed some scenes of doubtful authenticity...

Helias first became popular in the fifties with his Breton language program on Radio Kimerc'h. He excelled as a story teller. He contributed good plays and poetry to the Breton literature. But his attachment to our language was of a conservative type. Not for him the militancy of that other teacher, Fr. Armand ar C'halvez who around 1960 ran the first after-war bilingual school; the farthest he seems to have gone to blame the French authorities for their anti-breton policy was in 1954 when he said: "Nothing, nobody, wherever, never could justify the deliberately provoked disappearance of a language". He never called into question the French control of Breton affairs. He must have earned millions in royalties from this "horse of pride", a title which refers to his grand-father. Had he been concerned with the survival of his native language, he would surely have shared a substantial part of that fortune with the continuously starving half-strangled DIWAN schools, without feeling any the poorer. If he gave any penny of it to them, it must be a secret. He is praised as a poet, but should it not also be the role of a poet, in a nation engaged in a struggle for survival, to rouse its people to fight? Did the use of a hybrid double first name not betray a lack of assurance about his identity? I read that for several years towards the end of his life he travelled around the world furthering the cause of francophony and wrote exclusively in French. He "wanted" to write two novels in Breton, but found no time for that. He promised to be among our best writers, but stopped half-way. No wonder he was satirised as "the lying horse" by that inspiring writer, Xavier Grall, who unfortunately died too soon. No wonder either that his funeral was attended by politicians who care little for our language and culture.

A.H.

Learn Breton through German

A version of Dr Per Denez's textbook "*Brezhoneg Buan hag Aes*" prepared by Dr Gerard Cornillet to suit German speakers is now available for 120 F + 10% for postage, under the title "*Bretonisch Schnell und Mühelos*" from Yann Desbordes, 1 Plasenn Ch. Péguy, 29260 Lesneven. A Breton-German dictionary by G. Cornillet, 442 pp., price 140 F + 10% postage can be obtained from the same address.

Breton-Basque Solidarity Trial

The trial of a large number of Basques and Bretons announced in **Carn Nr 92** started on November 13 and went on for almost a week. Already on the first day it was punctuated by several incidents. Seldom has a hearing been so muddled and the pressure on its participants been so strong. That Thursday about a thousand Basques and Bretons had converged on Paris but an equal number of protesters coming by bus from the South-Basque country were turned back at the Spanish border on orders from the French Minister of the Interior.

The trial began under rather... trying circumstances: the accommodation for the accused was appalling, the public was unable to get access to the court-room, the journalists had to stand... The counsels for the defence, including Maître Chouq from the Nantes bar, felt compelled to severely criticise the organisation of the trial. The protest was dismissed immediately by the presiding judge: "There are dangerous people here!" So that was the reason why the hearing was being held in one of the few rooms which had a dock surrounded with reinforced glass...

Of the 81 defendants, the Bretons numbered 38. They were accused of having associated with criminals. One of those summoned to attend, Jil Le Jeune, refused to come to Paris and instead staged a hunger strike on Menez Bre, a hill that stands out well in the landscape just W. of Gwengamp.

The evidence submitted by the Spanish and the French police was contested by the defence as being far from being conclusive. If some of the accused were found to be in possession of arms, this was only to protect themselves against assassination attempts by GAL (Spanish anti-terrorist commandoes) which, as has become known from persisting reports in the press, were authorised at the highest level in Madrid to operate illegally, even though with the connivance of the French authorities, in the French State territory.

The accused Bretons, comprising elected representatives, farmers, teachers, housewives, etc. in answering the prosecutor's flights of oratory all stated that they had acted for humanitarian reasons and even in fulfilment of their duty as citizens when they gave refuge to people who came looking for help, exhausted, sick, terrorised by the fear of GAL assassination, or torture when they would be extradited to Spain, since France no longer granted them asylum. There were disturbing moments during the trial as when two mothers cried while describing the conditions under which they were interrogated in the early hours of the morning.

The verdict was not announced until December 20. More than half of the Bretons were given suspended sentences varying from 3 months to 3 years but one woman was imprisoned for one year. The defence



In Paris: Solidarity with the Basques - Release the Accused! Courtesy *Combat Breton*

and many elected representatives were incensed at the severity of the verdict.

Since November, other arrests have occurred repeatedly, particularly in the Fouenant, Glomel and Lannuon areas. Protests supported by elected people have

taken place on several occasions in many Breton towns. Among the slogans displayed by the participants, the one most frequently used was: Assez! or Trawalc'h! (Enough!)

V.Le M. (transl. A.H.)

BOOK BEFORE COURT

Joseph Ollivier, Les Contes de Luzel, a book of 292 pages by Per Denez, published last year by Hor Yezh, is the subject of a court action brought by Mme Françoise Morvan, author of another book, *Contes Breton* published in 1994 jointly by Presses Universitaires de Rennes and Terre de Brume. Mme Morvan asked a High Court to prohibit Per Denez's work. This devotes 175 pages to an inventory of the tales collected in the 19th century by Luzel (1821-1895), an inventory put together towards 1930, after many years of patient research, by Joseph Ollivier who classified the tales according to titles in alphabetical order, years of collection, names of the story tellers, localities of collection. To this, Per Denez wrote a preface acknowledging the immense debt we owe to an exceedingly humble man without whom many of the tales would have been lost. In a postface he deals painstakingly with claims raised by F. Morvan in her book, her assertions concerning Luzel's stories, her failure to mention Ollivier's inventory preserved in the Municipal Library of Rennes although it is there she came upon the material she used, "an incredible collection of archives". He refutes her attempt to prove that those of the tales of which ready-for-publishing versions (prepared by Luzel himself) exist in Breton* were translated from French translations, etc. etc...

It is an amazing story! We know Per Denez, now retired professor in the Celtic

Department of Rennes University II, to be as well acquainted with the Breton Literature as anyone can be. He brings a wealth of evidence in support of his criticism. A first attempt to stop the sale of his book (by emergency interim proceedings) failed and Mme Morvan was sentenced to pay all the costs. Now she has taken Per Denez again to the same court, asking it to give judgement on the "fonds" (substance) and claiming 50,000 F for damage. In effect she wants to prevent the public from reading the book. As we write it is still on sale in shops and available directly from Yann Desbordes, 1 Plasenn Ch. Péguy, 29260 LESNEVEN. Price 130 F. Luzel's work, as well as J. Ollivier's, is out of copyright.

*The still existing Breton versions, about 90 out of a total of 411 collected by Luzel, have recently been published under the title *Kontadennoù ar Bobl* in 5 volumes by AL LIAMM, 2 Venelle Poullbriken, 29200 Brest. We warmly recommend them to anyone wishing to read excellent Breton, such as it was undoubtedly known to the good story tellers of the last century, a language free from the pretentious, unnecessary, wholesale borrowing from French which characterised so many Breton works, particularly religious ones, during the previous two centuries. The French versions are also being published, six volumes of 224 pp., are already available from Yann Desbordes, 100 F each.

A. Heusaff

CYMRU

Pigion Celtaidd

Yr Alban

Enwau gorsafoedd

Bydd enwau'r Gorsafoedd ar y rheilffordd rhwng Inbhir-Nis (Inverness) ac Uig (Wick) yn cael eu codi yn ddwyieithog e.e. Bun Illidh yn ogystal â Helmsdale. Yng Nghymru mae bron bob gorsaf â fersiwn Gymraeg yr enw ers blynyddoedd.

Materion addysgol

Amcangyfrifir bod 8,000 o oedolion yn dysgu Albaneg o ddfirif - 2,200 yn yr Ucheldiroedd a dros 1,000 yr un yng Nghaeredin a Glaschu.

Ers 1993/'94 mae mathemateg, daearddiaeth, hanes, economeg y cartref, celf ac addysg dechnolegol yn cael eu dysgu drwy gyfrwng yr Albaneg yn Ysgol Uwchradd Ynys Leodhas yn Steornabhagh.

Yn groes i'r arfer, mae uned gynradd Albaneg yn Gairloch, Wester Ross, yn wynebu diffyg disgyblion. Ar y llaw arall mae plant yn teithio allan o dalgylch ysgol gynradd Kilmuir yng Ngogledd Ynys Sgitheanach/Skye oherwydd diffyg darpariaeth drwy'r Albaneg.

Iwerddon

Teledu Gwyddeleg

Baile na hAbhann, 20 milltir i'r gorllewin o Gaillimh/Galway yw lleoliad pencadlys y

gwasanaeth Gwyddeleg a fydd yn darlledu o'r 31 Hydref ymlaen. £16 miliwn yw cost y trosglwyddwyr a £10 miliwn yw costau blynyddol Teilifis na Gaeilge.

Llydaw

Mae'r mudiad addysg Diwan yn dal i dyfu - 12% mwy o ddisgyblion ar 26 safle, ail 'coleg' (ysgol uwchradd ganol) yn Plijidi (Aodoù-an-Arvor) a thri safle cynradd newydd - Naonedf/Nantes, Brest a Plabenneg. 1,390 yw cyfanswm y disgyblion - 1,199 cynradd, 160 'coleg' a 31 'lycée'.

Yn y sector cyhoeddus mae 16% yn fwy o ddisgyblion ar 21 safle, pedwar ohonynt yn newydd - Gwipavaz, Lanniliz, Plougastell a Gwened/Vannes. 1,035 yw cyfanswm y disgyblion. Yn y sector preifat mae 620 o ddisgyblion ar 19 safle, pump yn newydd yn Pont-'n-Abad, Plougastell, Lanniliz, Pondivi a Teiz. Dyna dwf o 20%. Erbyn hyn ceir addysg ddwyieithog mewn 66 safle. Dyma niferoedd y disgyblion fesul 'département': Penn-ar-Bed - 1,300; Mor-Bihan - 805; Aodoù-an-Arvor - 657; Il-ha-Gwilen - 158; Liger-Atlantel - 104.

Clive James/R.ap Tomos

Y Wasael Yn Loe

Nos Wener 5 Ionawr 1996 atgyfodwyd y Wasael yn Loe na fu ers can mlynedd.

Cynllun Richard a Jan Gendall oedd y digwyddiad.

Cawson nhw gydweithrediad pobl sy'n byw yn Loe i gynnal yr amgylchiad a fu y noswaith honno.

Aethon ni mewn bagad, a'r Gendaliaid yn ein harwain, i dafarnau ac i dai preifat, a chanu cân wasael a charlau Nadolig i gasglu arian at sefydliad y Badau Achub.

Yr oedd popeth yn llwyddiant mawr a chasglwyd mwy na ddeg punt a thri ugain tuag at yr achos.

Cawson ni ddigon i yfed ac i fwyta ar ein ffordd. Yn wir yr oedd y bobl yn y tafarnau ac yn y tai preifat yn hael iawn i ni.

Yr oedd y nos yn deg a'r lleud llawn yn disgleirio'n loyw.

Gall dyn ddisgwyl digwyddiad mwy y flwyddyn nesaf.

Penderfynwyd yn barod i fynd i Borthbean yn ychwanegol at fynd i Loe.

Merfyn Phillips

A wassail was held in Looe this year for the first time for a hundred years. Richard and Jan Gendall initiated the event. Money was collected for the Lifeboat Institution.

Pryder am ddyfodol dysgu'r Llydaweg, a pheintio arwyddion

Mae mudiadau Llydaweg yn dal i frwydro yn erbyn agweddau gelyniaethus llywodraeth ganolog a gweinyddiaeth leol hefyd.

Mae Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg (Undeb yr athrawon Llydaweg) yn bryderus am ddyfodol dysgu'r iaith yn yr ysgolion ar ôl cyfarfod rhwng dirprwyaeth o'r Undeb a swyddog yr ieithoedd "rhanbarthol", a swyddogion eraill, o Adran Addysg llywodraeth Ffrainc. Ni ennillwyd yr un cam pendant ymlaen yn y cyfarfod. Dim ond addewid y byddai eu gofynion yn cael eu "hastudio" gafodd yr Undeb.

'Roedd gofynion yr Undeb am yr iaith yn y cyfarfod yn cynnwys:

- arholiad CAPES holl-Lydaweg tebyg i'r un Corsicaneg presennol
- CAPES arbenigol Llydaweg ar gyfer athrawon mewn pynciau amrywiol yn yr ysgolion a'r ffrydiau Llydaweg
- creu arholiad Llydaweg newydd i ddarpar-athrawon
- cynyddu grantiau fyddai'n ffafrio cyrsiau parhaol yn Llydaweg
- creu pump o swyddi ychwanegol i ymateb i'r galw cynyddol am addysg Lydaweg.

Ar y pwyntiau hyn i gyd, gwrthododd swyddogion y llywodraeth addo dim. Felly, mae datblygiad y Llydaweg yn y gyfundrefn addysg wladwriaethol wedi'i gondemnio i sefyll yn ei unman ar y gorau, os na fydd yn colli tir yn y sector uwchradd, gan agwedd wleidyddol sydd yn benderfynol o gadw'r Llydaweg ar yr ymylon ym myd addysg.

Ym maes statws yr iaith mae Stourm ar Brezhoneg (y prif fudiad iaith) wedi mynnu bod arwyddion ffordd dwyieithog yn cael eu codi yn rhanbarth Morbihan. Mae arwyddion dwyieithog wedi cael eu codi ar hyd rhai ffyrdd yn rhanbarthau Aodoù-an-Arvor a Penn-ar-Bed, ond mae Cyngor Cyffredinol Morbihan, dan bwysau'r gwasanaethau sydd yn darparu'r arwyddion, wedi gwrthod symud ymlaen ym mater arwyddion dwyieithog.

Dros yr haf mae dwsinau o arwyddion ffordd oedd â fersiynau Ffrangeg enwau llefydd yn unig wedi cael eu peintio yn ystod y nos, yn arbennig yn ardal Pondivi-Loudieg a phentir Rewiz.

Mae Stourm ar Brezhoneg wedi ail-ddatgan eu bwriad i ymladd â'u holl nerth yn erbyn y polisi hurt sydd gan Lywodraeth Ffrainc o 'bureiddio ieithyddol', yn

(contd.)

Flying in the Face of Prejudice

"Mae brwydr yr iaith drosodd" (The battle for the language is over). These now infamous words rashly uttered by ex-nationalist MP Lord Ellis Thomas (now Chairman of the British Government's Welsh Language Quango) were once again proved to be dangerously empty rhetoric by the recent refusal of Cardiff International Airport to operate a bilingual policy.

The Chief Executive of the recently privatised airport, Mr Bill. Aitkenhead, stated that bilingual signage would be confusing, "the signage employed at the airport has to be clear, concise and in a universally recognised language – English is the world-wide aviation and airport signage language".

Obviously Mr. Aitkenhead has not travelled extensively. For as the many MP's and Lords that wrote in protest to him, supporting Cymdeithas yr Iaith and PIGO's (Committee for Bilingualism) campaign, pointed out, bilingual and indeed multilingual signage is commonplace throughout airports all over the world. Even O'Hare Airport in Chicago includes the Welsh "Croeso" (Welcome) on its signage. After a week of adverse publicity in the newspapers and regular updates on national and local radio, the airport's holding company TBI decided that it might be wise to take the matter out of Mr. Aitkenhead's hands and to meet with Cymdeithas and PIGO.

Since this meeting TBI have met with Government representatives and the Welsh Tourist Board, who incidentally allowed me to quote them on their dissatisfaction with the airport's policy to the national press. Solid support was given by the Welsh American

group Twm Siôn Cati who threatened an international boycott. Consequently TBI are now looking at ways of implementing a bilingual policy in all of its commercial ventures, of which the airport is only one. Proof, if proof were needed, that upping the stakes can be a dangerous business.

Indeed, the method of securing bilingual policies from the private sector (which is not covered by the Welsh Language Act 1993) by targeting key 'players' in particular fields is an increasingly successful tactic. The Welsh version of the 'Domino Theory' as it were.

Experience proves that once the market leaders have adopted Welsh friendly policies then others will follow suit. The theory was tested in the long and bitter Cymdeithas campaign against Europe's biggest building society, the Halifax, which ended in a decisive victory for Welsh language rights. Similarly Marks & Spencer were targeted last year and after street protests and 'fax attacks' they too yielded to pressure. This has in turn led to more private companies than ever before adopting bilingual policies, some 50 in the last 8 months including commercial giants such as Argos and Littlewoods. There is little doubt that companies are being won over to the advantages of bilingualism (as proved by Govt. statistics) and the 'disadvantages' of being seen as anti-Welsh. The peace war for the Welsh language is far from over but certainly many important battles are being won literally every day.

Gareth Kiff

Rhanbarth Morgannwg Gwent/Glamorgan
Gwent Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg

The Hawks must be Stopped

Wales is subsidising England in at least one area – the arms industry.

The war industry, which costs on average £40 a week to every family, employs thousands in S.E. England with public money.

There are only 1,000 jobs in Wales in comparison with 93,000 in England – thus, the English are six times more likely to work in the industry than the Welsh.

And the industry helps to sustain reactionary military states like Argentina, Indonesia and Nigeria. The Argentine navy were allowed to exercise off the (sic) Welsh coast near Aberporth, in order to become familiar with arms, a few months before the Malvinas war put an end to the trade (temporarily anyway).

Attacks

Presently there are suspicions that RAF Valley is being used as a training ground for Indonesian pilots for their bloody war against the people of East Timor.

One of Britain's largest firms, British Aerospace, have been selling Hawk jets to Indonesia for years. The RAF acknowledge that Valley is the only "Advanced Fast Jet" training school in Britain and confirm that they are hoping to attract pilots and technicians of the Indonesian Air Force there to fly the Hawks.

The Ministry of Defence choose to take Indonesia's word that it is for training purposes Indonesia is using the planes, although there is evidence from East Timor that the Hawks have been used in attacks on protesters. That is why a protest was held outside the gates of RAF Valley on November 11th by Welsh opponents of this dirty arms trade.

The protesters went over a fence to plant a cross to commemorate the thousands who have been killed because of the willingness of the English government to make profits from bloody régimes like Indonesia.

A lobby of Westminster was held on Thursday December 7th to continue the protest against selling arms to Indonesia, and to remember the 20 years since Indonesia's attack.

For more information about the campaign against the arms trade contact Awel Irene on (01766) 771100, Emlyn Richards on (01407) 710386 or Charlotte Williams on (01970) 624501.

(Courtesy: Y Faner Goch,
translation by Robot ap Tomos)

(Pryder contd.)

enwedig yn erbyn ffrangegeiddio a llygru enwau llefydd y wlad. Mae SAB yn galw ar etholedigion Morbihan i ddangos ychydig o asgwm cefn a gwrthod plygu i orchmynion y weinyddiaeth Ffrengig.

Mae'r frwydr i gael Cymraeg ar arwyddion ffordd Cymru yn bell o gael ei hennill mewn rhai rhannau o'r wlad, yn cynnwys ein prifddinas. Mae'n drueni bod yr hen arfer sydd yn dal yn fyw yn Llydaw fel 'tasa wedi darfod yn ein gwlad ni.

(Mae'r uchod wedi'i seilio ar erthyglau yn "Le Peuple Breton" Hydref 1995. Cyf. gan Robot ap Tomos).

Summary

The French government is obstructing the development of Breton teaching in state schools, while language campaigners in Morbihan region have been painting roadsigns because the local administration have been refusing to follow the example of other regions in erecting bilingual signs.

Political Correctness for Celts Number 5: "Minorized languages"

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (E.B.L.U.L.), among others, has been faced with the question of what term can be used to describe European Union languages, like the Celtic languages, whose speakers are deprived of full linguistic rights. The term 'stateless', 'minority' and 'regional' languages were considered but were rejected for valid reasons, hence 'lesser used'.

A term I have noticed, particularly on literature from Brittany, is "minorized languages". I consider "minorized" (Breton "minorelaet") particularly suitable for us to use because it implies that our languages' condition is due to something having been inflicted on them. "Minorized languages" is concise and worth adopting, though it is probably too politically loaded to be used by E.B.L.U.L.

Robot ap Tomos

NEWS FROM WALES

Devolution Poll

In a Mori opinion poll 67% of those interviewed in Wales supported greater powers of government to Wales, 23% opposing and 10% didn't know. Over Great Britain 49% supported devolution in Wales, 34% opposed and 18% didn't know. However only 49% of the Welsh were in favour of a referendum to decide upon an assembly with some taxation and spending powers, compared with 80% in Scotland and 54% in England. As to how "British" the Welsh felt, 20% did not feel "British" at all, 41% felt more Welsh than British and only 22% more British than Welsh. In Wales 39% thought that Westminster Parliament worked badly at present.

National Curriculum

The Secretary of State for Wales had ordered three Gwent border comprehensive schools to teach Welsh to Year 7 by 1st August 1996 – Chepstow, Caldicot and Monmouth.

Language Aid

Financial assistance for the National Eisteddfod, Urdd Gobaith Cymru and the grant for Welsh language publications to the Welsh Books Council is to be decided by the Welsh Language Board from 1997 onwards, instead of by the Welsh Office.

Telebank

The new Midland Bank telephone banking centre in Cardiff, to serve the whole of the British Isles, will offer its services in both Welsh and English.

Spell-check in Welsh

The Cysill spell-checker software for the Welsh language is available at £45 per copy. The original researchers at University of Wales, Bangor, are to receive a further £24,000 to enable them to complete the dictionary's software package.

Language Grants

The Welsh Office has awarded the following grants – Welsh Nursery Schools £537,000, Urdd Gobaith Cymru £537,000, National Eisteddfod £362,000, Welsh Books Council £1,104,000. The Welsh Language Board is to give the adult learners' organisation CyD £7,500, the language initiatives in Cwm Gwendraeth £87,000, Arman-Tawe £72,000 and Merter Taf Elai £46,000, community newspapers £50,000, Sunday School Council £6,000, Big Issue Cymru £2,000. Grants altogether total £680,000 to 56 different organisations.

London Welsh School

The only Welsh medium school in England is to receive a one off grant of £5,000 from

the Welsh Language Board. Of the schools annual budget of £25,000 only £10,000 comes from fees.

Driving Test

The new compulsory written element of the driving test will be available in Welsh, English and six immigrant languages.

Welsh pays?

Statistics from the 1991 Census show that 35% of the Welsh speaking workforce is in professional and managerial/technical occupations, compared with 27% for non-Welsh speakers. 42% of farmers speak Welsh against 18.5% of the general population and 33% of teachers. Plant operators were the least Welsh speaking at 12%. Welsh speakers are least likely however to get the top jobs in Gwynedd and Dyfed and most likely in South Glamorgan and Gwent.

Equal Status Backed

A 'National Opinion Poll' has shown that of the population of Wales:

- 88% believe the Welsh language is something to be proud about
- 75% believe English and Welsh should have equal status
- 71% support the use of Welsh
- Welsh was considered to be important in teaching (78%), local government (70%), health (69%), banks (65%) and shops (54%).

The survey shows that 30% of the population have some knowledge of Welsh, above the census figure of 18%.

Gwynedd Bilingualism Forum

The Forum, a partnership between the public and private sectors, has developed a language plan that sets out an agenda for the next 5 years. Its aim is to achieve parity of usage between the Welsh and English languages in north west Wales. The Forum points out that the continual predominance of the English language created an historic bias against Welsh.

Contact Ifor Gruffydd, Secretary of the Gwynedd Bilingualism Forum, c/o Ynys Môn Borough Council, Llangefni, LL77 7TW Cymru/Wales.

Culture & Languages

The third Celtic Connections Festival held in Glasgow from 5th to 21st January was the most successful yet. For sheer variety of music over six venues, from 2,000 seater to rehearsal spaces for the exhaustive workshop programme there were opportunities for Celts to marvel at the variety and vitality celebrated in the music on offer.

We hear that the Director, Colin Hynd has been given a much freer hand to book artistes for next year's event. So we hope that he will include many more acts in the Celtic languages and make a special effort to research the Welsh, Manx, Cornish and Breton varieties. He also needs to search more widely in Scotland itself to help show-case the many singers, musicians and groups who give such a strength in depth to the Celtic music scene. The early part of the festival featured the "Folk Divas", four singers from their own traditions, namely, Swans George from Cymru, Emma Christian from Mannin, and Ishbel MacAskill in Gaelic and Sheena Wellington in Scots from Alba. They underlined the harmony and diversity of the Celtic song tradition.

Llan de Cubel from Asturias and The Carlos Nunez Band from Galicia provided a blast of the instrumental traditions and songs of those Spanish Celtic lands. However it was the Bagad Kemper which blew away the critics with their prize winning combination of pipes, bombards and percussion which are the epitome of the strong Breton band tradition.

They also starred in the Dan ar Braz creation *Heritage of the Celts* which provided a finale to the events. They served up a wonderful anthemic atmosphere to act as a perfect foil to the individual contributors such as singers Gilles Servat, Karen Matheson and Elaine Morgan and Yann Fanch Kemener as well as instrumentalists, Donal Lunny, Nollaig Casey, Ronan Le Bars and the leaders of the Bagad Kemper, Erwan Ropars and Jean-Louis Henaff. After several encores the song, "Left in Peace" written in remembrance of the late Frankie Kennedy, a founder of the Donegal group, Altan, will dirl round the Glasgow concert Hall rafters for many a member of the packed audience that night.

(Dan ar Braz and 50 musicians of the *Heritage of the Celts Live!* is a CD produced by Sony at a live performance in Rennes in May last year which contains seven different tracks from the studio version recorded previously).

Rob Gibson

ÉIRE

Borradh sa Bhriotáin

Maidin Dé Luain tugadh amach sna cnoic muid, nó sna sléibhte mar a thugtar anseo orthu, mar a raibh lóistín á chur ar fáil ag Ensavadur Breizh i dteach dá gcuid. Cuireann an eagraíocht bheag seo seirbhís aistriúcháin ar fáil i mBéarla Briotáinís agus Fraincis, agus eagraíonn siad imeachtaí éagsúla do dhaoine fásta. Tá seanteach ceannaithe acu mar cheanncheathrú mar a bhfuil na hoifigí do na haisteoirí agus seomraí le haghaidh cúrsaí teangan. Is i dteach eile dá gcuid cúpla céad méadar ar shiúl, atá an t-áras cónaithe. Komanna is ainm don sráidbhaile, agus deirtear linn gur sa cheantar seo, ar a dtugtar Monts d'Arrée sa Fhraincis, is láidre atá an teanga dhúchais. Thug muid cuairt iar lóin ar mheánscoil phoiblí an tsráidbhaile mar a múinteir Briotáinís don tráfú cuid den 93 dalta. Uair a chloig a chaitheann a bhformhór siúd leis an teanga in aghaidh na seachtaine ach tá domán ann a chaitheann trí huair a chloig léi. Bheir líon beag na ndaltaí sa scoil léargas ar cheann de mhórfhadhbanna na Briotáine. Tá an oige ag imeacht aisti, na páistí gann, scoileanna á ndúnadh ar fud na háite. Ach deir Ensavadur Breizh go bhfuil siad d'aonghnó ag obair i sráidbhaile mar Komanna ionas go dtabharfaí fostaíocht do dhaoine agus go meallfaí a thuilleadh daoine isteach. Spreagann dul chun cinn na teanga borradh san eacnamaíocht áitiúil, rud a chuirfidh le líon na ndaoine óga agus na leanaí sa todhchaf. Is léir ón gcur síos a rinneadh ar mhúineadh na Briotáine sna scoileanna poiblí nach mbeadh a dhath i ndán di murach go bhfuil an córas Diwan bunaithe. Tá scoil Diwan i gKomanna, ranganna beaga ann ach í ag fás. Mar nach dtugtar aitheantas iomlán dóibh faoi chóras an stáit is gá do na scoileanna a bheith de shíor ag bailiú airgid, agus táillí a ghearradh ar na tuismitheoirí. Ach tá neart trealaimh acu i gcomórtas le scoileanna na hÉireann agus éascaíonn na ranganna beaga obair na múinteoirí. Níl aon téacsleabhar curtha ar fáil dóibh áfach agus mar gheall ar sin caithfidh siad féin iad a scríobh agus a fhoilsiú. Tá comhlucht An HERE bunaithe chun téacsleabhair a fhoilsiú, comhlucht atá suite ar láthair na

meánscoile i mBrest mar a raibh muid ar cuairt níos déanaí sa tseachtain.

Ar an Mháirt casadh orainn triúir misniúil a bhfuil ionad oiliúna do dhaoine fásta, Roudour, bunaithe acu in Uhelgoat. D'éirigh na daoine seo as a bpostanna in



eagraíocht eile chun cúrsaí teanga do dhaoine fásta a chur ar bun. Chuir comhairle an bhaile foirgneamh scoile ar fáil agus tá cúrsaí a mhaireann seachtain ar siúl faoi láthair, agus cúrsaí níos faide i rith an tsamhraidh. Faigheann siad mic léinn phríobháideacha agus roinnt daoine a bhfuil a bhfostóirí sásta íoc as a gcúrsaí. Mheas muid go raibh cosúlacht idir a n-aidhmeanna agus aidhmeanna Oideas Gael i nGleann Cholmille agus thug muid cuntas dóibh ar a bhfuil ar eolas againn faoi na cúrsaí atá acu sin, agus an ceangal ráthúil atá déanta ag Oideas Gael leis an turasóireacht chultúrtha.

Chuir cuid againn go leor spéise sa Ti ar Gouren, lárionad na coraíochta Ceiltigh in Berrein, eagraíocht a raibh an-bhaint ag Ógras leis tráth.

Ag COOP Breizh ag Speiet taispeánadh lárionad dáiliúcháin leabhar agus ceirníní dúinn. Tá an eagraíocht seo ag feidhmiú gan deontaisí agus ag brath go hiomlán ar dhíolachán. Cuireann siad ábhar ar fáil i Fhraincis agus i mBéarla chomh maith le

Briotánais. Tá féilirí fhforáille acu. Sa tráthnóna chuaigh muid chuig Presbital Kozh mar a raibh ranganna do dhaoine fásta ar siúl.

Is cosúil go raibh an Bhriotánais láidir go leor mar theanga ar fud iarthar na Briotáine go dtí 1914. Ba thubaisteach an buille a bualadh ar an teanga ansin, buille a bhí ar aondul leis an nGorta Mór in Éirinn. Áirítear gur éag os cionn trí chéad míle d'fhir óga na Briotáine sa Chogadh Mór agus go raibh cuid mhór acu as an iarthar. D'fhill na céadta míle ar ais abhaile agus iad slogtha isteach i gcóras míleata na Fraince, gan aon mheas acu a thuilleadh ar a dteanga dhúchais. Ba le Fraincis a tógadh a sliocht agus tá na cuntais ar an saol a bhí ag daltaí scoile na Briotáine sa tréimhse idirchogaidh chomh coscrach le scéal an bhata scóir in Éireann. Chuir fear síos ar oige a athar. Má labhair tú Briotáinís ar scoil chuirfí tú faoi ghlas i gcófra go dtí go mbeadh sé dorcha lasmuigh agus bheadh ort siúl cúpla míle abhaile leat féin. Ba náireach an rud Briotáinís a labhairt agus chinntigh daoine nach mbeadh an teanga ag a gclann. Tuairiscítear gur chuidigh údaráis na heaglaise go fonnmar leis an athrú teangan a chur chun cinn.

Tá eagraíocht AN OALED ag Treglonou, ionad a úsáidtear le haghaidh campaí samhraidh do pháistí. Mhínigh bean as an Ghearmáin obair na heagraíochta dúinn agus thug timpeall an fhoirgneamh muid. Labhair sí faoin bhfionn atá orthu cuairteanna a mhalartú le daoine óga as Éirinn, agus mheas muid go mbeimis ábalta cabhrú leo. Is spéisiúil an n-é go gceastar daoine éagsúla ort atá ag caitheamh a ndúthracht le cur chun cinn na Briotáine, óigbhean Ghearmánach ag Treglonou, fear óg as Picardie atá ag obair le Ensavadur Breizh, fear nach raibh sásta seirbhís mhíleata a dhéanamh, atá míshásta leis an dóigh nach n-aithnítear teanga a mhuintire féin agus a bhí ag iarraidh tabhairt faoin Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim ach nach mbeidh sé ábalta íoc as teacht go hÉirinn ag staidéar. Chuaigh Fabrice chun na Briotáine agus d'fhoghlaim an teanga agus in ionad dul san arm chuaigh sé ag obair ar feadh fiche mí le Ensavadur Breizh mar ar chruthaigh sé post dó féin. Tá cailín Éireannach anois aige agus a chuid Gaeilge ag feabhsú.

I gcathair Kemper, príomhchathair riaracháin Pen ar Bed, nó Finistère, bhí plé fada againn le A.M. Chaplain faoi chúrsaí foilsitheoireachta sna teangacha neamhfhorleathana. Is léir go bhfuil an-obair á dhéanamh ag an bhean seo chun comhfhoilsiú leabhar a spreagadh, rud a laghdáíonn costaisí go mór. Dúirt sí go han-soiléir áfach nach bhfuil sí sásta leis an easpa comhoibriú as Éirinn agus d'iarr sí orainn teacht ar fhoilsitheoir Éireannach a bheadh toilteanach a bheith páirteach sa scéim.

Ar ár lá deireanach sa Bhriotáin chaith muid tamall sa Skolaj Diwan, an chéad

(contd.)

mheánscoil Briotánaise, scoil cónaithe a bhfuil ag éirí go maith léi. Chomh maith le teagasc trí mheán na Briotánaise, cuireann an scoil béim ar fhoghlaím an Bhéarla agus na Breathnaise agus eagraítear turasanna chun na Breataine Bige go rialta. Gearrtar táillí de réir acmhúinn na dtuismitheoirí agus tá an-iarracht á dhéanamh ar fhreastal ar dhaltas as gach aicme. Mar gheall ar an nganntanas téascleabhar scríobhann na múinteoirí a gcuid féin agus tá duine fostaithe go lánaimseartha sa scoil mar eagarthóir téacsanna. rinne daltaí de chuid an aonad sinsirigh, an lycée, an Baccalauréat i 1995 agus d'éirigh go han-mhaith leo cé go gcaithfear na scrúdaithe uilig a dhéanamh trí Fhraincis. Ceadáítear do dhaltas Stair agus Tíreolas a fhreagairt trí Bhriotánaís sa teastas sóisearach.

Chuaigh obair na bhfoilsitheoirí leabhar *An HERE*, a bhfuil a gceanncheathrú ar láthair na meánscoil, i gcionn go mór orainn. Foilsíonn siad leabhar do pháistí don chuid is mó, ach i measc na n-éachtanna móra atá déanta acu tá foclóir mór aonteangach Briotánaise ina bhfuil cur síos mion ar dheich míle focal. Chaith deichniúr deich mbliana ag obair go lánaimseartha ar an fhoclóir seo, an chéad dá bhliain ag foghlaim conas a leithéid a chur le chéile. Chuir Comhairle Réigiúnda Pen ar Bed (Conseil General de Finistère) dhá mhilliún franc den Ff7m a chosain an tghr a fáil. Tá an fhoireann a rinne an obair díomhaoin anois go dtí go mbíonn go leor airgead ar fáil chun tabhairt faoin thuilleadh foclóireachta.

Cuireadh clabhsúr cuí ar ár laethanta sa Bhriotáin ófche Dé hAoine le béile agus seisiún ceoil i dteach Ensavadur Breizh. Tháing Róisín Ní Mhianáin ar cuairt chugainn as ollscoil Rennes agus chuir a cumas amhránaíochta go mór leis an ófche.

Iarla Mac Aodha Bhui

An account of a visit by the author to Breizh as part of an exchange under the auspices of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge.

Celtic History Review

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

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How Roger Casement Was Vindicated

Born in 1864 in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, this extraordinary man, until his judicial murder in August 1916, packed more into his life of 52 years than most people could do in a life-span of 520 years! He became the most famous man in the world for his outstanding exposure of the cruel murderous exploitation of the native peoples of the Belgian Congo and the Indians of the Putumayo, Peru, South America.

A man of the highest moral integrity and physical courage, he braved far more than the jungles of the Congo and the great forests of the Amazon Basin. For he also withstood the massive bribery offer of the Belgian monarch, and the daily threat of murder by the rubber barons of the British Peruvian Amazon Rubber Co.

Why was Roger Casement judicially murdered in Pentonville Jail, London, on August 3rd, 1916? He was murdered because he committed two unforgivable sins. The first was his love of Ireland, which led him to using his experience to obtain Arms for the planned 1916 rising.

An ex-British diplomat and knighted in 1911, a series of incidents led to his arrest coming ashore from a German submarine near Ardfert, Co. Kerry. He was charged with Treason under a law of King Edward III written in obscure Norman French of the 13th. Century. Following a scandalously loaded trial he was condemned to execution.

Three men in particular were involved in his legal assassination: Lord Birkenhead (F.E. Smith), Sir Basil Thomson, of Scotland Yard, and Admiral Reginald Hall, the brain of the infamous Room 40 Naval Intelligence of World War I.

Roger Casement was arrested on Easter Sunday morning, April 1916. He did not know that during his absence abroad his effects had been seized in London months before his arrest. Yet on the day of the announcement of his arrest Sir Basil Thomson publicly claimed that a key found on Casement's person was supposed to have opened a trunk just then seized by the police from his lodgings.

Thomson claimed and demonstrated *one diary* alleged to be in Casement's handwriting had been discovered, spanning the period of 1903 to 1910. Thomson also claimed that there was *no sign of any sexual perversion* in the early records of this *one diary*, such only becoming apparent "probably not much before the year 1910", to quote Thomson himself.

These records of alleged sexual perversion were used by Lord Birkenhead, *not as evidence at the trial*, but shown privately to all and sundry involved in it,

and also to many public figures at home and abroad, and especially in the USA.

The purpose was to destroy Casement's reputation not alone to dampen any sense of guilt in handing him, for Birkenhead (F.E. Smith) hated Casement with all his heart. Britain was also trying to entice America to enter World War I, and feared the counter Irish-American influence, among whom Casement was known and revered. The plan seemed to have worked admirably on the surface. Two flaws boiled up.

Roger Casement himself was the first to get a message from his prison cell to his solicitors of the plan to destroy his reputation. During a recess in his interrogation, he overheard Thomson and Hall discussing in an adjoining room how they would destroy his character. It was Hall's speciality to destroy people's reputations by planned whispering campaigns among influential British society.

The second flaw was Ben Allen of the American Association Press, covering the trial for American newspapers. Admiral Hall held Press Conferences, during one of which he produced papers to Ben Allen



Roger Casement

which purported to be a record of Casement's sexually perverted encounters. Sharply noting that there were neither *Places* nor *Dates* cited, Ben Allen refused to take the papers for American distribution, without first being allowed to visit the jail to have Casement's own verification. This was refused.

Very quickly there appeared another Diary, the Black 1903 Congo Diary, which teemed with perverted sexual encounters. But again there were mistakes. In this *Diary* there are many impossible "natural" references, such as that of Capt. Craig being elected M.P. for Fermanagh, *but that did not take place until 1906!*

(contd.)

(Casement contd.)

The Mills of God having started, a Dr. W. Moloney of Edinburgh wrote a book in the 1930's, an immense study, demonstrating the London Diaries were forgeries. In the 1950's and 1960's a Dr. H. Mackey, of Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, devoted his life to clearing Casement's name. He frequently visited the London Public Records Office and found there were many visible cases of forgery, including erasures and over-writing to turn most innocent statements of people and places into indecent references.

By this time, the Diaries had multiplied into *Five* diaries, all done to cover up evident forgery errors. So evident and embarrassing, that they were impounded for a 100 years!

More and more evidence was produced over the years, especially in Alfred Noyes' book *The Accusing Ghost*, the title taken from Yeat's poem on the subject. Noyes had been employed by the Foreign Office to go around the world defaming Casement, which he did most vigorously. But on meeting Dr. Mackey, he developed a conscience and spent the rest of his life showing how the evidence was totally framed.

The most remarkable work of recent times was that of Eoin Ó Maille, Dublin, who by means of genuine Casement text was able to show that the Black London Diaries could never have been written by an Irishman.

This was proved by his linguistic analyses, which showed that out of 1135 common Casement Word Frequencies in the genuine 1910 Diary in the National Library, Dublin, *not one* of these words occurred in the Black London documents.

He was also able to demonstrate by repeated examples how the forgers took common innocent text, and by taking out parts of words from a sentence they welded them with segments of other words so as to make up pages of utter filth. But the Irish idiom was totally lost in the process, where genuine text was manipulated.

Following up on this, professional Style Analysis Computer software became available. This permitted Style comparisons of the genuine Casement 1910 document in the National Library of Ireland, and a photocopy of a long letter Casement wrote to the *Nation* newspaper in 1913 one the hand, and on the other hand, both the Black 1903 Congo and Black 1910 Putumayo Diary. This final proof of forgery was greatly assisted by Máirín Ó Callanan, who was able to provide a copy of the Black 1903 Congo Diary. She had spent 10 years voluntarily assisting Dr. Mackey with his books.

The results clearly showed the phenomenal accuracy of the Ó'Maille Word Frequency results, proving *visually* that Casement could not have written the *Black London Diaries*.

It is most significant that the whole British establishment; Monarch, Cabinet, and all, took part in the defamation of Roger Casement before and after his execution.

The biography of Edward VII, in the preceding reign, shows that the monarch gave Rubber Shares to his mistress, Mrs. Keppel.

They say a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse! In other words, Casement offended the great god, Money, and its Minions. That was his second unforgivable sin.

Yet of all the murders and crimes in the Congo and the Putumayo no one was punished, except Casement!

The most recent attacks on him, prophesied by a German historian three years beforehand, was a sinister and evil plan to establish Casement as a Homosexual Patriot Model for Ireland. How strange a phenomenon it is that faceless men have such loud voices. None louder than our own National Broadcasting Station and newspapers. How true Patrick Pearse's poetic line, "My own sons have sold their mother!"

It is an official farce that the *Black London Diaries* are now open to public inspection. They most certainly are not. Anyone who wishes to inspect not only has to be approved beforehand, but is obliged to submit subsequent writings to the Authority prior to publication.

We, the authors, echo Casement's plea from his lonely prison cell, "Defend me, when I am not in a position to defend myself."

Copyright claimed by Ó Maille, Uí Callanan, & Payne 1996.

Literature available:

The Forged Diaries Exposed by E. Ó Maille. Price IR£0.70

The Vindication of Roger Casement by Ó Maille, Uí Callanan & Payne. Price IR£1.60. Postage extra on both.

Addr: Ballinacor Beg, Annamoe, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Antrim Meeting

The General Secretary of the Celtic League addressed a conference held in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, at the end of January. The event was organised by Moyle District Council which has responsibility for Antrim beaches which have been extensively polluted in a manner similar to problems experience in the Isle of Man in recent years.

The conference considered the problems posed by sea dumping in the north Irish sea and the particular problems caused by munitions leaking from the Beaufort Dyke sea dump, just sixteen miles north of the Isle of Man.

The General Secretary gave information of the Celtic League campaign initiated fifteen years ago to expose this hazard and provided details on several sources of munitions pollution in the northern part of the Irish sea.

Another speaker at the forum was Councillor Oliver MacMullan of Moyle Council who has campaigned vigorously to raise awareness of the problem to coastal communities around the northern Irish coast. The Irish Dept. of the Marine sent a speaker (Mr. Mike Kennedy – adviser to the Minister); the government of Ireland recently raised the issue of munitions dumping at the International Maritime Organisation.

The Conference was well-attended by some 60 delegates including Unionists, Sinn Féin, SDLP and councillors from Donegal and a UK Labour Party representative.

PTA CONDEMNED

The Celtic League has submitted views to Lord Lloyd who is due to consider anti-terrorism and emergency legislation in the UK.

We have expressed grave criticisms of such legislation and cited as examples the operation of the United Kingdom Prevention of Terrorism Act (and its Isle of Man derivative) and the Emergency Powers legislation recently renewed in the North of Ireland.

The Prevention of Terrorism legislation, a "temporary provision" rushed through in haste, has in our view been one of the most ill-conceived and from a civil liberties perspective, repressive Statutes ever enacted.

From its inception, in the early '70s' until 1990 over 500,000 people were

stopped and questioned under its provisions. Many thousands more have completed a twenty year mountain of useless paperwork.

Of the 500,000 questioned just over 2% were ever charged with offences and these usually amounted to breaches of the regulations. A small number of this tiny proportion were charged but with the passage of years many convictions which have their origins in PTA detentions have been found to be flawed and set aside. It is indeed no exaggeration to say **the PTA legislation sowed the seeds for some of the greatest miscarriages of justice this century.**

Universally condemned by International Rights organisations the **Prevention of Terrorism Act and the N.I. Emergency Powers Act** will almost certainly be adduced by history to be the product of British Parliamentary hysteria and malevolence directed at the Irish community in Britain and the nationalist population of the North of Ireland.

J.B. Moffatt

The North, Movement At Last

The title of the article on the North in the last issue of CARN was "Is there a Peace Process", indicating pessimism and dismay at the continuing stalling tactics of the British and Unionists in bringing forth one obstacle after another to real progress. It may not have been a total surprise then when the IRA ceasefire was called off and the Canary Wharf bomb exploded on February 9th but the real dismay was palpable. The Mitchell report was published prior to that and the article hereunder was written then. It is published as an interesting perspective from Wales which shows how the stage had been set for an end to the ceasefire.

Much analysis poured forth then with predictable reactions. A further bomb and the premature explosion of a bomb in

transit killing the carrier dispelled the idea that Canary Wharf was a once off and the reintroduction of the paraphernalia of security measures continued apace.

Contact with Sinn Féin and Gerry Adams was reduced to government official level as activity stepped up at Irish and British Government level. At the time of going to press a joint Anglo Irish communiqué resulting from these discussions and a summit has been issued. The long awaited all party talks are scheduled to begin definitely on June 10th. Dayton style 'proximity' talks now rechristened 'intensive multilateral consultations' will commence immediately to agree on a process for elections, the format for all-party negotiations and possible referenda North and South. These talks have already been spurned by the two main Unionist parties, hardly a good omen!

Revival of ministerial contact with Sinn Féin and Sinn Féin participation in negotiations is subject to restoration of the ceasefire. The Sinn Féin leadership has indicated it will respond

positively, however, it appears that an early reinstatement of the IRA ceasefire is unlikely as the communiqué is viewed with some suspicion in the context of the process to date, the ministerial ban remaining on Sinn Féin and the attitude of Unionists. Furthermore Mr. Mayor, at the press conference following the publication of the communiqué, introduced other caveats and conditions to be abided by. Nevertheless let us hope that with a date set a willingness will be shown to facilitate the reinstatement of the ceasefire.



British army patrols back on the streets of Belfast after the end of the ceasefire.

Prospects for Northern Ireland

The report of the Mitchell Commission presents a way forward for constructive negotiations for Northern Ireland.

The day the report was published the British Government laid down a precondition to thwart progress. That precondition was a proposal to set up an elected body for Northern Ireland.

On the face of it it seems reasonable to have a democratically elected body. Yet the British Government's proposal is opposed by the nationalists. One may question on what justifiable ground can they oppose such a move.

However how can one have democracy in a political unit set up to thwart democracy? That is what Northern Ireland is. It is rather like trying to run a school for chastity in a brothel.

The Irish voted overwhelmingly for independence as a national unit in the General Election of 1918. The British Government responded by partitioning Ireland. Against all the principles of democracy an illicit six county statelet called Northern Ireland was set up. From the very beginning it was a flawed political unit which has failed miserably. Failure is built into its make-up, into its very existence.

Northern Ireland is, always has been and always will be an unacceptable entity for the Nationalists. They were denied their ordinary democratic rights as citizens by the Unionists who ran Northern Ireland. One can't reasonably expect the statelet to do anything else other than fail.

The British Government created the new obstacle to the progress of the peace process to replace another. That was the one demanding the decommissioning of IRA arms before negotiations with Sinn Féin. The Mitchell Commission recommended dropping that condition because it would not be fulfilled. Sinn Féin can't deliver on the decommissioning of arms as it hasn't got any. It is the IRA that holds the arms. That organization is not, despite Unionist and British Government propaganda otherwise, the same as Sinn Féin.

The IRA won't decommission any arms in the present climate of mistrust. The refusal of the British Government to negotiate, on whatever pretext, adds to the level of mistrust. It looks as if that is what the British Government wants. It still refused to negotiate though the ceasefire has held for seventeen months.

The future of Northern Ireland is quivering on shaky foundations created by preconditions preventing negotiations. The British Government is playing of game of teetering on the brink of risking renewed ferocious violence. The peace process can be smashed to smithereens at any time without a moment's notice. If that happens the British Government will throw up its arms in pious horror, blaming everybody else. Its negative attitude can lead one to believe that it wants to reactivate its military

training ground. Northern Ireland served in that capacity for twenty five years.

There is a factor that the British Government may not have taken into consideration. That is where the IRA would operate if the ceasefire broke down. The IRA's most telling strikes have been in England. The English care little what happens in Northern Ireland but they don't want mayhem in England.

What concerns the British Government mainly is its survival in power in Westminster. The welfare of Ireland is treated as being of small account in comparison. The British Government will ditch Irish interests to buy Northern Unionist votes to delay the General Election. The end of that short term expedient will be blood and havoc in the English cities.

The English will get rid of Northern Ireland rather than suffer carnage and destruction in England. To save their own bacon the English won't hesitate to abandon the Ulster Unionists and Loyalists. In their hearts Trimble, Taylor, Paisley and Robinson know it, dread it and feel themselves under siege. Whatever their rhetoric now they are going to have to make an accommodation with Nationalist Ireland. They have much in common with Adams, Hume, Mallon and the political leaders of the Republic. There is little common ground between them and Major, Mayhew and their cabinet colleagues.

May the Irish politicians, North and South, pool their talents in co-operation for the sake of Ireland. Such a prospect is by no means beyond credibility.

Merfyn Phillips

KERNOW

Kene Kellez?

Thera ve meeras urt nowethez an television alerh. Gye reeg compla dreeg Kernow kelly e govenack tha voaz aswonez avel nacion bean. An reason ve reys thew na reeg an governans Sowsnack derevoll aman hanaw Kernow vel nacion bean therag an parlement European.

Ma marth tha ve pewa a gomeraz war e hunnen tha cowz rag an bobell Kernuack en matter'ma? En TV, tibiaz Kernow vel nacion o disquethez gen gweall an 'Gorseth Kernow' ha'n berth (*mimus* vel *scurra* ew an glos en gerva Kernuack coath) quethez et ago goonow glaze, ha onen a keel progath redez en vollan, skoothez gen eedgan thur corne beuh o whethez gen nebas calatter gen sertayne arlothas.

Ew hebma vorr vitty tha thisquethas Kernow avel teez dybblans? ...reys dro an Gorseth Kernow tra venthygiez a'n Kembrean, reys dro an Gorseth Kimbra e hunnen suppogez gen an cancayer ha caith suggan, "Iolo Morganwg" (Edward William, treher mein) en 1792 en Loundres, ha derevez gen falsurye. Nye a dalvea pedyry ubma drew matter an Gorseth Kimbra sendgez gen radn vrossa an deez deskez Kimbrack avel gow po ni geaze.

En gweer, pell thur boaz bagaz a canhadgow leall eze a savall rag Kernow, radn vroaz an seli an 'Gorseth Kernow' nagew Kernuack eneth! Whathe, nagew hedna mean leer an kene; rag kensa, pe angye leall canhadgow, Dew gweras Kernow!, ha nessa, treeth an 'Gorseth Kernow' ha'n 35%, mouy po lee, an deez ew treegez en Kernow leb ell crya go hunnen Kernuack, ma poll downe.

Buz whye ell gwellas fatel ew an bobell Kernuack eskar the hunnen. Gye a ore daa lowar drenz pobell thybblans; ma angye shoya hebma dreth an peath iggan laull therag an presens an beaz terwithyaw, po dreth an peath iggan keel, buz en gwrythyans bean heb mear a leas leb na ra neverah dry tha antilly reis wastas ha confort an bownaz angye.

An deez Kernuack ew oberorian vaze. Mennau heb wheal a rella gubber daa, ma

thongy lowar nearth, a cawas ago bownaz umba ha ennah, pelle benag, pandra benag, ha gonz hebma ma angye bewa, ha en leeaz heb descreea. Comerez warbarth, thenz teez wheag (thew an Sausen eze worth e lavarall) buz nebas enwedgack; nag iggan a keel peath ew teez whansack dothans tha weel po fowt thongy... ma angye keel tacklaw 'baree', ha herweth geys go hunnen; hagenzol, thenz pers tha go fredom, tha go choy, tha go gwary, ha na vedn angye gweel traveeth a rella droag tha rima. Na ve andelha en termen eze passhez, rag ney a ore per thaa drigganz goerah en antall bownaz keffreys ha choy leeaz termen; buz hethow thew keen whiddel. An bobell Kernuack a ore per thaa pwe en'gye, buz na vedn angye gweel traveeth alga domhel confort bean ha compuster an bownaz angye, kevez mar gear.

Ma neverah radn vedn savall aman, a progath, dismigga solempnyta, quetha go hunnen terwithyaw en strange goonow, a keel a go hunnen avel leders an bobell; buz mownz maroga en rounzan nagew takkiez urt an caart.

Richard Gendall

Summary

A Lost Cause? TV news recently showed the Cornish 'Gorseth' representing a Cornwall that had failed to be recognized as a minority nation. Cornish people already know what they are, but neither does the 'Gorseth' (a pale copy of its Welsh 'parent', itself an invention of one Edward Williams, a drug-addicted stonemason, in 1792) represent Cornwall, nor will the Cornish people ever be willing again to jeopardize their domestic security for the sake of somebody else's dream that would in any case afford them no actual benefit. Cornwall's self-styled leaders are riding a donkey that is not even hitched to the cart.

Letter

There have been some rather odd claims over the years in *Carn* about the 'authenticity' of one brand of revived Cornish, and how 'academics' prefer it to any other brand. However, the fact that a revived version has a spelling system rather similar to the one in which the last fragments of a defunct language are recorded, and because its advocates attempt to rebuild the language from these same fragments, does not make the resulting language 'authentic' at all. Interesting, maybe. But not 'authentic' in the sense that it is a 'continuation', because plainly it is not.

In addition, the idea that it has academic respectability precisely because it seeks to imitate these last fragments is laughable. The process of language revival is, of course, of interest to sociolinguists. But the defunct language as a subject of academic study in itself is completely separate from any revived forms of the language.

What then is the authentic revived language? One based on the medieval form? One based on the moribund stage of the language? Obviously, neither – and both. Any revived or devised language is artificial, and gains authenticity because it has been accepted by many as a secondary language for international communication.

It seems that at the moment we have two authentic Cornishes. Maybe we will have three or four in the future. Or one. Or none. Once a concocted form slips out of the laboratory, the question is no longer a linguistic one. Which one will prevail over the rest, or even force its rivals into extinction, is a political decision.

It is important that the language not only helps Cornish people make sense of their lost heritage but also of the surviving heritage of their Celtic neighbours? Should one form of the language be promoted as being more genuinely Cornish because the other has a high proportion of users who are non-Cornish by birth?

Learners will probably choose their form of the language in the light of questions such as these.

The fact remains that all revived forms are, of necessity, highly artificial. They become 'authentic' when they begin to substitute the functions of another language – in house names, personal letters, songs, informal conversation, lectures, legal texts etc.

Whether or not they are based on an earlier or later form of the dead language is irrelevant.

Iain Ó hAinmáidh

Cornish Today

gen N.J.A. Williams

The view of one late Cornish speaker

The review of "Cornish Today" by N.J.A. Williams in **Carn 92** does not do justice to what is a valuable collection of suggestions on speaking and writing Cornish. Much damage has been done to the Cornish language movement in recent years, not because different speakers use different forms of the language, but because users of Kernuack Nowedga, Unyes and Kemmyn have not always accepted each others' opinions as legitimate and the overall solidarity of the language movement has been broken. The negative and defensive responses I have encountered, from more than one direction, to the ideas proposed in this book are part of this problem.

In the book Dr. Williams gives his view about the sounds of Cornish, the main thrust of which is that most of the sound changes commonly associated with the Late Cornish period were already present in the Middle Cornish period, in the Western dialect at least. His theory that all vowels in Cornish were either long or short, with no half-long vowels in stressed penultimate syllables (which Kernewek Kemmyn supposes), means that in this respect Cornish resembles the Gwynedd (Lleyn) Welsh dialect I speak, and differs from Southern Welsh.

Dr. Williams does not mention Séamas Ó Coileáin's reconstruction of the vowel system of Cornish based on the spelling system of Edward Lhuyd and the sound of early 20th century West Penwith English. This study proposed a system of six short and six long simple vowel phonemes, while Williams proposed five of each.

The book is very critical of Kernewek Kemmyn, both as a "phonemic" system in general, and in its representation of the sounds of Cornish. Based as it is on Ken George's reconstructed Middle Cornish sound system which Williams considers incorrect, the Kemmyn spelling-system is obsolete if Williams is right. Those of us who write Cornish as written in the traditional texts thought this could happen from the beginning. Na dale thewh gweel treven war an treath.

Williams gives the usual general objections to the use of the Late Cornish in the original spelling ("Anglicised spelling" etc.). He also lists various more specific errors, in his opinion, in revived Late Cornish involving meanings of some words, reconstructed forms etc. and these deserve consideration by Late Cornish users.

Unified Cornish is criticised for being too archaic, for being unnecessarily complex in syntax and inflection, and for being too standardised, suppressing variety within the language. The error of the early revivalists in re-spelling the original texts as Unified is noted. But Unified is regarded as less unsatisfactory than Kemmyn and Nowedga because it is based on the "native" spelling system which was used in the 14th century Charter Fragment and evolved through the miracle plays of the 15th century, Tregear's Homilies and Beunans Meriasek of the 16th, and in a religious piece used as late as 1640. As an improvement of Unified, Williams proposed his UCR which is based on the 16th century writings. Personally, my main objection to UCR is that, while being closer to traditional Cornish than Unified, it still includes spellings not found in the original texts. Williams says that Nicholas Boson would have written in the 'traditional' spelling if he had known it, but he did not know it and so used an English-based orthography. He quotes Boson's Nebbaz Gerriau to suggest that there were still writers of 'traditional' Cornish in the late 17th century – "an Empack Angwin an brossa ha an cotha Frater mesk ul an clappiers". However, the fact remains that the spelling pattern of Boson and Wella Rowe was passed on to later writers and, used in nearly all 18th century Cornish writing, forms a second literary tradition which continues today.

There are many suggestions for Cornish users in this book which can be taken up without having to use UCR spelling or agree with Williams's pronunciation. For example, in the matter of vocabulary, it is recommended that we would be more in concordance with the original texts if we said "mona", "flower" and "rom" instead of "arghans", "blejen" and "stevel" for "money", "flower" and "room".

On the history of the language, it is argued that Cornish, contrary to the popular view, was spoken as far east as the Tamar until the sixteenth century and declined rapidly after the Reformation. Evidence for this is that eastern place-names such as Lansallos, Treludick, Trevozh, Lanreath retain the Celtic stress pattern on the descriptive element. If the area had been English-speaking since the Middle Ages, the stress would have shifted to the first syllable which is the pattern for English names. This un-English stress in place-

names is, of course, found in English-speaking areas of Ireland and Wales, and its widespread occurrence in Scotland can be used to show that Scottish was spoken widely more recently than supporters of the Lowland Myth claim.

Dr. Williams's biggest mistake is to believe that all the existing strands of the language movement can be brought together under UCR. This is not going to happen. The style is very dogmatic in places too, unfortunately, which will not encourage rational responses. But the general argument of the book can help to break down the barrier between users of Middle and Late Cornish.

Nye oll dale riddia an Levar ma. Ma liaz tebbias etta tha stirria rag clappia ha screffa an tavaz.

Robat ap Tomos

The Celts in the Balkans

During the 4th and 3rd centuries BC the Celts occupied the greater part of Europe, spreading out from a territory situated between Champagne and the Rhineland in the West and Bohemia in the East. They invaded all of Gaul and N. Italy, took Rome around 390 BC while their incursions eastwards led them as far as Central Anatolia and the Ukraine. But their attempt to occupy the Balkans failed in 279 BC. They were stopped at Delphi. They fell back then to the Carpathian Basin and to the North of the Balkans. It is there that the cultural community of the Eastern Celts emerged, resulting from a mixture of Celts and native peoples, particularly the Illyrians.

What motivated the Celts in trying to take over the Balkans at a time when the Celtic world was reaching its apogee? Those specialising in Greek and Roman history, influenced by the ancient authors, generally see the Celts as barbarians bent on looting. But for other historians their migrations were due to demographic expansion and the need to acquire new fertile lands.

The numerous excavations carried out in Celtic necropolises discovered in the Carpathian Basin and in a key region extending from Western Serbia in the North to Macedonia (occupied then by Illyrians) have given support to the latter idea. The distribution of the necropolises as well as a study of their contents have made it possible to gain a clearer picture of the changes which occurred among these peoples during their expansion.

The birth of this little-known community is of great significance. It is dealt with in detail in the numerous works which Miklós Szabo, professor of Archaeology at the University of Budapest, has devoted to the Celtic invasions and more particular in his publications about the Eastern Celts.

Viviane Le Menn

MANNIN

Goll dy Moal er yn Raad- Shee

Tra vees yn art shoh ry-akin ayns clou, foddee dy bee eh ass date. As foddee nagh bee. Tra dooyrt ny possanyn-caggee ayns Nerin Twoaie dy row scuirr-caggee ayn, va'n chooid smoo dy 'leih treishteil dy beagh yn chee beayn. V'eh jeeaghyn dy row yn treisht shen ny smoo ayns Nerin na v'eh ayns Sostyn. Sleih v'ayns ny h-ardjyn pobblaghtagh ayns Nerin Twoaie tra va'n scuirr-caggee er ny 'ockley magh, hoig ad dy row yn theay jerkal rish reddyn mooarey. Agh my hie yn sleih cheddin dys Sostyn, hooar ad magh nagh row ram sleih ayns shid toiggal dy noddagh caghlau mooar cheet ayns Nerin ooilley kyndagh rish y scuirr-caggee. Va sleih dy liooar ayns Sostyn neu-arryltagh dy chredjal dy noddagh yn chee tannaghtyn. As ta'n neu-arryltagh foast ayn.

Red agglagh dy ghra, agh veagh oo smooingaghtyn er agh ennagh dy beagh reiltys Hostyn bwooiagh dy beagh yn caggee ayn reesht. S'leayr nagh vod y reiltys shen dellal rish yn chee er agh feoil as eh fo smaght ny h-Unnaneyseyryn. Ta caa yindyssagh ayn dy chur er bun shee veayn, agh ta gaue ayn nish dy jeanmayd goll ergooyl dys ny shenn laghyn. Bleeantyn er dy henney ayns Sostyn, dinsh Unnaneyseyr dou dy row Jee hene er chur ny h-Unnaneyseyryn dys Nerin dy yeeaghyn da ny Yerneee treih yn agh dy hraue ny magheryn. Cha row eh spotchal: v'eh dy firrinagh credjal shen. As my ta'n dooinney shen foast er mayrn, bee eh foast credjal shen, s'cosoylagh. S'doillee caghlau yn agh ta sleih smooingaghtyn rish bleeantyn as bleeantyn.

Son shickyrys, va caa elley caillit ayns Nerin Twoaie red goll rish jeh bleeaney as feed er dy henney. Shiartanse dy vleeantyn roish shen, va faghtys (campaign) Seán South er vailleil as va'n Armeey Pobblaghtagh er ngoll magh ass. Marish possan beg dy chumraagyn, va Seán South er phrowal dy ghreinnaghey irree magh ayns Nerin Twoaie. V'eh marrooit marish deiney elley sy faghtys debejagh shen. Lurg shen, jannoo arrish er y phobble doo ayns America, ghow ny Catolee ayns Nerin Twoaie toshiaght dy hirrey kiartyssyn

theayagh cooie daue hene. Va bunnys ooilley ny kiartaghyn share ec ny Protestoonee. Er yn oyr dy row yn niart as yn argid ec Protestoonee nyn lomarcen, bunnys, va ny smoo na un vote ec ram Protestoonee ayns reihysyn ynnydagh. As ayns baljyn dy liooar, ga dy row ny smoo Catolee na Protestoonee ayndaue, va coonseilyn Protestoonee reill harrystoo.

Ayns Gleashaght ny Kiartyssyn Theayagh, ghow ny Catolee toshiaght dy hirrey ny kiartyssyn oc dy sheeoil. Agh hoie ny meoiryn shee orroo lesh y laue lajer, as lurg shiartanse dy vleeantyn, ren shen croo Armeey Pobblaghtagh lajer nagh row ayn roish shen. Va'n caa caillit. Sheeu goll harrish ny shenn skeealyn reeshtagh er y fa dy vel ad jarroodit ec ram sleih. Myr sampleyr, sy phabyr 'The European' yn chiaghtin elley, va earisheyr screu dy begin da ny meoiryn-shee as armeey Hostyn fendeil ny h-Unnaneyseyryn noi'n Armeey Pobblaghtagh tra va Gleashaght ny Kiartyssyn Theayagh goaill toshiaght. Cha row yn Armeey Pobblaghtagh ayn ec y tra shen! Er y fa dy row ny h-Unnaneyseyryn foast smooingaghtyn jeh ny Catolee myr fophobble, va'n shenn chaggey fo raad reeshtagh, lesh 'dyn oarlagh' er yn daa heu.

Neayr's y scuirr-caggee sy vlein 1994, ta reiltys Hostyn er ghra nagh vod Sinn Féin goaill ayn ayns chaglymyn jeh ny sheshaghtyn politickagh ooilley gys vees ny pobblaghtee cur seose paart jeh ny gunnyn oc. Sy chooish shoh, ta reiltys Hostyn 'jarrood' nagh vel possanyn erbee lesh gunnyn cliaghtey cur seose wappynyn erbee roish chaglymyn politickagh. Ta shenn phobblaghtee gra 'Hug shin seose y caggey armit jeh bleeaney as feed er dy henney as jeeagh er ny reddyn ren taghyrt'.

Ta sleih ennagh smooingaghtyn dy vel Gerry Adams ginsh breagyn tra t'eh gra dy nee lurg y scuirr-caggee dy ghow reiltys Hostyn toshiaght dy hirrey gunnyn dy ve currit seose myr conaant jeh goaill ayn ayns chaglymyn jeh ny sheshaghtyn politickagh. Ta'n sleih shoh gra dy row fys ec Gerry Adams er y chonaant shoh roish y scuirr-caggee. Quoi ec ta fys?

T'eh jeeaghyn dy vel reiltys Hostyn er nyannoo neu-nhee jeh Commishoon Mitchell.

Veagh fys ec y chayt nagh dod ny pobblaghtee cur seose armyn erbee roish my row Sinn Féin goaill ayn ayns resoonaghtyn marish sheshaghtyn elley, as shen ny dooyrt Mitchell. Syn ynnyd jeh goll er-oaie, ta Lunnin shirrey reihys as gra nagh vel shen yn un red as goll er-ash dys Stormont. Dy jarroo, ta shoh er chur yindyss

mooar er sleih dy liooar as er sleih nagh vel nyn bobblaghtee. Roish my ren Lunnin goll er y raad shoh, va shoh ayns yn earishlioar jeh'n Cheshaght Ghoaldagh cour Studeyrys Yernagh (sheshaght nagh vel currit da guce mollaght er Sostyn): '...the British government is unlikely to run with the prospect (jeh reihys) - despite support from centerists such as the Alliance party - in the face of such strong nationalist opposition.' Va'n fer-screuee smooingaghtyn nagh jinnagh reiltys Hostyn gra do row eh ayns foayr jeh reihys. Goll rish sleih elley, va'n fer-screuee neu-chiart.

Ansheerbee, ta politickeyryn ayns Divlyn toiggal dy vel ad dellal rish deiney feer chreoi ayns Lunnin as Beéal Feirshtey mannagh row ad toiggal shen hannah.

As c'ed ta ny politickeyryn cheddin coontey jeh ny pabyryn-naight as chellveeish Sostnagh ta gra 'ashooneyryn Yernagh' rish dy chooilley pheigh ayns



George Mitchell

Nerin nagh vel ny Unnaneyseyr? T'ou cummal sy cheer ayd hene as t'ou goll er reill liorish yn reiltys ayd hene as t'ou dy 'ashooneyr'! Vel Patrick Mayhew as John Major nyn ashooneyryn Sostnagh? Ta lheid yn aigney soilshaghey magh yn vaarney ghaueagh eddyr yn daa heer.

Ta shin roshyn y stayd nish tra vees Yerneee dy liooar, glass ny oranje, guce dy jinnagh Sostyn shooyl magh ass as cur caa da ny Yerneee dy reaghey reddyn er aghtyn sheeoil ny-mast'oc hene. Ta Nerin ayns feme agglagh jeh daanys politickagh veih dagh cheu, cha nee jeh ny shenn skeealyn reesht as reesht

Dy beagh ny h-Unnaneyseyryn abyl dy roshyn coardailys marish ny Pobblaghtee, veagh y stayd jeh'n cheer caghlait dy bollagh. Jarrood ooilley yn boghtynid shen mychione yn Phobblaght sluggey seose Nerin Twoaie - veagh niart mooar ec ny h-Unnaneyseyryn ayns Nerin noa. Ashlish, foddee, agh ta shin ayns feme jeh ashlish. *The British Government's backing for elections in Northern Ireland surprised (and depressed) a lot of people. More than ever, political courage is needed on all sides.*

Orree Crennell

Yn Ghaelg

Summer Courses in Manx Gaelic 1996

The courses are meant for those interested in learning the native language of the Isle of Man. The 1996 courses will be slanted towards those who already have some knowledge of Manx, but committed beginners will be able to cope.

The spoken language will be stressed, but grammar will be presented in some detail. The language of instruction will be English with Manx Gaelic being used wherever possible. There will be opportunities to experience other aspects of Manx culture, such as the music and songs. There will be two five-day courses, held in the Manx Museum, Douglas:

Course A: Monday 29th July until Friday 2nd August 1996.

Course B: Monday 5th August until Friday 11th August 1996.

Course B will be slightly more advanced than Course A, but you can take either Course A or Course B on their own (Course fee £30), or Course A followed by B (Course fee £45). Cheques payable to 'Isle of Man Government'.

Information on travel and accommodation is available from Mr. Brian Stowell, Manx Language Office, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2SG, British Isles. Tel: +44-1624-685813.

AWARDS FOR MANX SPEAKERS



In November 1995 four young children received awards for native Manx speaking. Seven year old Ealee Sheard, from Foxdale, becomes the youngest person ever to receive the gold Faaney from the Manx Language Society in nearly 100 years of its existence.

Recipients of the silver awards were Ealee's brother and sister, Jamys, five and Grainne, three, along with Ewan Gawne, also aged three, from Cregneash.

The children received their awards from Fiona McArdle, a member of the society's award committee, after the committee assessed the children's Manx speaking capabilities.

All the children have attended or do attend the Manx speaking playgroup Chied Kesmad (First Footstep) based at the Braaid and are a new generation of native Manx speakers.

Defining Manx identity

The Manx Heritage Foundation is funding a project to the sum of £30,000 in an attempt to define 'Manxness' which will involve a study of the linguistic situation on the Island. The study will be administered from the Centre of Manx Studies, with technical assistance and advice coming from the English Department at Liverpool University.

The primary aims are academic and linguistic. They are:

- i to establish the principal distinctive features of Anglo-Manx, and
- ii to define and study the important contemporary linguistic changes.

The study has a secondary aim, which is to develop awareness of their heritage among

the Island's children. Anglo-Manx specifically refers to that form of English spoken by native Manx people influenced in the phonology, syntax, idiom and lexical content by Manx Gaelic. Among the planned academic results are:

- * a major new archive to be housed with the earlier collections;
- * a contribution to the theory of linguistic change.

It is hoped that the final report will have an impact on how Manxness is perceived in the contexts of education, tourism and leisure, as well as the marketing on and off the Island of Manx - manufactured goods and services. It is hoped too that it will influence the future, cultural development

and help raise the Island's profile. Such research would also make a valuable contribution to Volume 5 (1830 to the present day) of the New History of the Isle of Man.

It seems a great pity that the Manx Heritage Foundation has not been equally forthcoming with funding for the Manx Placenames Survey now in danger of not being completed. Surely the Foundation's primary role is to support projects that will increase our knowledge of the Island's heritage and of the Manx Gaelic Language in particular.

National Disgrace

In July 1995 Tynwald (Manx Parliament) directed the Department of Education to compile a report on the 'Future Development of the Manx Language'. The Department received a large number of submissions from interested parties. (See CARN 92).

The 32 page report which took some seven months to complete covers a wide range of issues and detailed recommendations for the future development of the language.

The main body of the report deals with Manx language matters involving government (e.g. the teaching of Manx in schools) and those matters involving the activities of language societies and groups. The main recommendation centres on the phased introduction of extra teachers (9.3) over the next four years. The general recommendations stress the need for a working partnership between the government and relevant Manx language societies and groups.

The recommendations are based on the premise that government support for the language, which began in 1992, was inadequate; further support and funding are now essential to meet the growing demand. The report came before Tynwald on the 16 January. Mr Noel Cringle, Minister for Education, asked that the report be received without the recommendations being adopted.

Peter Karran, MHK (Member of the House of Keys) tabled an amendment that all the recommendations be adopted, thus forcing a debate. His amendment lost fairly heavily. Among those in favour of Mr. Karran's amendment were Messrs. Rodan and Braidwood who only recently visited Dublin and gained first-hand knowledge of the tremendous success of Irish Medium schools on their visit to Scoil Lorcáin (See CARN 92).

Clare Christian, MLC (Member of the Legislative Council), tabled an amendment to adopt the short-term recommendations, including the employment of extra teachers. This was narrowly defeated 12-11 in the Keys and 4-4 in the Council.

In an emotive speech Mr Karran said the Manx language had been treated disgracefully. 'The policy of indifference or linguistic genocide is not the policy of a mature nation', he said. He argued that if the Island was a member of the EU the Manx language would be afforded better treatment.

Phil Gawne, on behalf of Yn Cheshaght Ghailkagh, expressed bitter disappointment with Tynwald's decision not to adopt the report. He pointed out that the programme would only have cost some £295,600 over five years. 'We are not asking them to

spend a vast fortune on the language' he said. 'It is a pittance they are being asked to pay compared with every other country in Europe'. He also believed that the Manx language would fare better if the Island had full-membership of the EU. Mr. Gawne said government was fooling parents that Manx teaching was going ahead when all that is on offer is a 'hotch-potch' of substandard teaching provision. He paid tribute to the teachers who are doing a tremendous job despite the present funding difficulties.

Renewed demand for Chronicles' return

The Celtic League has renewed demands for the *Chronicles of Man* to be returned to the Island.

It claims an article in the last issue of the *Celtic History Review* adds weight to its argument for the recovery of the old manuscript. The piece, which steers clear of the ownership controversy, supports the League's contention that the document is of Manx origin.

Writer Bernadette Williams states the *Chronicle of the King of Man* and the *Isles* is not only a very early piece of Manx literature but also an important source of history. She asserts the principal

scribe was a Cistercian monk at Rushen Abbey.

General Secretary, Bernard Moffatt stated: 'A red herring floated by the British Library some time ago was that the document might not in fact be of Manx origin and this they contended in some way justified the continued theft. 'Wherever the document might have been scripted it was intended for the Isle of Man and indeed ended up in ownership here prior to its removal and subsequent theft by the British.'

The League has again called on the Manx Government to take action.

Manx Summer Course

The Dutch A.G. van Hamel Society for Celtic Studies organises a Manx Summer Course. This course, unique outside the British Isles, will take place in Leiden, from 12 till 24 August 1996. The course will be given by Dr. Brian Stowell, Manx Language Officer in the Isle of Man Department of Education. The course fee amounts to 150 Dutch Guilders for students, and 280 Guilders for others (not including accommodation and meals in Leiden). Those wishing to take part in this course should write to the secretariat of the A.G. van Hamel Society, Postbox 1427, NL-3500 UB Utrecht.

Demand for Bombs Clean-up

News that the Isle of Man government has written to the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence to clear up munitions debris left over from the Jurby sea bombing range is most welcome. The Celtic League campaigned for many years for the range's closure and within weeks of that closure in May 1993, demanded either a clean up or compensation.

It would be easy to criticise the Isle of Man government for inertia on this issue, however the Celtic League, not shy of advancing such criticism usually, on this occasion will resist the compulsion. To ensure that the United Kingdom does take these concerns seriously it is important that a community consensus backing the government's action is stimulated. Also, at this time the Manx government's timing is,

perhaps unintentionally, excellent. The United Kingdom is coming under pressure from a broad range of groups because of its military activity in the North Irish sea area.

The Manx government's clear statement that the debris left off Jurby head must be cleared should be an encouragement to others. The many local authorities in Scotland and Ireland concerned about the Beaufort Dyke, the Irish government concern about the sea dumping policy generally and the many campaigning groups that are calling for action. All these bodies should support the Manx stand and re-iterate the general thrust of public demands for a complete military clean up in the North Irish sea.

J.B. Moffatt

CELTICA

DEPLOYMENT OF A MASSIVE MILITARY FORCE THAT FAILED

*"It can be argued that the recent past has been exceptional, that Northern Ireland and Vietnam will both be settled within five years" thus wrote (then Brigadier) Frank Kitson in the opening Chapter of the British Army's counter insurgency Bible, **Low Intensity Operations** in 1971.*

Frank Kitson served and developed the organisation of "special squads" in the North of Ireland, drawn both from regular forces and loyalist paramilitaries. He was right about the war in Viet Nam and he went on to "greater things" within the British military establishment. The war in the North of Ireland also went on for another twenty-three years, until the IRA declared the ceasefire.

Kitson was wrong in his assessment as to the longevity of the Northern conflict. He was also wrong in his assessment of its status in the British "Richter scale" of conflicts. His assessment in 1971 was that the Northern conflict was not a "Limited War" but a "counter insurgency and peace keeping operation". This line was to become the public position that the British political and military establishment would hold to long after more junior ranks, restricted by other than air mobility to bases in South Armagh and East Tyrone, were admitting it was a war and an increasingly bloody one.

Despite his status as a guru of strategic thinking, Kitson's view was in fact the received wisdom for the period and it still has a relevance today. The complete and utter failure of the United Kingdom's political, military and intelligence establishments to understand the basis of the "enemy" they faced in Ulster, is the basis of their obsessive attitude to the decommissioning of IRA weapons today. It is more deep-seated than a straightforward desire for peace, or the more politically mercenary objective to make the republican movement offer symbolic surrender.

Britain misread the runes at the outset of the conflict and they are in danger of allowing a tragic repeat of history.

For a four year period between the outbreak of Civil Rights campaigning in 1968 and the Operation Motorman in 1972, the British government in military terms

responded to the situation in the North by using tactics that Kitson and his ilk had developed in previous counter insurgency operations. Utilising the existing internal security force, the Ulster Special Constabulary, and supplementing this with regular army troops as the situation deteriorated, the British attempted to contain the trouble. They appeared to appreciate the military quagmire they were drifting in to. They advanced briefly a formula to withdraw the Army "proper" by introducing joint military police/RUC patrols. This latter suggestion mooted in Derry in September 1969 was not received enthusiastically nor was it progressed.

In many ways the situation then developed in parallel with other colonial actions, such as Kenya, a conflict from which Kitson had developed his murder gangs theory. The initial containment having failed, the local security force having been discredited (the "B" Special Constabulary) were disbanded in April 1970), and hearts and minds not having been won, the option of firm force was deployed.

As it moved into the Motorman deployment in July 1972 the British Army had 22,000 men deployed in addition to the Police Force and the elements of the "B Specials" (again an echo of other conflicts) being reshaped into the Ulster Defence Regiment.

At this period in time, when we are reflecting on the decommissioning of weapons in the North, it is pertinent to reflect on just what had been deployed by the British, in military hardware terms, at that stage.

Something like 30-40,000 small arms, machine gun calibre weapons and associated light weaponry. A range of unmodified soft skinned and armoured vehicles including wheeled medium weight armoured vehicles and for a period during Motorman, tracked armoured vehicles. The latter were swiftly withdrawn, as in the words of a commentator in a military journal of the time there was a "need to avoid the propaganda pitfall of using tracked vehicles - which television reporters would immediately describe as tanks whatever their role - thereby

presenting comparisons with Soviet repressive measures in Eastern Europe".

In addition to the ground forces the first echelons of an aviation component, that would be increasingly augmented and stretched as the next two decades unfolded, was being established at Aldergrove.



Early machines were relatively unsophisticated like the 'Scout' above.

Military Intelligence Services were being developed out of the civil element which existed in the RUC. These would be developed along the lines expounded by people like Brigadier Kitson to undertake active roles in addition to the more passive role more usually associated with intelligence services - **the murder gangs had been born!**

Kitson's expressed optimism in 1971 appeared to be borne out as the decade developed. Within eight years troop levels were down to a reported figure of 12,000, although the expansion of the UDR and RUC more than compensated for this.

British military commentators, via the journals through which they expound these views, were making subjective assessment which would prove fundamentally flawed but which no doubt were used by those briefing a new Prime Minister, the so called Iron Lady, Margaret Thatcher. References were made in some journals to "a dramatic reduction in the number of units having to be removed from BAOR to serve four month tours in the province". In actual fact however, when these statements were published these deployments or *roulements* as they are termed were being increasingly stretched. Statements also published referred to (the containment) of the Provisional IRA., although these were almost immediately countered by comments attributed to unidentified British army sources. The first murmurings that "the war" could not be won!

A closer examination of how matters were developing must even at that stage have caused deep-seated concern about the likely longevity of this counter insurgency operation.

By the early 1980s there was some evidence to suggest that some weaponry available to the "small numbers" of activists in the IRA were superior to that which the Army deployed. Soft-skinned transport had all but disappeared as a means of moving troops in N. Ireland. Those armoured vehicles that were deployed were invariably extensively modified with Macalloy armour toughened windscreens and reinforced chassis. Mesh screen covers, anti-grenade shields, rams

and leg shields were also fitted on all APCs. The main vehicles in use, elderly Humber APCs, were also the subject of extensive uparmouring undertaken as 'Operation Bracelet' by the Royal Ordnance Factory, and Saracens were for the most part obsolescent. Some types of armoured vehicle utilised in the first decade of the conflict had been phased out, e.g. the Ferret scout vehicle considered too "light" for counter insurgency duties.

Worse still in some areas the road deployment of troops and police was not practical. Deployed by day in forays by helicopter, or armoured vehicles, flak jackets were *de rigeur* on all occasions. After dark the same garrisons retreated behind their revetments and surveyed the surrounding country via a range of developing *sophisticated night observation devices*. Portrayed in the popular British media as "the Army being provided with the latest technology to fight terrorism", this was in fact an army of occupation under siege.



Early night imaging equipment and also the installation of sensor devices e.g. 'Classic' around bases was common by 1980.

The embryonic air support of the early 1970s had developed into a major offensive and logistics support operation. This in turn was severely stretching the British military capacity and embarrassingly for the British, in the period prior to the IRA ceasefire, MOD officials were searching the second-hand helicopter markets of the world to shore up this over-extended logistics operation.

(See *The British Helicopter Force in Ireland - A Barometer of Sinking Fortunes* Carn 88).

Despite the efforts of the next ten years, the astute political manoeuvring by Thatcher in which she embraced dialogue with the 26 County government (which was obviously motivated more by expediency than commitment) by the end of the decade, and in the period after her departure and leading up to the IRA ceasefire, the military situation for the British never improved.

By 1994 the no-go areas of Kitson's period (in Belfast and Derry), cleared in Motorman, had been replaced by vast areas in the rural heartland of Ulster in which the remit of the Crown extended no further than the barrack's gate.

The weaponry that Kitson and others had believed would be required to end the conflict had been augmented out of all recognition and constituted in its totality

BEFORE



The Saracen before modification.

AFTER



'Operation Kremlin' saw an extensive upgrade of the armoured vehicles.

probably the greatest consistent military commitment that the United Kingdom had deployed since World War 2.

The British Army were disenchanted. Officers spoke openly now of "a War which could not be won". The equipment was worn out and in some instances the portable field based small arms and automatic weapons held by the IRA were superior. The British public were totally demoralised following a series of effective economic attacks in Britain, and finally in July 1994 and just prior to serious talk of ceasefire the heart was ripped out of the British Intelligence machine in a still unexplained and mysterious crash at Kintyre.

With the crystallisation of the initiative by Sinn Féin and the other northern Nationalist organisation the SDLP and the involvement of the United States the "peace initiative" was developed.

The British politically and militarily were provided with a breathing space within which they could survey the failure of a developed military strategy stretching back to Kitson's "five year counter insurgency operation".

The British have a reputation throughout the world (justifiably

questionable) for their apparent ability to triumph in adversity, to turn a defeat into victory, to rewrite history to suit the British need. Despite the evidence of twenty five years of massive military deployment in the North the British army, in the face of initial projections, had not defeated the IRA. The core issue to be developed for the British establishment in explaining this failure must therefore be IRA weapons. True the weapons of other groups was mentioned, but there was no mistaking the intent of the propaganda campaign that has been developed.

IRA weapons have been projected to the forefront politically and via a sustained media campaign, the intention being to transfer the focus from the overwhelming weight of weaponry in the hands of the British Army and its various other agencies in the North of Ireland.

The Republican movement will sustain a campaign, to represent the true record of the balance of military force in the twenty-five year conflict. Their efforts should be supported by all who have observed the development of the British government's military strategy in Ireland, the deployment of a massive military force that failed!

J.B. Moffatt

Deadly Munitions Legacy

Virtually the entire coastal zone stretching from the south of Eskmeals in Cumbria to the Antrim coast and including the north of the Isle of Man is at danger from disposed munitions or unexpended practice munitions

Despite the current high profile being given to explosives coming ashore in increasing numbers from Beaufort Dyke in the north Irish sea, Beaufort is only one of a number of potentially dangerous British military black-spots which form an deadly arc of danger in the area.

Beaufort Dyke is reputedly the location for the disposal of several million tonnes of munitions. The site has been long known as an explosive dump and also the presence of chemical weapons was logged as early as 1969. In mid July of that year a Breton trawler landed six men at Peel in the Isle of Man, badly contaminated after an incident in which they brought mustard gas on board their vessel whilst lifting their nets. The men were hospitalised with serious blistering and skin injuries. Two developed complications, and one in particular, whilst in hospital "swelled up like a balloon, turned purple and shed all his skin". He subsequently recovered but came close to being the first recorded fatal injury caused by British chemical weapons dumping. Over subsequent years reports surfaced from fishermen in Scotland, N. Ireland and the Isle of Man about mysterious incidents at Beaufort. Contaminated nets which mysteriously caught fire when brought out of the water or gave off pungent gases, skin injuries and burns etc.

In 1981 the Celtic League started to ask questions about military activity generally in the Irish Sea, and the Beaufort dump in particular. Despite the present cacophony from Labour sources now, such as shadow Defence spokesman David Clark and the leader of Lancashire County Council, we were unable to interest Labour spokesmen of the day in the issue. Perhaps it was still too close to the period when Labour was in power when the dumping was in full swing. The SNP did set down some questions, but the issue failed to capture the media attention until the end of the eighties when the first large quantities of what would eventually become a deluge of munitions came ashore on beaches in Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man.

West Freugh is a Royal Aerospace establishment/MOD weapons test site which covers the area of Luce Bay and Loch Ryan. The Luce bay area is

extensively used, and has been for decades for the testing of missiles, guided bombs and more conventional munitions. Because of the experimental nature of the work it is highly likely that a wide range of dangerous unexploded ordnance litters the sea area, both within and adjacent to the designated range safety area.

RAF Jurby Head, an off shore facility, now closed, was at one time the largest and most extensively used NATO sea bombing range. It was in use in one form or another for practice bombing for fifty years. Throughout the period of the cold war and up to its closure in 1993 it was used mainly by the RAF and United States Air Force. Shortly after the closure the Celtic League called for a clean up of the site. New undersea video evidence obtained by the Manx government has confirmed fears about contamination of the area with unexploded munitions. The Manx government have demanded a clean up of the area by the MOD.

Dundrennan, Kirkcudbright is another area on the coast of south west Scotland which has been used extensively over many decades for weapons firing. A danger area extends over 120 square miles of the north Irish sea and amongst weaponry tested at the site now giving cause for concern were thousands of rounds of depleted uranium munitions. MOD attempts to gauge possible danger from this source have been inconclusive.

Southernness, Solway is a former military training site the MOD have recently attempted to clear. Exercise areas are contaminated with unexploded debris resulting from previous military use. Despite the efforts to clear it, just how effective will the long term impact of the clean up be?

Eskmeals, Cumbria is a facility at the eastern edge of the arc of potentially hazardous military installations around the north Irish sea. It is used for heavy weapons testing, artillery and some missiles. Its danger area is larger than the 120 square mile Kirkcudbright range mentioned above. In fact these two danger areas (indicated on Admiralty chart Q 6403) virtually seal the entrance to the Solway with a restricted military zone.

It will be seen from the above that virtually the entire coastal zone stretching from south of Eskmeals in Cumbria to the Antrim coast and including the north of the Isle of Man is at risk from disposed munitions or un-expended practice munitions. Even those sites now

discontinued as dump sites or firing ranges are effectively so contaminated as to be "sterilised" for commercial fishing or leisure use.

This unfortunately does not provide the overall picture. Whilst the MOD, over the course of the past fifty years, was scrupulous in designating sites as either firing ranges or for dumping, the range coordinates set out meticulously on Admiralty chart have little real relevance. New evidence emerges daily that in relation to sea disposal of munitions, cargoes were frequently dumped outside the designated zone. The firing ranges also seem to have a remarkable margin of error with missile material from Eskmeals being washed ashore in the Isle of Man and large bombs of a type used at the Jurby range being found as far south as Peel on the Island's west coast, 12 miles from the edge of the range danger area.

There is no doubt that the fragmented campaigns for actions about military hazards around the north Irish sea are ineffectual. What is needed are coordinated campaigns of action, and increasingly it is not the UK Labour opposition or some distant intervention from Brussels, who can provide this. Most suitable candidates to "enter the listings" against the British government and its Ministry of Defence, are the Irish and Manx governments.

J.B. Moffatt

BLOODY SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY

England branch distributed 500 leaflets at the Bloody Sunday 24th anniversary rally in Leicester on 27th January.

This leaflet was entitled "The Celtic League say:- English Racists - Get out of Ireland!" and was strengthened as below to make it more "troops out" oriented. "English racists consider the Celts to be "second class" citizens unfit to govern themselves with no rights to self-determination.

It is racist to regard other peoples as basically inferior in any respect.

The English should withdraw their troops and all other means of repression and administration from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and the Isle of Man and let the peoples of these nations determine their own futures".

The names of the Bloody Sunday victims were read out.

The slogans for the rally were:-
**Peace Through British Withdrawal
From Ireland and Self Determination
for the Irish People.**

Ifor Kenna

A Short History of the Irish Language

by D. Ó Breasláin and Paidí Dwyer,
published by Glór na nGael Bhéal Feirste
Thiar, 1995 price @2.50 (plus p+p) ISBN
O 952632404.

This booklet endeavours to tell the story of the Irish language from its origins, detailing its evolution, literary masterpieces, the Gaelic society that held it in its dominant position for centuries, the attempts at outlawing it and the process by which it found itself being abandoned particularly in the nineteenth century. The Revivalist movement is also detailed from early pioneers up to today's initiatives both North and South.

This brief but concise booklet is a good introduction to the history of the Irish language and is an easy read.

The Celtic Pen

A quarterly journal, mainly in English, dealing with Celtic language literature. Available from all good bookshops or direct from:

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Arthur Griffith

E la trasformazione del
nazionalismo irlandese

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Gwenn-ha-Du, journal nationale breton, 28pp. bimonthly. Annual subscription 150FF Brittany-France, 170 FF other countries, to Jacques Le Maho, 190 bis Ave. de Clichy, 75017 Paris.

Gwenn-ha-Du seeks to gather the most dynamic elements of the Breton Movement and cooperate with them for a coherent and more effective defense of the Breton people.

Among its frequent contributors are Yann Fouere, Yann Bouessel du Bourg, Joseph Chardonnet, O.M.I., Jean Cevaër, whose signatures also appear in **L'Avenir de la Bretagne**.

Of great interest in issues Nr 110-111 was the interview with the intrepid Denise Luec-Guieysse in which she recalls her commitment to the cause of Breton freedom throughout the years from 1925 to 1950, which cost her her job as a civil-servant.

Gwenn-ha-Du devotes much space to the national aspects of the Breton history, its book reviews often concern biographies of people who illustrated it. It carried in several issues the results of research by Edith Perennou about the attempts made by the little-known Per Penneg who, in the years following the defeat of the Breton army in 1488, attempted unsuccessfully to obtain English military help in a bid to recover our independence.

AL LIAMM, literary magazine in Breton, bimonthly, subscription 160 F (Brittany, France), 180 F outside State, 200 F airmail, to P. ar Bihan, 16 r. des Fours à Chaux, 35400 St-Malo.

The Nov.-Dec. issue, 110 pp. is particularly interesting. R. ar C'halan contributes a thirty page study of the "national spirit in the modern Breton literature. G. Kervala tells us how the 100th anniversary of F.M. Luzel's death was commemorated by plays based on a number of the tales he collected. He recalls similar performances which occurred in the first half of this century when the Bleuñ-Brug association led by Fr. Y.V. Perrot staged plays based on Kervarker's collection "Barzhaz Breizh". Let us also mention Per Denez's recollections about the nationalist and language militant Yann ar Beg who had to live in hiding during the post-war repression.

Membership & Subscriptions

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

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