

celt

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 99

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- Pádraig Ó Conchúir RIP
- Breton Language Survey: Reverse the trend!
- Kernewek Unyes – An Forth Yn Rag
- Manx Money Laundering Bill
- Gaelic News
- 'Pack up and Go' call to Welsh Language Quangos

ALBA: COMUNN
CEILTEACH • **BREIZH:** KEVRE
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



ALBA

Cunnart is Cothrom

le Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich (Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

Dùn Eideann ar ceann bhaile,
Fad mìle bliadhna,
Tha thusa mar seann chraoibh,
San earrach thig na gucagan a-mach,
Agus leis a' gheamhradh tuitidh na
duilleagan,
Linn an deigh linn.

Thig gach ginealach
Gus an tuit e chun na h-ùrach.

Ach seasaidh a' chraobh
Is cuimhnichidh i,
Air a' ghloir a bha aice,
'San làithean a dh'aom.

A nisd na craobhan eile,
An doire na h-Alba
Agus iadsan a tha air chrith
Leis a' ghaoith às ùr nach robh
A' seideadh fad iomadh linn
Cuimhnichidh iad air làithean na
glòir aca,
Nuair a bha an doire neo-eisimeileach,
A measg doirean saor eile na Roinn Eorpa.

Abair gu bheil mòran dhaoine feadh Alba
a' bruidhinn air a' Phàipear Geal d'am
b' ainm "Scotland's Parliament" a
dh'fhoillsich an Riaghaltas tre na bùtha aca
H.M. Stationery Office a' phris £5-50 agus
ainmichte CM 3658. Tha giorrachadh 'sa
Gàidhlig ri fhaotainn an asgaidh à zone IF,
Victoria Quay, Dun Éideann, EH6 6QQ,
Alba/Scotland.

Mar as trice, cha gabh mòran dhaoine
ùidh anns na Pàipearan Geala eile aig an
Riaghaltas, oir chan eil anna ach leabhran
ar a bheil poileasaidh aig an Riaghaltas ri
fhaotainn. Ach tha diofar mór leis an fhear
seo. Ach, seo agad Pàipear Geal sònraichte,
oir tha e a' tairgsinn féin riaghladh dhaibh.

Ach cha bhi sinn ann an Alba neo-
eisimealach fhathast. Cha bhí idir.
Coimhead air an treas caibideil agus chi
sibh na bhios fo smachd aig Westminster
fhathast! Oir, ann an seo tha aon cuspairean
deug air a bheil an Riaghaltas Breathanach
a' cumail greim fhathast.

Sa chiad àite... san treas caibideil... An
Crùn - coma leinn chan eil Ealasaid agus a
teaghlach, ach a' fuireach iad cola-deug a

h-uile bliadhna ann an Lùchairt na Croise
Naomh agus air an oighreachd aice fhin,
Baile Mhoireil.

2. Gnothach a thaobh dùthchannan céin.
Ach chì sinn, san ath chaibideil gum bi ar

h-eoin... fear ris an canar John F. Houston
sgriobh e "Great Scots" (Gibson). Nochd
an luchd-riaghlaidh Shasain mar nach robh
iad deònach eagal a chur air na Sasannaich
leis an Achd na Pàrlaimid Westminster ris
an canar "The British North America Act"
a thaobh Canada... ged nach robh mòran
cumhachd air a chur thairis leis an Achd
seo bha iad deònach aontachadh ris a h-uile
seòrsa de chumhachd a bha na
Canèideanaich ag iarraidh nam biodh iad a'
lorg gach rud gu sàmhach. Chì sinn!

A nisd, bhiodh a' Phàrlaimid Albannach
comasach Gàidhlig a chur air gach bilean
feadh Alba. Ciamar a ghabhadh sin a
dhèanamh? Dìreach mar a-tha sinn a'
dhèanamh an diugh croifeagan agus
teagasg tre na Gàidhlig. Mata chì sinn na
tha tachairt ris a' chàinain Ungarach. Fuair
iad Pàrlaimid ann am Budapest coltach ris
an tè Albannach sa bhliadhna 1867 nuair
bha Ungairis a' dol leis an t-sruth. Ach bha
iad comasach Ungairis a shabhaileadh
nuair a rinn iad a' chàinain seo na h-aon a
theagasg gach rud anns a h-uile sgoil,
colaiste is oilthigh.

Ann an Gwynedd sa Chuimrigh, far a



An taisbeanadh an aghaidh gearraidhean
Gàidhlig à leth Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd...

riochdachadh nas fheàrr air an Aonadh
Eorpach.

3. An t-Arm agus nithean mar sin.

4. Na crìochan.

5. Cuspairean macra-economach.

6. Cùisean mhalairteach.

7. Gnothaichean a thaobh cosnaidh.

8. Seirbheisean sòisealta.

9. Luchd-obrach proifeiseanta air choireigin.

10. Riaghailtean a thaobh sàbhailteachd air
muir, san adhair, air rathaidean agus a thaobh
nan tràna.

11. Cuspairean measgaichte.

Ach bithidh a h-uile cail nach eil anns an
treas caibideil fo ùghdarras na Pàrlaimid
Albannach againn, ach nuair a bhios sinn
neo-eisimeileach bithidh na tha san treas
caibideil fo smachd na Pàrlamaid againn
cuideachd!

Ach carson nach d'fhuair sin ar saorsa uile
ge leir bhon a tha uiread de dh'Albannaich
san Pàrtaidh Laborach agus san Riaghaltas?
Mata, chan eil na Sasannaich deònach eagal
a chur air na daoine aca.

A reir maighstir-sgoil a bha agam nuair a
bha mi òg òg agus bha Gàidhlig aig na

bheil ionnsachadh tre na Cuirimis uile gu
leir tha iad a sùghadh a-steach do'n
dùthaich aca na daoine a thàinig a-steach
agus fhuair an luchd-foghlaim a-mach gu
bheil an fheadhainn òg sin fada nas fheàrr a
thaobh na Beurla na an fheadhainn a chaidh
a theagasg tre na Beurla!

Feumaidh gach sgoil, colaiste agus
oilthigh a bhì a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig... a
h-uile cuspair, eadhon Beurla agus
teangagan eile... agus feumaidh sinn
ceartas fhaighinn air so ionnsachadh tre na
Gàidhlig cuideachd... le tèarainteachd...
oir nuair a tha an t-airgead ach gann
gearraidh comhairle ionadail luchd teagaisg
na Gàidhlig, dìreach mar a rinn Comhair le
na Gàidhealtachd... coimhead air an
dealbh!

Rud mu dheireadh! Feumaidh a h-uile
òganach Albannach feadh Alba uile gu leir
a bhì ag ionnsachadh tre na Gàidhlig no ni
sinn "reservations" agus chan eil sinn nar
Innseachan Dearga san Stàitean Aonaichte!

This was a discussion on the
Government's White Paper CM 3658 on
Scottish Devolution.

Gaelic News

Highland Council Latest

Following the decision to axe their Gaelic visiting teacher service (Carn 98), Highland Council's education committee have finally announced their future plans for the teaching of Gaelic to English medium pupils. Mainstream class teachers - who may have no previous experience of Gaelic - are to be given 10 day courses in Gaelic to enable them to teach the language to their pupils. Val MacIver the chair of the committee believes that this system will improve the service. Gaelic activists however have ridiculed the plan which compares unfavourably even to the teaching of French and German where the teachers are sent on 29 day courses. It has since been discovered that the new service will not necessarily be uniform throughout Highland schools. In a meeting between Comann nam Parant (the Gaelic parents' organisation) and the Highland council, Jack Findlay the deputy director of education admitted that there would be no compulsion on teachers to undertake the 10 day courses. This means that some schools might be left with no provision for Gaelic teaching whatsoever. The campaign continues.

Minister for Gaelic Appointed

The Labour party have fulfilled their election commitment to create a minister for Gaelic. The first minister to be given the responsibility for Gaelic is Scottish Office Minister of State, Brian Wilson. On his appointment Mr Wilson said that "Appointing a Minister for Gaelic demonstrates the Government's commitment to the support of the Gaelic language and identity". He added: "I am sure this early decision to appoint a Minister for Gaelic will be warmly welcomed by the Gaelic community". The appointment of a Gaelic Minister has indeed been welcomed by the Gaelic community and as a Gaelic learner with a keen interest in the language, Wilson was an obvious choice for the post. Mr Wilson is married to a native Gaelic speaker and their children are being educated through the medium of Gaelic. As well as being a vociferous supporter of Gaelic medium education, the new minister for Gaelic has also in the past called for official status for the language (Scotsman 11/3/96).

While Wilson has a good record on the promotion of Gaelic, many nationalists feel

deeply uneasy at his presence in the Scottish office due to his record on home rule. During the 1979 referendum campaign Wilson was a key member of the anti-devolution "Scotland is British" group. Since then Wilson claims to have changed his mind on devolution and has spoken and written in favour of it. Many commentators such as SNP leader Alex Salmond have suggested that this conversion was somewhat less convincing than that of Paul on the road to Damascus (The Herald 7/5/97). Whether or not Wilson sincerely believes in home rule, there can be no doubt as to his extreme dislike of the SNP and of Scottish nationalism in general. This has been seen most recently in his suggestion that the constitution of a devolved Scottish parliament should prohibit the parliament from ever holding a referendum on independence.

High School Progress

In one of his first actions as minister for Gaelic, Brian Wilson has overturned the previous government's refusal to allow the teaching of a full range of subjects through Gaelic in secondary schools (see Carn 95). In a bilingual press-release, the minister for Gaelic stated "I am pleased to make clear that I recognise the availability of Gaelic-medium teaching in secondary schools as part of the natural educational progression". As an initial measure, the government is entering into discussions with local authorities and school inspectors about ways in which Gaelic speaking secondary subject teachers could be given additional training to allow them to teach through the medium of Gaelic. Wilson made it clear that this was an interim measure that was designed to make sure that future planning by education authorities took account of the government's intentions.

Bilingualism in Business

A new multilingual leaflet entitled "Bilingualism in Business: The Point of Difference- Europe's Minority Languages at Work" has been produced. It argues that "there is a growing and important role for Europe's lesser used languages in the business world. Progressive companies and entrepreneurs alike are realising the many

benefits which accrue: when bilingualism is put to work, it can work profitably for them". The leaflet and a more detailed report about business and minority languages are available free of charge from the following addresses:

Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis, IV2 3HQ, Alba.

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 10 Sráid Haiste Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

Taigh na Gàidhlig Update

Taigh na Gàidhlig, the project for an Edinburgh Gaelic centre (see Carn 95) has been awarded £450,000 by the National Lottery and £100,000 is pending from local government agencies. A further £30,000 has come from Comunn na Gàidhlig in addition to £30,000 raised through events and personal donations. This includes £1177 raised by the Scottish branch of the Celtic League. The campaign still has £300,000 to raise. For more information on Taigh na Gàidhlig, write to Joan NicDhòmhnaill, 1 Burdiehouse Road, Dùn Èideann EH17 8AE.

Gaelic Matters

A week of events to promote Gaelic throughout Scotland will be held from the 15th-21st of September. The week which is entitled "Gaelic Matters" is being co-ordinated by Gàidhlig '97 a group which exists to raise the profile of Gaelic and the public's awareness of Gaelic issues. The week is being supported by all the Gaelic bodies and will include events in Skye, Inverness, Stornoway, Glasgow and Edinburgh. For more information, contact: Gàidhlig '97, PO Box 345, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8XA. Tel: 01471 844345. A set of free information leaflets are also available from this address.

Dìreach Gàidhlig

Motor and household insurance with a Gaelic flavour is now available from the company Dìreach Gàidhlig (Gaelic Direct). With this service, customers will be able to conduct insurance business through Gaelic. For every policy sold or renewed, £5 will

be donated to Comunn na Gàidhlig. For more details, phone 0345 023561 or write to PO Box 6301, Port Rìgh, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach IV51 9ZY.

Grampian Television Takeover

The Scottish Media Group owners of Scottish Television are to acquire the northern TV station Grampian Television in a £105 million agreed takeover bid. Reactions to this development, even within the nationalist camp, have been mixed. Concern has been expressed about media concentration given that the group controls the Glasgow newspapers the Evening Times and the Herald (Scotland's best selling broadsheet). Opponents of the takeover have also argued that regional output and Gaelic output will be reduced as a result and that television would inevitably become more central belt dominated. It is also certain that jobs will be lost in the television industry. As a result of these criticisms the Independent Television commission has agreed to begin a public inquiry into the deal.

The alternative view, which is perhaps the majority nationalist view, is that a television company serving 4.7 million out of Scotland's 5.1 million viewers would be of benefit to Scotland through creating a unified national television system. The advantages of such a set up are that television in Scotland would be less vulnerable to takeover by English companies and that a more national view would be possible including the production of national news programmes in Scotland to replace the main British news programmes such as the 10 o'clock news. Things also seem more hopeful for regional and Gaelic output than was initially anticipated. On Gaelic, Gus MacDonald the executive chairman of the Scottish Media Group has said that "both Scottish Media and Grampian will continue to honour in full their separate ITC licence and Broadcasting Act commitments in north and central Scotland". He was also keen to stress that distinct regional services would also remain.

Another interesting development for the language is that the Scottish Media Group are being tipped to bid for Border Television. Border Television which serves the Isle of Man, and the north west of England as well as the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway currently refuses to show any Gaelic programming whatsoever. A takeover would make the showing of Gaelic television in the Border Television area much more likely.

Alasdair MacCaluim

Celtic League

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts

Green with gold Celtic League
motive in corner.

T-shirts -£6

Sweatshirts - £10.50 + 10% p & p

Bí seacsaídh, bí san fhasan

Faigh an Léine T/S againn!

Uaine le snaidhm òr a' Chomainn

Cheiltich 's an oisean.

For further information contact the Alba
Branch Secretary (addr. Pg 24)

The Sun Goddess

The Sun Goddess, Myth,
Legend and History

Sheena McGrath

July 1997 JSBN 0 7137 2662 8

£16.99.

Today's popular image of the sun is masculine. Modern pagan, mystical and Jungian imagery consistently portrays the sun as a male deity, and the Victorian analysis and retelling of the classics maintained the established Greek and Norse portrayals of heroes as the sun, with heroines cast as the moon. This fitted neatly with the Victorian notion of women as passive and receptive, but has consequently predetermined our ideas and obscured much earlier beliefs in a sun goddess, but there is plenty of evidence to suggest that this masculine image wasn't always the case.

The Sun Goddess rediscovers the woman in the sun and reverses a whole set of mainstream ideas provided by western culture, by re-examining the beliefs of the Indo-Europeans, the ancestors of the Norse, Celts, Romans, Greeks and Hindus. Using comparative mythology, Sheena McGrath reconstructs the myths that surround the sun goddess and the practices of her cult, citing a wide range of intriguing evidence through which the existence of a strong female deity associated with the sun emerges.

Sheena McGrath is a member of the Pagan Federation, and has a degree in Medieval Studies from the University of Waterloo in Canada. She now lives in Santa Barbara.

For further information contact Karen McCarthy, Cassell Publicity on 0171 420 5594. Cassell Plc., Wellington House, 125 Strand, London WC2R 0BB.



The Whistlebinkies a wanton fling

Greentrax Recordings, Cockenzie
Business Centre, Edinburgh Road,
Cockenzie, East Lothian EH32 0HL

Formed during the great surge of interest in traditional and Celtic music in the late 1960s, the Whistlebinkies evolved into a leading force in the field. The group led the revival in the use of the bellows-blown bagpipes in Scotland and were the first to combine the three national instruments: the fiddle, bagpipes and clarsach in regular performance. Only authentic traditional instruments are used and where possible, the group prefers to play in an acoustic setting. The repertoire is drawn from all periods of Scottish music and from all regions of the country.

Their latest CD, "The Whistlebinkies a wanton fling" is true to form. New arrangements and compositions based on traditional material provide an excellent example of joint creation with all the members of the group contributing new compositions within the tradition.

I would include *HÓ - RÓ MÓ Chachag* (HÓ-RÓ My Young Girl) as one of my personal favourites on the CD. This work-song, formerly used to accompany the "waulking" or communal hand shrinking of newly woven cloth, features Judith Peacock in the lead with the male voices of the group doing the chorus, instead of the traditional women's chorus.

Cam' ye o'er frae France is an excellent rendition of an old Scots song that makes satirical references to George I and his courtiers. The lullaby *Táladh*, taken from "The Spirit of Flight", Eddie McGuire's 1991 ballet for traditional instruments and orchestra, shows yet another aspect of this group's wide repertoire and musical abilities.

Played with spirit and energy there is plenty to suit every mood and preference on this CD.

P.B.

BREIZH

Ur gouezelva e-tal Dulenn?

Emglev zo bet graet gant ur gompagnunezh tisaverezh evit mirout ugent ti nevez da vihanañ da familhoù hag a fell dezho ren o buhez kevredigezhel dre hantererezh an iwerzhoneg. Ar c'hentañ kammed eo da seveniñ ur mennad hag en deus tregaset emsaverien 'zo abaoe meur a vloavezh.

Daoust ma'z eo peuz niverus an iwerzhonegerien e Dulenn, dibaot eo ar re o deus amezeien barrek d'ober ivez gant ar yezh; hag o bugale, lakaet o dije c'hoant, n'o devez ket kaer tro kennebeut da iwerzhonegañ gant bugale all o c'harter. E gwir, ur gudenn spontus eo gouzout penaos, en un endro ma ren ar saozneg, degas ar re yaouank da implij o iwerzhoneg e-maez o zi. Graet e vez dezho ober "evel an holl". Se a c'hoarvez, evel ma ouzomp re vat, e pep lec'h ma klask ur yezh "vihan" kenvevañ gant unan "vras". Anez krouiñ un endro hogos unyezhek e chom an anaoudegezh eus an hini "vihan" hep implij er gevredigezh ha buan e vez ankouaet gant an darn vrasañ.

Pa voe divizet gant Stad Dieub Iwerzhon kas war-raok ar strivadeg da adiwerzhonekaat ar vro ne voe ket lakaet a'walc'h a breder gant ar gudenn-se. Ne oa bro all ebet ma c'hallfed bezañ tennet splot eus he skiant-prenañ war seurt tachenn. Un arnod a voe graet koulskoude. E Whitehall/Fionnbhrú, hag a oa neuze war harzoù kêr Dulenn, e tu an hanternoz, e voe savet 75 ti war un takad brav a 6 ha. aratozh evit annezhañ iwerzhonegerien. Anvet e voe Páirc na Gaeltachta. Siwazh ne voe kavet nemet dek prener bannak eus ar seurt-se dezho, ma voe ret gwerzhañ an tiez all da saoznegerien. Se a oa war-dro 1930. Re abred, rak daoust ma oa kresket niver ar re oa gouest da gomz iwerzhoneg eus 17,000 da 39,000 etre 1911 ha 1926 er gêrbenn a-bezh, ar pep brasañ anezho ne oant ket ken chalet-se gant ar seurt mennad, ti o doa dija pe re bell e vijent bet diouzh o labour marteze. Ha kontañ a raed war ar skolioù, a oa holl bremañ o kelenn iwerzhoneg, evit m'en em ledfe er gevredigezh tamm-ha-tamm. Padal, e-pad 40 vloaz e voe lakaet koulz lavaret holl aked ar skolidi da zeskiñ reolennoù diaes ar yezhadur ha da lenn testennoù diwar-benn doare buhez hengounel ar maezioù e-lec'h

o gourdonañ da gomz akuit eus traoù o buhez pemdeziek. Kalz anezho a chomas ginet ouzh ar yezh. Hag o welout e kendalc'he an dud deuet da ober gant ar saozneg, hep klask ivez deskiñ iwerzhoneg, e rejont evelto.

A-benn 1960 e oa koulskoude un toullad mat a diegezhioù e Dulenn ma oa desavet ar vugale er yezh vroadel. Savet e voe ur gevredigezh, "Na Teaghlaigh Gaelacha", evit reiñ tro dezho da gejañ en diavaez eus ar skolioù, da welout evel-se ne oa ket an iwerzhoneg ur yezh-skol hepen hag e oa komzet gant bugale eus tiegezhioù all. Mont a rae "an tiegezhioù gouezel" a-gevret d'ober troiadoù d'ar sul, aozet e veze ur fest pe un abaden bennak a vare da vare, kenstrivadegoù sport en hañv, profoù da Oul Nedeleg. Koulskoude ne veze ket alies a'walc'h. Un tammig re e chome an dud diouzh o zu, koulz darn eus ar gerent hag ar vugale. Diouer a oa a emdarzhegezh, a gave din. An abeg d'an dra-se moarvat eo e vanke d'ar berzhidi ar seurt troiennoù arlivek a zeu aes o c'hevatal gant ar saoznegerien hag a laka bevder en divizoù.

Skolioù-hañv niverus zo bet diazezet er Gouezelva evit reiñ tu da skolidi oadet etre 10 ha 18 vloaz da dremen o ehanoù a-gevret e pennadoù a beder sizhun en ur bleustriñ an iwerzhoneg. E darn anezho e vez difenn-trenn komz saozneg pe e vezer argaset. Bep bloaz e teu war-dro 25,000 a dud yaouank d'ar skolioù-se. Evel-just e vez paotred ha merc'hed a-gevret, ha meur a hini o deus graet anaoudegezh eno gant o danvez pried da-zont pezh zo a bouez evit lakaat an tiegezhioù iwerzhonek da baotaat.

Gant Dulenniz eo e voe savet, e-tro 1970, ar c'hentañ klub evit reiñ tu da iwerzhonegerien ar "Gallva" da gejañ d'an abardaez. Da gentañ e oa e tu an hanternoz d'ar stêr Life met goude daou vloaz e voe lec'hiet er c'hav e-traoù ti Kevre ar Gouezeleg, 6 Sráid Fhearchair. Di e c'haller mont bemdez adalek 8 eur. Ur bar zo, a-wezhioù e vez sonerezh, met ar pal eo lakaat an iwerzhoneg da vezañ komzet er vuhez kevredigezhel. Heuliet eo bet ar skouer e Béal Feirste, Corcaigh, Gaillimh. Seurt kluboù ne dizhont ket ur bern tud koulskoude.

Un nebeud eus izili gentañ hini Dulenn eo a adkemerar ar mennad da grouiñ ur

ranngêriad iwerzhonegerien war harzoù ar gêrbenn. Ret e vije prenañ douar a-walc'h evit 100 ti da vihanañ. (E gwirionez, evit d'ar seurt ranngêr bout gouest da badout en un endro arallyezhek e rankfe, hervez ur studiaden eus un degouezh heñvel e Suis, 2,000 den da vihanañ bezañ o chom enni). Penaos kavout ar milion £ rekis evit prenañ kement a zouar? Eno e oa an dalc'h. Ha petra a vije ouzh perc'henned an tiez d'o gwerzhañ diwezhatoc'h da saoznegerien a ginnigje dezho gwelloc'h prizioù? Ret e vije d'an tiez bezañ perc'hennet gant ur gevelouri pe un trust o feurmiñ anezho d'an dud hag o virout ar gwir da zegemer iwerzhonegerien hepen. Ne voe ket kavet diskoulm d'ar c'hudennoù-se met ne voe ket kroazet war ar mennad. Savet e voe ur gevredigezh, "Pobal Mhaigh Life" evit e herouezañ. Goude bezañ aet e darempred gant aozadurioù iwerzhonek ha gant tisaverien ez eus bet gallet ober emglev gant an embregerezh "Cassandra Developments Teo." hag a zo o sevel tiez e-kichen Leamhcán e bannlev kornôg Dulenn. Asantet eo bet mirout 20 ti damzistok, kichen-ha-kichen, en Domani "Caisleán Riada". Enno pep aezamant arnevez. Lec'hiet en un endro dedennus da familhoù yaouank gant stalioù, tachennoù sport, ar stêr Life nepell diouto. Da brenañ d'ur priz ordinal (80,000-90,000 £), gant distalioù war ar mizoù lezennel. Skolioù-mamm ha kentañ derez holliverzhonek zo seulabred en tolead, aotre zo bet roet bremañ da sevel ur skol eil derez e Leamhcán.

N'eo deuet ar c'heloù-se nemet da Hanter C'houere. N'eus ket amzer da goll rak e dibenn Gwengolo e vo lakaet an tiez da werzhañ. A-benn neuze e ranko prenerien bezañ bet kavet dezho pe e c'hallfent bout gwerzhet da saoznegerien. Fiziañs en deus an Ao. Roibeart Ó Cuinn, ur mezeg hag a zo e penn Pobal Mhaigh Life e teuo an taol da vat. Kalz muioc'h a dud yaouank zo bremañ a-du gant an iwerzhoneg eget 20 vloaz'zo. Emañ ar skolioù holliverzhonek oc'h ober berzh, dreist-holl en-dro da Zulenn. Ma kaver "sav" d'an 20 ti e vo brasaet ar gêriadenn. Ha pa vo niverus an tiegezhioù e teuo mezeien, dantourien, h.a. da ziazezañ en o zouez ha da bourvezañ servijoù dezho en iwerzhoneg. Ul levrig diwar-benn ar raklun zo tu da gaout digant Pobal Mhaigh Life, f/c 7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

A. Heusaff

Geriou nebeut anavezet

Gallva: rann eus Iwerzhon ma'z eo ar saozneg a vez komzet; *kevelouri*: cooperative; *herouezañ*: to promote; *seulabred*: already; *raklun*: project.

Summary

The first steps towards creating a new Irish language community outside the Gaeltacht are being taken in the Dublin area. This is a necessity if Irish is not to become a dead letter for most, but is to be the language of everyday social life.

GOUEL AR BREZHONEG COMMEMORATES GLENMOR

During the May 17-18 week-end, Louargad (meaning *Lug's Attack?*), a village situated in the Treger area, a few miles W. of Gwengamp, was like a liberated town, with Breton as its official language, on all its posters, shops and road-signs. On entering the liberated enclosure you had to exchange your francs against the LUR, the currency issued by the Breton National Bank to be exclusively in use there. No borders however, no checks by armed patrols! This was the National festival of the Breton language, Gouel Broadel ar Brezhoneg, being held in Louargad by agreement with its municipality. Launched in 1987 on the initiative of seasoned independentist militants such as Yann Puillandre, leading member of Emgann, its location changed after 5 years from Karaez to nearby Speied where it stayed until last year. Wandering around in Karaez and Speied, you will still see the signs "Bank Broadel Breizh", Ti-Kêr (town-hall), Ti an Degemer (Tourist Office). The fact is that the inhabitants were proud to keep these monolingual signs, although in most other communes they are still at the stage of timidly putting up bilingual ones.

The festival was attended this year by an estimated 1,200 people, a marked increase on previous occasions due perhaps to the fact that it was dedicated to a commemoration of Glenmor, the greatest of our national bards who died a year ago (see *Carn* No 95). He had first attracted attention at the end of the 50s by daring to sing his love of Brittany and the necessity of fighting for it, at a time when many of his compatriots were still cowed by the repression which had befallen the EMSAV (national movement) after the war. To mark the occasion, a new 70 lur note bearing his effigy was issued by the Breton National Bank and, to finish on the Sunday evening, 9 of our best singers including Gilles Servat and Manu Lannuhel sang together some thirty of his songs such as the unforgettable "Kan Bale an ARB", the "Breton Republican Army" march composed in the 70's when hundreds of young men were jailed under suspicion of membership of the "Breton Liberation Front".

Thierry Jigourel

Gouel ar Brezhoneg is of all the numerous Breton festivals the one which by far devotes in its programme the largest place to our language. Two plays were staged during the week-end, one, "Bitekile" by a Kallag group and the other, "Ar Mestr" (see *Carn* Nr 96) by Strollad ar Vro Bagan. The monthly **Combat Breton** regrets that many of the participants were not speaking Breton but notes that it was more in use in the streets and at the stands

than in previous years in Speied. Is it because everyone is coming to realise that he/she must endeavour to do his/her bit to ensure that the language is spoken widely again by the younger generations?

For the organisers the first aim was to show what is being done today in and for the Breton language. It is a great opportunity to reach a large public. In a speech to the attendance four main demands were stated: Breton in all schools; a television and a radio service in Breton for the whole of Brittany; Breton an official language; a comprehensive policy for its restoration as our national language.

A.H.



Commemorating Glenmor at Gouel ar Brezhoneg by courtesy of Combat Breton

CONTESTING ELECTION

Of the Breton parties only the UDB in association with Frankiz Breizh (Brest area) took part in the recent French general elections. They did this as a component of the "Régions et Peuples Solidaires" federation which groups also leftist parties from other peripheral regions. These presented only 27 candidates whereas 22 went forward for the UDB (more than half of them in Morbihan and Loire-Atlantique) and two for Frankiz Breizh. The mean share of the votes given to the UDB was just over 2%, the highest result being obtained by their candidate in the Kastellin-Karaez constituency in Finistère, with 3.2%. Better percentages were achieved in the mid-70's by a Centre-Left Breton coalition. The UDB has made a point of contesting French general elections since its foundation in 1963. Although it could boast of having committed militants, its only electoral success was in getting a number of its members elected to municipal councils. Its monthly "Le Peuple Breton" expresses satisfaction at having at least achieved their modest expectation of an average 1,000

votes per constituency, and it attributes the failure to do better to limited financial means (no donations from capitalists!) and the nearly total exclusion from the "national" media which prevents the party from presenting its arguments. It is a democratic party but it will never be facilitated by the French system.

Yet its alliance with other minorities and regions aims at no secession but building up a new force in the French political field which would bring about the transformation of the State into a federation. It could lead to the dilution of the UDB's specificity as an autonomist party and to a dispersion of its strength in the effort to overcome the deeply rooted indifference of the French provinces to the idea of defending their particular interests or identity (in so far as anything is left of it). How come for instance that Paris can grab more than 50% of the budget of the Ministry of Culture and Communications without a word of protest from the "provinces"? Is this new approach not a forlorn attempt? In any case, the manner in which general election campaigns are managed by the French parties and media does not allow Breton concerns to be aired. On this occasion the Breton Cultural Council asked **all** the candidates in Brittany to answer whether or not they favoured the signing and ratifying by France of the European Charter for Minority Languages. Four days before the first round of the election, the Council had received 56 replies, all but 2 being favourable. We cannot say if the names were published in the press, nor whether those elected accorded any place to this and other specifically Breton matters in their canvassing. The terms of the Charter have been ruled as incompatible with the French Constitution's Art. 2 which made French "the language of the Republic". Some organisations seem to be embarking on a campaign to get it amended – probably a wild goose chase – but it would be worth watching how those so well disposed deputies respond to it, now that they are elected.

In the Kastellin-Karaez constituency, the Socialist Kofi Yamgnane, who was the only coloured candidate to be successful in all the state, bested the Chirac-RPR outgoing candidate Jean Yves Cozan. Yamgnane had shown himself favourable to DIWAN and bilingualism, but after becoming Minister for Integration, (i.e. absorbing immigrants into French society), he urged the General Council of Finistère which had appointed Cozan to head its Breton language and culture Committee to "pause" in its support for these matters. He also asked militants to moderate their claims or they might alarm the centralists. He came out against the notion that communities existed in France other than the French one. Cozan, on the other hand, while supporting rightist policies, has done quite a lot for the promotion of specific Breton cultural aims, in an interview with *L'Avenir* he even appeared to advocate autonomy for Brittany. He might be suspected of self-serving motives but it was up to the Breton

organisation to put this to advantage, without tying themselves unduly. However, the UDB having obtained some last minute promises from Yamgnane, called on its supporters to vote for him. This caused considerable disquiet throughout the cultural movement as well as among the party's members and sympathisers. They will hardly be reassured by the announcement from Yamgnane, immediately after his victory, that "the promotion of the Breton identity" will be one of his four priorities. Who would expect this government of the Left, with the ultra-Jacobine Chévenement as one of its ministers, to be more open-minded towards France's minorities than those of the Right? Yamgnane will have to toe the party line. And the UDB appears determined to stick to its policy of giving precedence to its commitment to the Left over Breton considerations.

A. Heusaff

Almost Four Million Inhabitants

The population of Brittany totalled 3,945,249 on the 31-12-95 according to figures released by INSEE (French National Statistics Institute). They were as follows for the 5 departments: Côtes-d'Armor: 541,077; Finistère: 839,849; Ille-et-Vilaine: 839,911; Loire-Atlantique: 1,089,900; Morbihan: 635,513. The total amounts to 7% of the state's population. It puts Brittany in 5th position among its regions and slightly above the average for the regions of the EU.

The official "Region Bretagne" by excluding Loire-Atlantique reduces it to the 7th position. The separation of this area, backed by O. Guichard, president of the L.-A. General Council, goes back to a decree of the Vichy Government and serves to deny that historic Brittany is big enough to constitute a "European Region".

However, on June 30 the Regional Council of "Region Bretagne" unanimously but for one vote adopted a resolution proposed by Gérard Gautier and consigned by 7 other councillors stating that "the administrative reunification of L.-A. with the region was legitimated by historical, cultural, sociological and juridical elements. The Regional Council wished therefore for a large debate to be started between the two regions concerned". This proposal was derided by Guichard. He would rather see Brittany incorporated in a larger region, the "Ouest" - of course.

TWO BRETON PUBLICATIONS ON TRIAL

The decision of the Sant-Brieg court in the case brought on June 26 by F. Le Rachinel, a prominent member of the National Front and owner of the publishing company *Les Presses Bretonnes*, against the editors of *Bretagne-Infos* and of *Le Peuple Breton*, respectively Martial Menard and Joel Guégan, is to be given on August 28. They are accused of "defamation" for having informed the public that *Les Presses Bretonnes* publish material promoting the ideas of the NF and of the extreme right. This factual information was not contested, only that it caused financial damage to the plaintiff. M. Menard insisted on speaking in Breton but was silenced. J. Guégan asked why the daily *Ouest-France* and French Television which reproduced the revelations were not also accused. Klaod an Duigou, a witness for Menard, was like him refused the right to speak in Breton as well as to have an interpreter. Among other witnesses were the well-known Basque university professor and senator Alvarez Enparantza "Txillardeggi". A large number of people came to attend. Three quarters of them were refused entry "for security reasons".

Martial
Menard
(courtesy
of
Bremañ)



Inspector's Indiscretion

A text by Daniel Gauchon, a primary school inspector in the Pyrénées-Atlantique department, was sent out together with a questionnaire about the teaching of Basque and Occitan in all the schools of that area. The inspector set out five reasons to oppose the development of teaching through the medium of a regional language in the state schools. He argued that they must now get rid of bilingual teaching as incompatible with the principles and operation of those schools. One of the reasons is that their aim is to promote the French language and culture for the sake of social cohesion. It is clear to the Union of Breton Teachers (UGB) that the bilingual streams introduced sparingly here and there during the past 15 years were only intended to prevent the development of the like of DIWAN and of the Basque SEASKA which offer a genuine bilingual education. Having failed to do this, Gauchon advocates the scrapping of the "experiment".

He was immediately reproved by his superior saying that his statement was contrary to state policy, so he apologised. The fact is that for the past 2 years obstacles to a proper working, not to mention development, of the bilingual streams in state schools have multiplied to such an extent that the UGB is convinced that the educational authorities are seeking to phase them out by discouraging the parents. As regards DIWAN, the association has been told that its primary function must be to teach French.

LETTER

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr Alan Heusaff for his article *Relations with Galicia* (Carn No. 98). I think most Asturians and Galicians would agree to what it said. In the Asturian case, our Celtic heritage is always present in our minds when discussing what constitutes the Asturian national identity. However, I do admit that following the League's linguistic criterion neither my Asturian compatriots nor our Galician brothers could be defined as Celtic. But the same would apply then to a lot of Irish, Scottish, Cornish or Breton citizens. I'll leave that discussion to more learned people.

The most pleasing fact about Mr. Heusaff's article was the manner in which it was written. In contrast to Peter

Berresford Ellis's *The Celtic Dawn* or Rob Gibson's *La Musique Celtique* (Carn No. 97), Mr. Heusaff did not portray us as vultures ready to jump into the Celtic wagon "as a means to reinforce our 'differences' with Castilian [Spanish] Culture". Mr Heusaff describes us as what we are, a unique hybrid between ancient Celts and the Roman conquerors. But as with most mixed children instead of getting the best of both worlds we often end up getting all the prejudices and fears of both communities.

Thanks as well for using the Asturian name for our country (Asturies), though, are we forever to be Galicia's sidekick? When an article entitled *Relations with Asturies*?

Salú ya dixebra!

Xon de la Campa ya Valdés

Breton Language Survey:

Reverse the trend!

A survey was carried out between March 26 and April 7 in 54 communes, in accordance with normal statistical methods by the Rennes TMO Institute about the state of the Breton language. It was commissioned by the daily "Le Télégramme" and France 3 Ouest. Several questions were put to 2,500 people living W. of a line from Pempoull (Paimpol) to Gwened (Vannes), the limit of the area where Breton is traditionally spoken. Although great care was certainly taken for the sample to be representative, to have a really accurate picture of such a fluid situation, even more detailed questions would have to be put in the State's population censuses, but that is an ideological taboo. The results are in part alarming, but in other ways encouraging.

1. 20% of the population, i.e. about 240,000 **can** speak Breton in that area. No appreciable change since 1991. But while 18% speak it occasionally, only 5.5% use it daily. The percentage of those who can speak it very well or fairly well varies from 45% of those aged 75 or more, and 42% (60-74 years), to 20.5% (40-59 yrs), 5% (20-39 yrs) and less than 1% of those under 20. The corresponding figures for 1991, when a comparable survey was carried out, were 35.5%, 39%, 30%, 8%, -. The overall percentages are 30.5% in Côtes-d'Armor, 22.5% in Finistère, 14% in Morbihan. This has to do with the fact that the South coast has been more urbanised than the other areas.

2. The younger generations, apart from those involved in the various efforts of the language movement (not surveyed!), hardly know any Breton. Unless a fairly radical reversal of a trend which saw the percentage of Breton speakers in that area fall from over 90% around 1900 to 75% around 1950, in another 25 years it will be practised only by a small minority.
3. To the question "Do you understand Breton", 18% said "very well", and 13% "fairly well", in all 31%, or 300,000 people. There is here a surprising discrepancy in comparison to much higher figures for 1991 and 1987.
4. On the bright side, 88% of the people agree that the language should be "kept alive", retained even though only 72% think it can survive. This confirms a strong attachment which is increasingly in evidence, but the big question has not been asked: **What are they prepared to do to ensure its survival?** Learning it well? Speaking it? Oblige the authorities to take effective measures in its favour in schools, media, public life?
5. It is the attitude towards the teaching of Breton which should authorize most hope for its future. 80% favour it, but of them the great majority only optionally in **all** schools; however, the younger the higher the percentage, with 97% of those under 20. The educated classed are the strongest in their support.

6. While all groups in the political spectrum take a positive attitude, there are marked differences. From 100% support among the nationalists and regionalists, the favourable percentages vary from 96% (Ecologists) and 92% (Socialists) to 73%-74% (main Right parties), 64% (Communist Party) and 61% (National Front). On this aspect of the Breton question there is a difference between Left and Right.

It was in the 50's and 60's that the decline of the language turned into a haemorrhage. It was then that the transformation of the Breton economy caused tens and hundreds of thousands to abandon small farming with which it was associated principally. The report does not say that the post-war persecution of the entire Breton movement had as a side effect a strengthening of the alienation of the people regarding their identity. At present, it is the educated class that is taking over.

In view of the huge effort needed to make the people apply their attachment to the language to a restoration of its use, it behoves all the Breton organisations to maintain the unity they displayed at the demonstration in Pontivy on April 12 and the endeavour above all to instil in the younger half of the population the **will** to learn it and to speak it without complexes. To the critics the reply should be: **It is our language, we want to establish the conditions under which it can live.** No other reason is as strong. All give the example!

A.H. and Th.J.

*The complete results of this survey can be read on the Telegramme Internet site
www.Bretagne-Online.rm.fr*

Breton History Banned from Schools

A teacher at a Sant Brieg primary school has been rebuked for giving the children lessons on the history of Brittany.

This year, as in previous years, Jakez Gaucher held a parents' meeting to explain that he would be teaching Breton history to their children, from the early Celtic period to the early 16th century, when Brittany lost her independence. Nobody made any objection to this.

But later on one of the parents, who teaches in another school, made a complaint to Jakez Gaucher's headteacher, insinuating that his teaching was 'racist'. The head took the matter to the authorities and an inspector of schools was sent to investigate and report on the matter.

The inspector praised Jakez Gaucher's work as a teacher, but formally reprimanded him for teaching Breton history – even though the inspector had not



Jakez Gaucher

asked him about that aspect of his work and had not looked at the children's work in history. Jakez Gaucher has now been ordered to teach only French history. (See resolution pg 22)

Histoire Chronologique des Pays Celtiques 1990

by Jakez Gaucher

400 pages, price 240 FrF (incl. postage). From the author, Ecole Publique, Saint-Hervé, 22440 Ploufragan, Brittany.

It is the first time for such a reference work to have been published. It presents in six columns - Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland on one page, Brittany, Cornwall, Wales on the opposite one - the history of the six countries from their origins to the present day. An important annex is devoted to the Celtic languages and to the genealogies of the kings, princes and dukes who reigned over these countries. There is also an index to enable the readers to find the proper nouns in the text which includes 200 black and white photographs (many of which were not published before) and 36 maps prepared by the author.

CYMRU

PIGION CELTAIDD

Yr Alban

Addysg Gynradd Gan fod Cyngor yr Ucheldiroedd yn wynebu'r toriad canrannol uchaf o holl gynghorau'r Alban, parhau mae'r frwydr i gadw addysg Aeleg yn yr ardal. Disgwylir y bydd 629 o blant mewn unedau Gaeleg eleni - cynnydd o 10%. Ond bydd llai o athrawon mewn rhai ysgolion ac ni fydd athrawon teithiol ar gyfer ysgolion Saesneg. Yn ardal Lochabar bydd unedau Gaeleg yn ysgolion cynradd Acharacle ac An Gearasdan/Fort William a gwersi yn Ysgol Uwchradd An Gearasdan. Cyn bo hir bydd uned yn An t-Oban a disgwylir y bydd uned yn Cill Mhearnag/Kilmarnock.

Llydaw

Geiriadur Cyhoeddwyd geiriadur syml Llydaweg a Sbaeneg gan Sefydliad Diwylliannol Llydaw. Fulup Jakez yw'r awdur. Cyfle i ddysgwyr Llydaweg yr Ariannin?

Siom Gwengamp o Lydaw a Nice o Dde Ffrainc oedd y ddau dîm yn rownd derfynol Cwpan Pêl-droed Ffrainc eleni. Bu 25,000 o gefnogwyr o Lydaw ym Mharis (dim ond 10,000 yw poblogaeth Gwengamp!). Ond wedi colli ar ôl ciciau o'r smotyn roedd Gwengamp ar y ffordd adref o Baris heb y gwpan.

Ynys Manaw

Canolfan Astudiaethau Mae'r Ganolfan Astudiaethau Manawaidd wedi'i sefydlu ers 1992 fel man canolog ar gyfer ymchwil ar yr ynys. Dr Peter Davey yw'r cyfarwyddwr, a 6 Kingswood Grove, Doolish (Douglas), Manaw (01624-673074) yw'r cyfeiriad.

Gwyliau Banc A'r ymgyrch yng Nghymru am gydnabod G\O(w,^)\yl Dewi Sant yn \O(w,^)\yl gyhoeddus mae'n

berthnasol sylweddoli fod diwrnod y rasmus beic "T.T." enwog a diwrnod 'Tynwald' yn wyliau cyhoeddus ar yr ynys.

Canol y Byd? Dyma'r pellteroedd rhwng Manaw a'r gwledydd cyferbyn: Yr Alban (Burrow Head, Galloway) 16 milltir, Lloegr (St. Bee's Head, Cumbria) 34 milltir, Iwerddon (Loch Strangford, Swydd an Dúin/Down) 40 milltir a Chaergybi 55 milltir. Snaefell (2,036 tr.) yw'r man uchaf, a gellir gweld oddi yno y gwledydd o gwmpas yn ogystal â theyrnas Manaw ei hun a theyrnas y Nefoedd!

Cernyw

Pennseythun (Penwythnos) Eleni cynhaliwyd penwythnos hir Cernyweg arall gan Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek (Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gernyweg) yn Tencreek, ger Llogh/Looe. Mae'r penwythnosau Cernyweg blynyddol adeg y Pasg yn cael eu cynnal ers bron chwarter canrif. Bu cyfuniad o wersi iaith, adloniant traddodiadol a modern, dadleuon, ymgyrchoedd a dramâu.

Clive James

Yr Iaith Albaneg

Yn Cael Mwy

O Sylw

Mewn nifer o feysydd mae iaith yr Alban wedi ennill mwy o statws yn ddiweddar, ac mae'r ymgyrchoedd dros y Gymraeg yma wedi rhoi syniadau ac ysbrydoliaeth i ymgyrchwyr yr Albaneg. Ond gyda chryn bryder y clywsom y newyddion bod Comunn na Gàidhlig yn argymhell sefydlu

rhyw fath o fwrdd iaith tebyg i'r quango iaith sydd gennym ni, ac wedi crybwyll Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg fel esiampl ar gyfer deddfwriaeth i roi statws i'r Albaneg. Mae'n edrych fel petasai CnaG heb ddeall y cymhellion y tu ôl i sefydlu'r quango iaith gan y Toriaid, a heb sylweddoli y gall deddf iaith wan wneud bywyd yn fwy anodd i siaradwyr iaith ddifreintiedig. Yn ein cynhadledd eleni pasiodd yr Undeb Celtaidd gynnig yn mynegi pryder am y syniad o alw am quango iaith i'r Alban, ac yn sicr mae angen i ymgyrchwyr yr Albaneg edrych yn fwy gofalus ar yr hyn sydd yn digwydd yma yng Nghymru.

Ar yr ochr bositif mae mwy na chant o fudiadau yn defnyddio Albaneg yn eu busnes dyddiol erbyn heddiw - ar benawdau llythyrau, hysbysebion a theitlau swyddogol. Cafwyd les fer ar eiddo yn 19 Leven Street, Tollcross, Caeredin, fel cartref cyntaf dros dro i'r gymuned Albaneg. Ceisir sefydlu cartref parhaol ymhellach ymlaen. Mae'r llywodraeth wedi penodi Brian Wilson yn weinidog gyda chyfrifoldeb am yr iaith. Mae e wedi dysgu'r iaith ac yn anfon ei blant i ysgol Albaneg. Yn barod mae'r llywodraeth wedi addo hyrwyddo ehangu addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gàidhlig yn yr ysgolion newydd (yn groes i'r llywodraeth flaenorol), wedi trafod gyda'r awdurdodau lleol sut i ddarparu addysg feithrin lle mae uned Gàidhlig mewn ysgol, ac wedi symud at ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol gynnig addysg Gàidhlig lle bynnag y bo galw amdani. Mae ymgyrchwyr yr iaith yn galw ar i'r Albaneg gael ei defnyddio fel iaith swyddogol yng ngweithgareddau senedd newydd yr Alban.

Yn ystod cynhadledd flynyddol byd y Gàidhlig yn Inbhir Nis/Inverness bu beirniadaeth gryf o'r sefydliadau Gàidhlig gan y newyddiadurwr John Morrison, sy'n ysgrifennu erthygl wythnosol yr y 'West Highland Free Press'. Bu sôn am safon addysg trwy'r iaith, diffyg ymgyngori gyda siaradwyr brodorol, costau cyflogau a chynnal swyddogion y mudiadau iaith, diffyg presenoldeb rhai mudiadau ar achlysuron pwysig. Fel y ffordd ymlaen mae'n argymhell gwella ansawdd addysg Gàidhlig er mwyn cynyddu'r niferoedd, mwy o gydweithredu rhwng yr asiantaethau Gàidhlig a'r angen i feddwl yn nhermau ansawdd llwyddiant ac nid maint.

R. ap Tomas/C. James

Summary

The Scottish language is making progress in several fields, but it is of some concern to us in Wales to see that Comunn na Gàidhlig seem to think there would be some benefit to the language in the setting up of a language quango like the Welsh Language Board, or in a feeble language law like the Welsh Language Act.

A Language Revival in the Chubut Valley

In the spring 1997 edition of *Carn* reference was made to the appointment of a full time director of Gaelic in St. Ann's College on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia which points to a revival of interest in the Gaelic language and culture on the island. Readers of *Carn* may be interested in reading about a similar revival in another Celtic language in the former Welsh colony in Patagonia in the Argentine. The colony was established in 1865 when 153 brave souls sailed on the "Mimosa" from Liverpool to cross the ocean to land in Porth Madryn and to settle in the Chubut valley. They suffered tremendous hardships at first as the land was so arid and inhospitable. But after years of privation they succeeded in taming the land by dint of hard work and establishing an irrigation system throughout the valley by harnessing the waters of the Chubut river.

Between 1865-1912 it is said that just over 3,000 people from Wales eventually settled in the area and at the turn of the century a further extension of the colony was established in the Andes four hundred miles up river in Esquel and Trevelin in Cwm Hyfryd.

Welsh was the predominant language of the colony for many years but with the development and influence of the government in Buenos Aires the Spanish language began to gain prominence. Also many immigrants of other nationalities began to settle in the area and so slowly but surely the integration of the colony into main stream life of the Argentine took place. Despite all the Spanish influence many of the Welsh settlers retained their language and culture through the numerous Welsh Chapels and institutions such as the eisteddfod, choirs and Sunday schools in the area. Spanish became the language of education so that by the 1940s there was only one secondary school in the whole of the Chubut valley which taught Welsh to its pupils and that school was in the town of Gaiman. This school was opened by the Welsh community in 1906 and it taught Welsh, English and Spanish. By the 1950s the Welsh language was in decline in the Chubut valley. Two World Wars and the fact that very little immigration took place after 1912 isolated the colony and slowly the ties between Wales and Patagonia began to slip. Also parents were encouraged to speak Spanish to their children as all education was through the medium of Spanish and a lack of that language would make the children backward! Inter marriage between the various nationalities became common in recent years and so the situation of language became fraught.

Then in 1965 centenary celebrations took place in the Chubut valley commemorating the establishment of the

Welsh colony and the ties between Wales and Patagonia were renewed when a large contingent from Wales attended the celebrations and put new life into the surviving Welsh speakers in the community. As a result the Chubut valley eisteddfod was revived and people once again started to take pride in the Welsh language and culture and the realisation of the important contributions of their forefathers in the development of this part of the Argentine. To this day the 28th July is a public holiday in the state of Chubut to celebrate the landing of the Welsh in Porth Madryn in 1865 and celebrations are held in all parts of the area with the Welsh and Argentinian flags flying side by side on that day.

During 1990/91 Cathrin Williams, a lecturer at the time in Coleg Normal Bangor, took a sabbatical and went to live in Gaiman for a year and she established Welsh classes on a voluntary basis in Gaiman, Trelew and Dolavon. Many showed interest and so it was felt that in order to perpetuate the interest it would be necessary to find a replacement for the first teacher. Fortunately during this first year a programme showing the teaching of Welsh in the Chubut valley was shown on S4C the Welsh television channel. The programme was seen by Gwilym Roberts of Cardiff who had been a teacher of Welsh in the city for 32 years before taking an early retirement. He had always been interested in the history of the Welsh colony since at the age of sixteen he listened to a man from Patagonia namely Evan Thomas who was the editor of *y Drafod* the Welsh language newspaper in the Chubut valley, speaking in a Noson Lawen in Cardiff.

Gwilym Roberts then contacted Shân Emlyn the secretary of the Argentinian Welsh Society and volunteered his services to replace Cathrin Williams at the end of her year in the valley. In August 1991 he commenced his work in the Chubut valley based in Gaiman the most Welsh orientated town in the area. His efforts bore fruit and many enrolled in the Welsh classes and a further expansion took place when classes were established in Rawson and Porth Madryn so that there were five centres in operation by the end of the second year of this initiative.

The next voluntary teacher was Pedr MacMullen who carried on the good work. During his year he established a fund in order to send promising young people attending the Welsh classes to the intensive two month Welsh course which is held in the University of Lampeter every summer. In the summer of 1993 three young men from Gaiman arrived in Wales for the very first time to attend this course and when they returned to Patagonia they were perfectly fluent and full of enthusiasm. So much so that one of them namely Gabriel

Restucha (his grandmother was a Jones!) became a Welsh teacher in Gaiman and he is doing stirring work amongst the young people of the town who flock to his classes.

He is based in Coleg Camwy which replaced the old secondary school established in 1906. The school closed in the forties and re-opened as a private secondary school in the early fifties teaching Spanish, French and English – but no Welsh! Two years ago for the first time in forty years Welsh was offered as a subject with Gabriel Restucha as the teacher. The response was dramatic and many of the pupils are now studying Welsh rather than French. The headmistress of the school is Luned Gonzalez, a great Grand daughter of Lewis Jones and Michael D. Jones, the founding fathers of the colony, and she has been a tower of strength in the Welsh community for many years and whose influence is great.

Pedr MacMullen was replaced by a husband and wife team namely Gruff and Eifiona Roberts from Brecon and once again they consolidated the influence of the Welsh classes throughout the valley. A Welsh medium nursery school with its own premises has been established in Gaiman under the enthusiastic leadership of Mary Zampini a native of the town and the school is flourishing. Also in Gaiman there are a number of choirs under the conductorship of Marli Pugh who sing in Welsh and Spanish and besides the big valley eisteddfod there are now a number of smaller eisteddfodau. A literary society meets and there are branches of Merched y Wawr in Gaiman and Dolavon.

Gwilym Roberts returned to the Chubut valley for a third time during 1995-1996 and he was followed for three months by Gwen Humphreys. But before Gwilym Roberts's return Rod Richards, who at the time was a Secretary of State in the Welsh office, visited the Chubut valley and he was most impressed by the voluntary efforts to revive and extend the life of the Welsh language and culture within the community. On his return to Wales he initiated a scheme to provide funds to further the efforts made since 1990/91. Dr. Robert Owen Jones, who at the time was a lecturer in University College Swansea, was appointed to go to the area to compile a comprehensive survey of the linguistic situation at the time and to prepare recommendations as to what help would be feasible. He was well suited for the job as he had already spent time in the valley in the seventies when he was studying the language for a thesis. The Welsh office accepted his report and recommendations and at a meeting of the Welsh Argentinian Society in the National Eisteddfod held in Llandeilo in 1996 Dr. Robert Jones revealed details of the proposed scheme.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION

MEDIAEVAL WALES & ENGLAND

1399: scale: 40 miles - 1 inch



A Language Revival (contd)

During the autumn of 1996 advertisements for three Welsh teachers were placed in newspapers and magazines and twenty applied for the posts. The three chosen were Dewi Wyn Evans who was a lecturer in Dublin at the time, Hazel Charles Evans who was about to retire from teaching Welsh in Llanelli and Siân Eleri Hughes who at the time was a lecturer in Trinity College, Carmarthen. They left for Patagonia during August 1996. Two of them namely Dewi Evans and Siân Hughes are teaching in the Chubut valley and for the first time Welsh classes have been established in Esquel and Trefelin in Cwm Hyfryd in the Andes under the leadership of Hazel Evans. At the time of writing 150 people had enrolled in the classes in the Andes and the classes in the Chubut valley are well attended.

For years many people have prophesied the demise of the language in this part of the world, but now it seems it has a future after all and everyone involved in this renaissance can feel justly proud. It is the only place in the world outside Wales where the language has survived as a living language in the community. No census figures are available as to the number of Welsh speakers in the Chubut valley but it certainly runs into many hundreds and that doesn't take into account the many Welsh speakers living in Buenos Aires, the Andes and other centres throughout the Argentine. It is hoped that this success story will be an inspiration to others who are involved with the struggle to ensure a future for all the Celtic languages.

Gwilym Roberts

The people of Cymru are currently deciding on future arrangements for the government of their country. It would be wise, at this time, to consider the geographical extent of the State on which the vote is being taken.

When the Romans left Britain, y Cymry were occupying all of this island except for the Scottish/Pictish area. Invasions from Europe drove the native people into limited parts of Britain, and the homeland eventually stabilised into what the invaders referred to as "Wales" - from the Saxon word for "Foreigners". Many people are of the opinion that the situation has been static for a millennium or so.

However, the truth is that the national boundary has been pushed Westward, bit by bit, over the centuries.

I enclose, herewith, a map showing the border position about the year 1400. The County Palatine of Chester was independent at that time, and was subsequently divided between Flint and Cheshire. A glance further south will probably surprise many of our readers. The situation then and now of towns such as Oswestry, Clun, Ludlow, Mortimer's Cross, and Kington will certainly give much food for thought.

Is mise, le mór mheas,

Séamus Ó hÉartain

Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg meet Secretary of State

A week is a long time in politics, 28 years therefore is almost an eternity. However successive Secretaries of State for Wales had refused point blank to meet with Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg for such a long period of time because of our continued use of non-violent direct action in pursuit of our aims.

The last time Cymdeithas met the Secretary of State in May 1969 Dafydd Iwan was Cymdeithas Chairman and the infamous George Thomas (now Lord

Tonypandy and a vehement critic of devolution and supporter of the Referendum Party) was the man in the 'hot seat'. This first meeting was a brief affair, with George Thomas particularly concerned that the assembled Cymdeithas members would occupy his office. His mind obviously was not focused on the agenda as his refusal to implement bilingual signage led to the massive direct action campaign during the late sixties and seventies. Interestingly Mr. Thomas or

(contd.)

Carn 11

'Tonypany' as he would rather be known recently admitted that his belief that bilingual road signs would lead to carnage on our roads amongst bemused non-Welsh speakers were unfounded. Very big of you George, even if a tad late!

From 1979 until May of this year Tory colonial governments kept Cymdeithas at arms length, particularly when surrounded by angry members during numerous protests on Eisteddfod fields. Indeed the Welsh office for many years has refused to rent a stand at the annual festival for Welsh speakers due to the fact that Cymdeithas members had the annoying habit of wrecking them! During the long Tory years contact was limited to a few meetings with Junior Ministers from the Welsh Office. No Secretary of State would meet Cymdeithas unless we first promised to be good little boys and girls and promise to behave ourselves. Cymdeithas naturally refused to decommission their spray cans and spanners and that was the end, of what never was likely to be, a beautiful relationship.

However with the dawning of new political era in Wales we have at long last a Secretary of State who is Welsh and is learning the language, he even sends his own children to Welsh medium schools. Miracles it seem will never cease. Ron Davies the MP for Caerffili agreed to meet a deputation of Cymdeithas and on the 4th of July 1997 myself, Dylan Phillips, Meirion Llywelyn Davies, Ffred Ffrancis and Selwyn Jones ran the gauntlet of the assembled press in order to place Cymdeithas' radical agenda before the Welsh Secretary in the previously impenetrable fortress of the Welsh Office in Cathays Park Cardiff. Indeed from press headlines such as 'Peace - After 28 Years of Conflict' the historical significance of such a meeting particularly in the run-up to the devolution referendum was obvious to all.

During the meeting that lasted for an hour and a quarter a number of issues were discussed including the still 'unofficial' status of the Welsh language, and our proposals for a Property Act and an Education Act for Wales. Further meetings were promised with the Ministers responsible for Housing and Education before another meeting with the Secretary of State later this year. Of course it is all too easy for politicians to convey support through platitudes and kind words and Cymdeithas, more than any other group in Wales, is only too aware of this. However, during the meeting we raised our objection to the fact that the Welsh Language Board (the Quango set up by the Tories to administer the weak 1993 Language Act) always held its meetings behind closed doors. Mr. Davies promised to 'See what can be done'. Exactly a fortnight later the Language Quango miraculously announced that they in future would be flinging open their doors to the public, in the interests of democracy

and accountability and it was of course something that they had always wanted to do. Well of course it was.

Therefore, so far so good. Is it possible that at long last we have politicians in the Welsh Office that are prepared to listen and to act on the advice given by groups who actually have expert knowledge in specific fields? Time will tell. Certainly the White Paper on Education in Wales (the first White Paper on Education to be produced specifically for Wales) was a pleasant surprise containing two of the three points for which Cymdeithas has been campaigning. An Independent Education System for Wales now appears to be a distinct and very real possibility.

Wales is undoubtedly approaching a cross-roads in its history. There is a new feeling that at long last events are starting to turn our way. The Welsh Assembly will soon accrue new and stronger powers that will enable us to establish the all important institutions that define a 'real' country as opposed to an oppressed 'region'. Could it be that after countless centuries we are glimpsing a faint light at the end of the colonial tunnel? Whatever happens Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg will be at the vanguard of the struggle for our cultural and political identity.

GARETH KIFF

Cadeirydd Cenedlaethol/National
Chairman
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg

Be conquered and pay your masters

An English court has ordered Plaid Cymru controlled Gwynedd Council to pay back thousands of pounds to owners of second homes in Gwynedd, many of whom now live in Gwynedd as colonisers, in tax rebates. The 'colons' had taken Gwynedd Council to court claiming that it was illegal for them to have to pay full rates on their properties because they were second home owners. The council are hoping to be able to appeal against the decision. If Gwynedd lose, the size of the rebate will have an adverse effect on the council's ability to provide services. The people of Gwynedd have had to witness grave damage being done to their language by the colonisers and have to suffer the difficulties they cause in housing and the schools, and now they are being asked to hand over their taxes to the conquerors.

Robat ap Tomos

NEWS OF WALES

Language gains equal place on stamps

A very small but symbolic gain for the Welsh Language has been won with the decision of the (English) Post Office to remove the letter "p" from the Welsh version of their postage stamp. "p" is the English abbreviation for "pence", in Welsh "c" for "ceiniog". By having only a "p" the old version of the stamp was ignoring the Welsh language. It had been considered using "c/p", a bilingual abbreviation, but the final decision to print the number of pence alone, along with the Welsh Dragon and the Queen of England's head, makes the stamps completely non-lingual and gives justice to Cymraeg.



Spot the Difference!

A future for Welsh-speaking communities

A report by Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg predicts that by 2001 there will be only 21 communities in Wales, all in the North West, where 75% or more will be Welsh-speaking. These will include the town of Llangefni (the only place in Môn/Anglesey), Bethesda, Caernarfon, Porthmadog and Blaenau Ffestiniog. A new influx of non-Welsh-speaking settlers is expected as house prices in England rise. Cymdeithas are calling for a Deddf Eiddo/Property Act for Wales to allow control of the sale of land in Wales in order to prevent this happening, and have already discussed this with the Secretary of State. The Celtic League is supporting this campaign.

Learners' organisations

The Welsh learners' organisation CYD has established a branch in Scotland, the organiser being Davyth Hicks (0131-229-9607). It meets every Monday at 9pm in the upstairs bar, Meadows Bar, Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh. The Edinburgh University Centre for Continuing Education at 11 Buccleuch Place runs courses in Welsh, Scottish and Irish.

Clive James

ÉIRE

earnáil an airgeadais - an port seinnte

Le Cáinainnéis Shasana i mbliana tá aird dírithe ar spleáchas Oileán Mhanann ar gheilleagar Shasana agus ar na laigí bunúsacha atá i ngeilleagar an Oileáin.

Le fada an lá, tá an bhéim i ngeilleagar Oileán Mhanann ar sheirbhísí airgeadais, go háirithe ar an earnáil is amhrasaf den tionscal sin, seachaint chánach, agus bhí ana bhuairt ar an tionscal sin roimh cháinainnéis Shasana go gcuirfeadh Aire Airgeadais nua Shasana, Gordon Brown, srianta ar chuideachtaí agus ar dhaoine aonair i Sasana leas a bhaint as córas cánach agus infheistíochta Mhanann chun éalú ó cháin i Sasana.

Mar a tharla, níor ghníomhaigh Sasana an babhta seo agus ba mhór an faoiseamh do lucht 'pleanála cánach' mar a thugtar orthu in Oileán Mhanann an méid sin. Ach gheall Brown go ndéanfaidh Coimisinéirí Cánach Shasana staidéar ar na féidearthachtaí atá ann dóibh smacht a chur ar lucht seachanta cánach agus na bealaí éalaithe atá ag na seachantóirí a bhaint díobh agus tá an tionscal in Oileán Mhanann ar tinneal féachaint cad a dhéanfaidh Sasana agus cá bhféadfaidh bearta rialaitheacha Londan tionscal an airgeadais san Oileán.

Táthar ann a cheapann gurb é an rud a dhéanfaidh na Sasanaigh ná córas cánach corparáidí a chur ar bun a bheidh níos báúla le cuideachtaí móra agus a fhágfaidh nach gá dóibh dul i muinín bhainc Mhanann chun a gcuid brabús a infheistiú. Dhíreofaí ar ról na nIontaobhas sna cúrsaí seo, leis. Do b'fhusa é sin a dhéanamh ná smacht a chur orthusan a dhéanann infheistíocht i dtíortha eile, dar leis na saineolaithe, agus ba dheacrach ar na Manannaigh dul i ngleic lena leithéid d'fhreasúra. Tá lucht seachanta na cánach muiníneach, áfach, go mbeidh ar a gcumas díriú ar earnálacha eile cánach i Sasana chun infheisteoirí a mhealladh má tharlaíonn sé sin.

Gné amháin de Cháinainnéis Shasana a fhearfaidh ar dhaoine a chónaíonn san Oileán agus a fhaigheann pinsean is ea an laghdú a deineadh ar an gcreidmheas cánach is féidir leo a éileamh. Laghdáíodh

an creidmheas seo ó 20% go 10% agus cé gur ceapadh i dtosach nach mbainfeadh an laghdú leosan a chónaíonn lasmuigh de réimeas Shasana, soiléiríodh sara fada go mbainfeadh sé le duine ar bith a bhí ag fáil pinsin iontaobhais.

Tá an ghéirchéim atá á spreagadh ag teacht i gcumhacht Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre i Sasana agus a bpolasaithe airgeadais tar éis an laige mhór i ngeilleagar Mhanann a léiriú, agus sin é an bhéim mhór atá á cur le fada ar na seirbhísí airgeadais. Bhí an bhéim sin contúirteach go leor nuair a bhí na Tóraigh i gcumhacht i Londain, dream a raibh ardmheas acu ar lucht seachanta cánach, ach anois agus réimeas eile i gcumhacht ann tá sé ag éirí soiléir gur bheart gan dealramh a bhí ann tosaíocht gan chuimse a thabhairt d'earnáil na seirbhísí airgeadais agus faillí a dhéanamh san iascaireacht, sa talmhaíocht, sa turasóireacht agus i bhforbairt tionscal nua 'glas'.

Tá MecVannin ag rá le fada go dtiocfaidh an lá go mbeidh Oileán Mhanann thíos go mór leis an mbéim gan dealramh atá curtha ar na seirbhísí airgeadais agus tá an chuma ar an scéal go bhfuil an crú ag teacht ar an tairne anois. Leis an tosaíocht atá tugtha don tionscal sin, tá faillí mhór déanta i mbonneagar an Oileáin agus tá easpa mhór anois ann i gcomhthéacs an daonra de ó thaobh seirbhísí liachta, taitil agus oideachais de. Ó thalamh mhaith mhéith bainte den talmhaíocht le roinnt blianta anuas agus tugtha d'earnáil an airgeadais.

Tá rogha anois ag muintir Mhanann a aithint go bhfuil deireadh ré ann ó thaobh seachanta cánach de agus beartú dá réir, ar a n-áirítear infheistíocht chiallmhar a dhéanamh sa bhonneagar agus in earnálacha a bhfuil todhchaí rompu agus buaine ag baint leo nó éisteacht le hollúna an rachmais a mhaíonn go mbeidh siad ábalta teacht ar bhealaí eile chun an bhó chánach a chrú. Tá saineolaithe de chuid earnáil an airgeadais féin ag fmpí ar a gcairde anois a aithint go bhfuil a bport seinnte ach ní aon fhianaise ann go

dteastaíonn ó lucht an phuint thapaigh an chomhairle sin a chlos.

Ar ndóigh, dá mbeadh neamhspleáchas iomlán ag Oileán Mhanann, bheadh sé níos fusa smacht a chur ar earnáil an airgeadais agus a thabhairt orthu cloí le bunphrionsabail pholasaf náisiúnta. Bheadh forbairt chomhordaithe bainte amach ansin, seachas forbairt aontaobhach atá dírithe go hiomlán ar 'riachtanais' earnáil an airgeadais agus atá dall ar fad ar fhóir-riachtanais gach earnála eile.

Níl aon chuma ar an scéal go mbeidh muca ciúine earnáil an airgeadais toilteanach an mhin a roinnt agus tacú leis an rogha sin.

Caoimhín Mac Aonghusa

Summary

This year's Westminster budget has raised questions about the emphasis placed by the Manx Government on the financial "services" sector and raised once again the issue of where the best interests of the Manx economy really lies.

Ionradh Éireannach ar Chumrí

N'fheadar an mó duine a léann na húrscéalta staire san suite i gCumrí agus Shrewsbury sna meánaoiseanna a scríobhann Ellis Peters. Tá lear mór acu ann agus an stair láimhseáilte go héatrom agus fad is is féidir liom a dhéanamh amach go cothrom.

I gceann acu mar shampla, *The Summer of the Danes*, samhlaítear prionsa díshealbhaíthe, Cadwaladr, ag hireáil arm ó Bhaile Átha Cliath - arm Lochlannach ón gcathair sin d'fhonn a chuid a fháil ar ais óna dhriotháir, Owain an prionsa a d'fhág (le cúis mhaith) ar an ngannchuid é. Ar dhóigh shamhlófaí eachtraí Dhiarmaid Bhic Mhurchadha Caomhánigh dornán beag blianta níos déanaí ná tráth su'omha an scéala seo (1144).

Ach ní cheisteanna staire a spreag mo chuid spéise chun pinn ach an siúráil lena dtráchtar ar chúrsaí teangan nó níorbh aon ualach riamh iad teangacha, ba léir san saoldearcadh a chrotha'onn sé.

Agus an banlaoch agus an manach, Cadfael, gafa ag na Danair, deirtear faoi dhuine amháin acu - eisean lenár imigh sí ar ball: "He spoke a loose mixture of Erse, Danish and Welsh... Probably this youth had a measure of Norman French in his tongue... Even Latin, for very likely Irish monks had had him in school."

(contd.)

Coiste Chuimhneachán

An Ghorta Mhóir (Learpholl)

The Great Famine Commemoration Committee (Liverpool) is a charity whose aim is to mark the 150 Years since the Great Famine in Liverpool. Supported by H.E. the President of Ireland, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and various Members of Parliament, it is non-sectarian and non political and membership is open to all. It has organised exhibitions, lectures and a major arts installation in the City. It was established in June 1994 as an umbrella group with membership drawn from the principal Irish community groups and organisations in Liverpool. Its objective is the appropriate and dignified commemoration of events in Ireland in the 1840s and their impact upon Liverpool by establishing a monument in the city centre.

The monument will stand in St Luke's Gardens in the city center, and has been designed by Eamonn O'Docherty, the Dublin sculptor with an international

reputation for his civic art. It will be in Irish stone with a heavy bronze bowl which is split in line with the cross riven in the stone. While commemorating the Great Irish Famine of 150 years ago it will also be a focus for reflection on the scourge of famine which is still present in the world today. It is nearing completion and we hope to install it in the Fall of 1997.

Plaques to mark places in the city which have associations with the Famine time are also being designed and put in place. The first which marks where 2,600 Irish poor were buried in unmarked graves will be unveiled soon.

The Famine With the partial failure of the Irish potato crop in late 1845 began six years of tragedy which resulted in the deaths of over a million Irish people and the emigration of over two million more.

Liverpool was the main port into which about 75% of those fleeing the disaster poured seeking passage to Canada and the USA or work in England. It is hard to imagine the scale of the disaster and its effect on the port. In 1847 alone, 300,000 Irish migrants landed on its quaysides. In the seriously overcrowded city the starving thousands occupied what shelter was available and it was inevitable that the situation would lead to illness of epidemic proportions.

In the Famine years 1845-52 nearly two million migrants passed through the port of Liverpool in their flight from the hungry land of Ireland. Many went on to North America, Australia and other parts of Britain but over 100,000 stayed on the banks of the Mersey. Many perished of poverty-related diseases but many more survived and they and their descendants have contributed much to their new homelands.

Throughout this period Liverpool responded positively unlike the central government. Voluntary organisations were formed to provide aid for Ireland. The civic authorities offered regular and efficient assistance to the starving in the city. Despite this, nearly 6,000 of the town's poor died of typhus in the slums in 1847. About 3,500 of these were Irish-born. In 1849 a similar number died in the Cholera outbreak of that year. Liverpool was the hub of the great exodus to the new world and remains Britain's most "Irish" city. Herman Melville in his book *Redburn* gives a graphic description of life for the poor in Liverpool at this time.

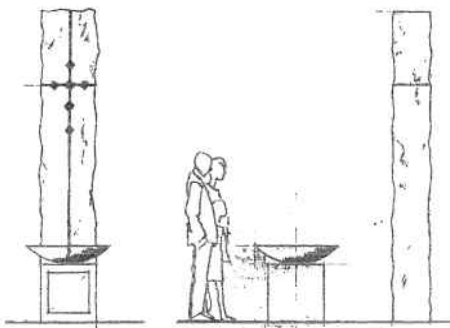
After the famine years, Irish-born made up 22% of Liverpool's population. These survivor settlers and their descendants were to play a highly significant role in the

building and development of the modern city of Liverpool. We feel that this contribution of the survivors to the city and the role that Liverpool played in the flight from the hungry land should not be forgotten but recognised and their survival celebrated.

We are appealing to all Irish organisations and all interested individuals to help us reach the relatively modest total of £25,000 which will enable this project to be completed. We have raised over £17,000 so far. It will be the only monument to the Famine in Britain and therefore deserves your support.

Further details can be obtained from the address below to which all donations should be sent.

The Great Famine Commemoration Committee (Liverpool)
P.O.Box 47 Mossley Hill Liverpool L18 5JR - UK
U.K. Registered Charity No:1050219
e-mail 106435.533@compuserve.com.uk



Front View

Side view

Ionradh (contd.)

Áit eile ag trácht ar thuras san na beirte agus iad faoi choiméad deirtear faoina ngarda "Among themselves they fell back into their own Norse tongue, though the likelihood was that all these young, vigorous warriors had been born in the kingdom of Dublin, and their fathers before, them, and had a broad understanding of the Celtic languages that surrounded their enclose and dealt freely with them in war and peace."

P. Ó Snodaigh

An indication, if from fiction, of the multilingual nature of the nations around the Irish Sea a thousand years ago.

Why is Britain keeping the Lid on its Nuclear Dustbin?

Sellafield poses a major threat to large swathes of the population of Scotland, Ireland, N. England and the Isle of Man. As evidence that nuclear contamination, through the food chain, is increasing we pose the question to British Environment Secretary, Michael Meacher why no overall coordination of the disparate research into the impact of the plant is being undertaken?

The United Kingdom government via BNFL is probably now the most regular and persistent nuclear polluter of the environment and yet successive British governments have not sought to pool the research of the wide range of government agencies and NGOs which monitor the Plant.

This is a disgraceful omission. The question must be posed: Are successive British governments guilty of criminal negligence for failing to get to grips with the Windscale/Sellafield legacy of continuing contamination and pollution of the air, land and marine environment.

J.B. Moffatt

Pádraig Ó Conchúir

+ 1928–1997

The death of Pádraig Ó Conchúir removes from the scene a stalwart of the Celtic League and a man who for many years was the epitome of Irish London.

Pádraig whose antecedents came from Wexford was born in Chelsea in 1928. He was educated in a school in Harrow where he was particularly influenced by a Christian Brother from Belfast. The Irish language which he first learned from Conradh na Gaeilge/Gaelic League classes in London, became a major focus of his life and thinking. His sense of nationality was strengthened by summers spent with relatives in Wexford.

After his "national service" (compulsory at the time) he obtained a scholarship which he used to take a commerce degree at UCG where he arrived in 1948. Pádraig shared a house at 7 Long Walk, Galway, with the former leader of Bezen Perrot, Neven Henaff. It was at that time that Pádraig began a life-long friendship with Youan Lenoach, Breton freedom-fighter and gentleman, a not inconsiderable influence on the Londoner. That friendship was cemented when Youan and his wife Bríd lived in London with Pádraig for some years in the 1950s. While in Galway Pádraig attended Irish (and dancing!) classes at Aras na nGael, Dominick Street. When Alan Heussaff arrived in Galway on May 20th 1950 he was greeted by three Bretons and Pádraig Ó Conchúir. Alan, Youan and Pádraig graduated in 1951.

On returning to London Pádraig joined the Civil Service and worked for many years in the Kensington Museum and, latterly, in the administration of VAT.

Pádraig Ó Conchúir was one of the first to join the Celtic League after it was formed during the National Eisteddfod of 1961 and was the prime mover behind the formation of the London Branch which brought together activists from all the Celtic countries living in that city. He was at the first Annual General Meeting of the League in Cardiff in September 1962. Pádraig attended and took an active part in Celtic League AGMs and other international activities over the years and was chairperson of the organisation for a lengthy period in the 1970s.

Pádraig always had a number of campaigns in hand. His letters from Pulleys Avenue, East Ham, appeared regularly in newspapers on both sides of the Irish Sea, notably in *The Irish Times*. He had an impressive ability to identify a Celtic aspect to an issue long before anybody else saw its significance. He had many untrumpeted achievements such as the erection of an Irish language sign on a



bank or the insertion of Celtic topics on mainstream agendas. More often than not he wore the opposition down.

For many years Pádraig was the "interface" between organisations of different Celtic nations and between organisations whose paths did not cross each other very often.

One of his proudest achievements was the inauguration of the annual William Wallace commemoration in London which brought together Irish, Welsh and Cornish as well as Scots.

His concerns in recent years included the renovation of a Church of Ireland cathedral associated with the last Ard-Rí/High King, Ruairí Ó Conchúir after a spate of vandalism, the preservation of the birthplace of Edward Carson, the treatment of Irish political prisoners (he was involved in the Fuascailt organisation from its foundation), the uncovering of the story of Fr James Quigley executed near Maidstone in 1798 and many other issues as testified by the stream of exhortatory postcards received by his friends.

Pádraig was no armchair activist. He was on nearly every Celtic protest picket in London for decades. Only a few days before his sudden fatal illness he picketed Downing Street on behalf of Irish prisoners. He taught Irish at ILEA classes and wrote a regular column in Irish for the *Irish World*. He was a familiar figure at meetings of many organisations and is remembered for his support for the Connolly Association at a time when it was ostracised by many of the Irish community. Pádraig also took great satisfaction from his participation in the

Irish Texts Society and his friends from that scholarly world were present at his funeral to pay tribute to his contribution.

He was a life-long member of Conradh na Gaeilge and in recent years participated in Ard-Fheiseanna in Ballinasloe and Belfast. A founder member of Craobh Nollaig Uí Chonaill he had been involved in an earlier attempt to establish a London branch of an Conradh but a train and bus strike on the night left himself and Pádraig Ó Cléirigh without any kind of quorum. His study of Irish was an unending activity and his latter years found him attending courses in Gleann Cholmáille, Co Donegal, and Ring, Co Waterford.

Bhí saoirse pholaitiúil na náisiún Ceilteacha mar chospóir saoil ag Pádraig Ó Conchúir ach ba thábhachtaí fós dó athbhunú a dteangacha faoi thosca na nua-aoise. Bhí sé ar dhuine de na bolscairí ba dhíograisí ar son sainchultúr na gCeilteach.

Chas an scríbhneoir seo le Pádraig den chéad uair ag Comhdháil an Chomhchaidrimh i nGaoth Dobhair i Lúnasa 1963. Ba é téama na comhdhála sin an teicneolaíocht in Éirinn agus nocht Pádraig go leor smaointe dá chuid féin faoin ábhar. Chuaigh leithne a chuid eolais i bhfeidhm ar mhac léinn óg amháin ar a laghad. Cuimhne eile a sheasann amach ón chéad teagmháil sin is ea a chúthailf is a bhí Pádraig, thar a bheith cúthaileach. Sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin bhí comhráití fada spreagúla le Pádraig i ngach ceann de na tíortha Ceilteacha, comhráití a bhí lán de mholtaí maidir le gníomhaíocht pholaitiúil. Cronófar na comhráití sin agus cronófar freisin litreacha agus cártaí poist Phádraig.

Pádraig will be missed everywhere Celtic activists gather but in particular the Irish Club in Eaton Square and the Falcon in Kilburn will be lonelier places. Pádraig Ó Conchúir died in Newham General Hospital on July 4th 1997. Funeral obsequies were held in the churches of SS Joseph and Padern, Holloway, London, and St. John, Monkstown, Co Dublin. Pádraig was laid to rest on July 14th in the same grave as his comrade Youan Lenoach in Shanganagh, south County Dublin. His dear friend Seoirse Ó Broin spoke at the graveside and Diarmaid Breatnach led the singing of the national anthem. Pádraig had come home to stay.

The Celtic League and all who knew Pádraig share in the loss felt by his widow, Liamín.

M Mac A.

Tribute to Pádraig Ó Conchúir

It was over 25 years ago when Flo and I first met Pádraig shortly after joining the Celtic League. It was at a branch meeting in Pimlico, London. Those present were an odd bunch but Pádraig was every inch a chairman. Only later did we find out that he didn't like official positions preferring ideas, facts and doing things. He gave up the chairmanship as soon as he could find a replacement.

We met Pádraig again at a rather less well attended meeting at the London Welsh Club shortly afterwards. I recall only Pádraig and John, the then secretary, who appeared depressed. It was evident who would have to give the lead.

Members came and members went. So did committees. Pádraig was always there and in a lot of other places as well. He taught Irish but thought he should learn Scottish Gaelic. He would go (or write) anywhere where he thought there was a chance of getting our principles over. Having gone, he felt committed. He joined many nationalist and cultural organisations in London.

Some people claim to have felt the edge of Pádraig's tongue when they didn't come up to his high standards. This training has stood them in good stead. I can't say that this ever happened to us. There was an occasion, though, when I put a perfectly good resolution, nothing to do with the Celtic nations, to the branch. It was passed but Pádraig looked alarmed, no doubt fearing further irrelevant motions. I never did the same again.

Pádraig looked quiet and easy-going. He wasn't. He disliked small talk and irrelevant conversation. I remember some statesman type at a branch meeting rambling on about the virtues of the English and the Ulster Protestants. This was too much for Pádraig who said "But we're the bloody abos!"

Pádraig was always there and always would be there. No job too big. No job too small. He was demonstrating until the last.

Since Pádraig died we have learnt about all the things he did and how highly he was regarded. We never learnt any of this from his own lips.

We, and some other friends, saw Pádraig in hospital six hours before he died. He was easily the most cheerful person there, talking about lectures he was going to give and League matters as best he could through the oxygen mask.

The most common Welsh epitaph, in English translation, is, "That which he could do, that he did". No one should do less. No one can do more. That was true of Pádraig.

A word about Liamin, Pádraig's wife. Someone had to do the shopping, the feeding, the clothing and cope with the housework and the unsocial hours. Otherwise Pádraig could not have done all that he did or lived as long. He was certainly careless of his own welfare. Thank you Liamin, for Pádraig.

Ifor Kenna

* A memorial meeting will be held for Pádraig at the Roger Casement Irish Centre, 131 St. John's Way, London N19 (nearest underground is Archway) in London on 23rd October at 7.30 p.m. Please write to England branch secretary for details. The highpoint will be Pádraig's last lecture, the one he never got a chance to give.

Céad Slán le Pádraig Caomhdheas Ó Conchúir

A Phádraig, bhí tú modhúil, mín,
Lán-eolach agus cneasta, caoin.
Id' áigh' go mór
Do cheart is cóir.

Arís go bráth ní fhíllfidh tú,
Ar chruinniú nó ar phicéad fiú.
Go raibh tú slán
'Measc réaltan rán.

Céad slán a chroí. San súthain síor
Atáir anois, a féachaint siar
Le grinneadh gear
Ar stád na ndaoir.

'Nois feicim thú id' hata tuí,
Ag gabháil leat ar chuile shlí.
Le réalt is lé
Go glórmhar glé.

'Measc réaltan rán, mar bhí tú riamh,
Gealgáireach agus tú faoi aoibh.
A siúl go séimh
Le cáirde cléibh.

Go raibh tú slán, sin é ár ngú.
Istigh i bPárrthas, 'measc na rí.
Go sásta ciúin,
Gí fada uainn.
(Fuair Pádraig bás i mí Iúil. R.I.P.)

Máire Ní Chuinn
Londain



Release Josephine Hayden

The Celtic League has given its support to the campaign for the release of Josephine Hayden (51) a member of Cumann na mBan, the Republican Women's organisation. The General Secretary wrote to the Irish Minister for Justice to express the League's concern at the continued detention in Limerick jail of Josephine who has suffered two heart attacks in as many months.

The letter also asked for an urgent review of the circumstances of the detention with a view to granting early temporary release on health and humanitarian grounds.

The General Secretary concluded by reminding the Minister that while it was his Department's duty to contain securely those people sentenced by the Courts, under International law it also has a duty to care for those it holds. Quite patently good judgement is not being exercised in this case.

Dilseacht

The story of Comdt. Gen. Tom Maguire and the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh. 96pp. Price £6.00 (paper back), £10.00 (hard back) + postage. Available from Irish Freedom Press, 223 Sráid Pharnall, Baile Átha Cliath 1.

This book is about the man who commanded the Second Western Division of the IRA in the Irish War of Independence. He never accepted the partition of Ireland nor the authority of the government established in Dublin in 1921. As the sole survivor of the Second Dáil (elected on a 32 County basis) and member of its Executive Council, he stood by the Provisional IRA in 1969-70 and sided with the wing of the Republican movement which in 1986 opposed participation in elections to the 26-County Parliament. He died in 1993, aged 101.

*The author is the president of
Republican Sinn Féin.*

KERNOW

VALEW AN DIALEK KERNUAK-SOWSNACK

Car dre vee levere kenz, dalla an tavas Kernuack dro than degvas cansblethan o en kettermen ha en sertayne manar dalla e thewa, rag scantlower reeg an Kernuack debarha thor an Kembrack han Arvorack pe reeg e dalla tha ombdina tuah an gorlewen, uz e thelhar, per dibblans, vee comerez gen an Sowsnack; hedna ew tha laull en kensa lea an Sowsnack Coath suyez gen an Sowsnack Crease ha en dewa gen an Sowsnack Nowedga.

Pe ra edn tavas chawngya nebas ha nebas e forme, darnow an forme coath vedn pub preze dirria tarnewhan ort tarnewhan barha an forme noweth tereba hebma tha derbethy angye warbar en dewe proces a dermen; andelha ew an formez an dialekshow, ha andelha ma angye merwall eker baree. Orlena, en keverango east ma kevez gerriow thor an Sowsnack Coath meskez warbarha gen an Sowsnack Nowedga ew clappiez enna hethow, per efan; buz nageze scantlower gere ednack ew devethez thor an tavas Kernuack. Whathe, an lavarma a dale boaz amendez, rag stennorian thor Penwith ha Kerrier reeg doaz than thorian tha gweel wheal ha anneza, en dry gongans gerriow dialek o devethez thor an Kernuack. Andelna thera nye cowas *caith*, *cathe*, cowsez en Altrenune en kethe cansblethanma, ha *squat*, *squat*, cowsez en Liskyrres en 1996. Wos *scuffia* an poyntma, covez en pleaw Calistoke en 1997 ew *sheack in need of tidying up*, (hedna ew *siek* en Arvorack), buz an vennen gen leb ewava covez o devethez en kensa lea athor Falemuth.

Dar, en Penwith ha Kerrier ma whathe usez leas gere thor an tavas Kernuack keth iggans a cotha meaz a usse hethow gen mear a dothe, ethlays! Whathe, mar scove ew an dialek ma, po cowsez po kevez en levrow, uz mava towla lowar gullow war an tavas e hunnen, a neil turn a provia gerriow Kernuack thene nagew kevez telhar veeth orol, ha andelha leb vee kellez thene kene, turn orol a tisquethas tha nye fatla prononcea deffrans gerriow ew guthvethz thene kenz lebmen.

Ethew meer an gerriow dialektma reeg feasia an theez na ell gwellas lebn enapp an matter; buz gothe tha nye cowas nebas feith, ha madra mouy close, ha kenz oll omwetha rag suya breaz rerol pecarra appes. Puna leas trevath rigo why laull dro tha edn gere "Nagew vaze, rag drewa devethez thor an dialek" was drigo why clowas hedna leverez gen orol kenz? Nag eze malbew gere na dale e examnya per glose rag e adgan fitty, ha po thera nye gweel hedna, nye a dale perry co dreze leas gere en tavas Kernuack, ha therama sendgy obma an Kernuack Crease magata avell an Kernuack Nowedga, ew devethez en kensa lea thor an Sowsnack. Gero nye madra try sompel vaze...

galygaskin: hebma ew an gere dialekt rag *cowslip*, buz ma e forme kitha an lelldury notha. Ma **galy** devethez thor **breilu**, *primrose*, ew screffez hethow avell **breily**. Ma **gaskin** devethez thor deaw ere, **cusks**, *sleep*, ha **lyn** po **lidn**, kene leverez, *liquid*. Gothe thene desky obma dro an lushanma usez kenz rag gweel tha deez cuska. En Kembrack thera nye cowas an kethe gere, screffez avell **cysglyn**. Obma gere noweth thene: **breilygusklyn**. Ma nessa radn an gere, **gusklyn**, wor e theberhe thor an kensa skeans, **breily**, *primrose*. Gero nye madra kene gere...

galywow: hebma ew gere dialekt rag *hermaphrodite*. Kensa gweall an gere ma ew smale, buz nagew andelna buz thort agon skeans an Sowsnack, ha en gweel than gere car dre vee onen an tavasna. Rag nagew **galy** buz kene gere rag **kal**, ha thera nye wor e gowas aweath an Kembrack, avell **caly**. Pothew an gere benow, hebma reeg gweel than kensa letheran defeleby thor **c** en **g**, legradge heb roath ew kevez en leas en Kernuack Nowedga. Ort **gow**, *false*, nagew an gere ma chawngyez en leiha aba veva screffez gen Wella Jordan en 1611! Whathe arta, ma obma trailians cumpas a **gow** en **wow**, suya gere benow, herweth an rowle grammatack. Devezalena, obma **galywow**, *false penis*, pokene *hermaphrodite*. Whathe arta...

Old Johnno: *the South West Wind*. Pothew **awel** gon gere nye rag *wind*, ota obma kensa spell rag adgan 'old' leb nagew buz geys rag **awel**. Mor teffa nye ha whelas *south-west* en gerlevar Kembrack, nye a vedn riddia **deau-orllewen**. En Kernuack ma **gorlewen**, *the West*, cooth tha nye kenz lebmen thort Wella Pryce, ha **dihow**, *right* pokene *south*, meaz an kethe othor. Gurri an theaw arbar, ha ma thene **dihow-orllewen**, gurri deraage hebma **awel**, ha ota thene **awel dihew-orllewen**, 'Old Johnno', *the South-West Wind*.

Nageze obma buz try gere mesk leas ell o cowas en gerlevar noweth *A Practical Dictionary of Modern Cornish, Part 1*, asderevez alerh gen Teere ha Tavaz, ha rima a dalveea derevol aman puna leas orol e dale existia en tavas Kernuack, ha angye devethez thor madra en bredereze gerva an dialek Kernuack-Sowsnack.

Na vadna ve dowetha heb menegas edn sompel an gerriow ell desky thene fatla cowz gerriow an tavas...

Thera nye cowas en dialek **claw**, *ill*. Obma **claw** car drewa kevez en Jordan; buz spladn ew thort riddia leean an tavas nowedga dro **v** cowsez meno avell **w** was drewa screffez en leas avell **w**, ha obma en dialek prove an kethe dra. Peath ew besya, metessen, ew valew an vowel. Guthvethz dreze deaw valew rag A heer en Kernuack Nowedga, henwez a neil A heer coath, ha e gilla A heer noweth. Rag an kensa laverans a A heer avell [ā:], ew nebas pecarra **au** en Sowsnack *clause*, reeg dirria en sertayne gerriow pe reeg an A heer noweth [E:]. ew cowsez tabm avell **a** en gere Sowsnack **hare**, a pertaynya en rerol. Terwithiow ethewa callish thene adgan pewa an valew eze longia tha gere enwedgack leb ma A heer, buz pothew an gere whathe cowsez en ganow teez hethow avell gere dialekt ew devethez thor an tavas e hunnen, en case ma an matter ew eaysya. Andelma, nye a ore lebmen dre dale thene cowz **claw** avell [klā:] po car drew 'claw' en Sowsnack. Durdaladawhy, an dialek!

Ma kene somples an kethe parma, buz nag eze telhar obma tha gweel tha angye. Whathe, ma obma lesson thene: gon dialek Kernuack a dalveea boaz kere tha nye, ha nagewa a turn vetholl issian, car drewa judgez gen radn!

Richard Gendall

The Value of the Cornish-English Dialect

As Cornish lost ground to English from east to west, Old and Middle English words survived into the local dialect, but the migration of miners from the west brought back some words descended from the Cornish language itself, while in the west many words from the actual language survived in use. These not only supply us often with vocabulary that otherwise would have been lost to us, but even sometimes supply valuable information as to their correct pronunciation. We must not underestimate the value of our dialect.

Kernewek Unyes - An Forth Yn Rag

Nans yw seyth bledhen Agan Tavas a vu dasformyes dyworth cowethas rag kernewegoryon freth bys yn cowethas rag scodhya Kernewek Unyes. Yn dedhyow na yth en ny certan a'n pyth a wrussyn sevel erbyn, hon o "Kernewek Kemmyn" mes nys en ny mar certan yn kever an forth yn rag. Da lowr ova dhe surhe bos classys ha lyfrow ha wharfosow der Kernewek Unyes mes py forth rag avonsya Kernewek Unyes hag hy farusy rag an nessa cansbledhen?

Ena a dheth lyver Dr. Nicholas Williams "Cornish Today" ow confymya an pyth a wrussyn clewes y'gan colonnow "semlant Kernewek Kemmyn yw cam drefen yth yw cam!". Moy ages hemma yth esa Dr. Williams ow profya chanjys dhe Unyes may whrusa dhedhy moy warrantus. Mar teffa Kesva an Tavas Kernewek ha profya chanjys an keth par nans yw dek bledhen a vya unverheans brassa yn muvyans an yeth Kernewek hedhyw. War an yl tu yma Dr. Williams ow scodhya yn-ran an towl Richard Gendall dhe wrondya Kernewek dasvewys mar dhewedhes del yllyn, mes Dr. Williams a lever "Kernuack Nowedga" hy honen yw re dhewedhes, war y gyla ef a vynsa usya "dh" orth deweth geryow del yu kefys yn system Dr. Ken George, "Kernewek Kemmyn".

System noweth Dr. Williams yw "Kernowek Unyes Amendyes" hag yn whyr nys yw moy ages henna. Yn le gul fals ken yn muvyans an yeth Agan Tavas yw ervrys bos defnyth KUA dewys frank rag ysylly hag nys yw an dyffrans ynter KU ha KUA mar vras may na yllons sevel an yl ryp hy ben. Solabrys yma an mel ynter scodhoryon Unyes ha scodhoryon Kernuack Nowedga ow tos ha bos creffa. Y a wel hep mar parys on ny dhe sewya forth moy scolyk es kens.

Ny vyn Kesva an Tavas Kernewek muvya vyth war agan tu ny hag ymons owth assaya dhe dhysquedhes bos crytyk Dr. Williams erbyn Kernewek Kemmyn cam. Ny vyth henna mater sempe ragtha, yma an bys academyk ow codha warbarth er aga fyn.

Oberow Dr. Williams yw moy es whythra lytherenyeth. Kyn whruk Kesva an Tavas Kernewek spena mur a dermyn gans trelya dyworth an lytherenyeth Kernewek Unyes ny wrussons wythra an gerva ha'n grammer. Yn maters ma kelmys yns y moy es Agan Tavas dhe'n oberow Robert Morton-Nance. Yma Nicholas Williams ow pesya dyworth an le may whruk A.S.D. Smith hedhy kens y vernans. Omma yw le da dhe verkya, martes, nys o A.S.D. Smith ha nys yw Dr. Williams Kernow. Nys yw hemma a vern, res yw dhe'n dasvewans settya dalghen yn scoloryeth le pypynag a dhe. Yth aswonyn gras dhe'n

Governans Wordhon rag provya mona gwyw rag studhyansow Keltek.

Yth yw apert lemmyn kernewegoryon gens a wruk gorhelteghe gerva Kernewek Unyes hag yma Dr. Williams ow tysquedhes geryow Sawsneghys gwyw an pyth o ran Kernewek hengovek. Ynweth yma ef ow profya grammer keworransys adhyworth an testennow coth. Lyes form yw sempeha ages an defnyth yn Unyes kens. Pella, yma ef ow parusy gerva noweth Kernewek Unyes a wra cudha pub defnyth oll yn bys hedhyw.

Ytho, abarth Kernewek Unyes yma Dr. Williams ow cortheby dhe'n questyon adro warrantuster hag ynweth ow parusy Unyes rag an nessa cansbledhen.

Ray Chubb
Secretary Agan Tavas

Summary

This article discusses the proposals made in Cornish Today (by N.J.A. Williams) and their ramifications. The author says that Dr. Williams has addressed the current questions about authenticity and is preparing Unified Cornish to enter the next century.

CLAPPYA KERNOWEK

An introduction to Unified Cornish, revised by N.J.A. Williams. Price £9.00 Plus: £1.00 p&p U. K. - £1.40 overseas

Clappya Kernowek sets out in a practical way the grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary for Dr. Williams's proposed amendments to Unified Cornish. The book contains 29 lessons starting at a basic level and working up. It represents the most comprehensive review of middle/middle-late Cornish Grammar since the work of A.S.D. Smith and as such is an essential reference for all teachers and scholars of Cornish.

Available from: **AGAN TAVAS**, Treeve House, Connor Downs, Hayle, Kernow, TR27 5DQ, UK.

A vydh William Hague da rag an Geltyon?

An kesstirv yw gorfennys lemmyn hag yma paperyow-nowodhow ow ri aga husel yn kever fatell vydh an stivoryn hembrenkys gans William Hague. Byttegyns, y koedh dhym avel skriker rag lyver-termyn keltek govynn fatell vydh ev a-barth an Geltyon?

Mr Hague a sywyas John Redwood lavel Skrifennyas an Stat rag Kembra y'n diwettha rann an governans Tori. Ev a borthas kov pan welas nep-prys der an bellwolok John Redwood yn unn assaya gwelv-sinkya dhe'n antempna wlasek Kembra. Ytho ev eth a-dhesempis dh'y skrifennyades y'n Soedhva Gembrek ha govynn orti dyski dhodho 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' (Bro Goth).

Gans henna William Hague a nesas dhe Ffion Jenkins ha lemmyn hi yw ambosys yn demmedhyans ganso. Ny yllyn bos sur hwath fatell yw studh a'y Gembrek, mes ev re dhevnydhyas an yeth yn y ober. Byttegyns, ni a yll leverel bos Ffion freth. Ytho mar pydh Hague an Pennmenyster nep-prys y'n termyn a dheu (ha demmedhys gans Ffion) y fia klapporyon an taves keltek aji dhe Niver Deg. An diwettha kembreger trigys ena o David Lloyd George (1916-1922).

Re a-varr yw leverel py par Gwlaskor Unys yw da ganso, mes heb mar ev a wra strivya erbynn towlow Lavur hag a vynn gul Senedh rag Alban ha Kuntellva rag Kembra. A wra tybyansow Ffion trelyla y vrys? Yw hi a-barth kilblegyans po gwitha an stat par del yw lemmyn? Soweth, kynth yw es rag ombroforonyon an Senedh leverel taklow yn kever Kuntellva rag Kernow, ny hevel bos Lavur ow prederi yn kever nep-pyth ragon agan honan, mes Kembra a yll waytya lemmyn neb linenn nowydh a-dhiworth an parti Tori.

Stuart Pennlorwydh

Summary

Tory leader, William Hague is now engaged to marry Ffion Jenkins, a Welsh speaker. Should he become Prime Minister there will be a speaker of a Celtic language in No. 10 - the first since Lloyd George (1916-1922). How will he be on Celtic issues?

George Borrow in Cornwall

In the middle of the last century George Borrow was making a name for himself as the author of *Wild Wales*, *Lavengro* and *Romany Rye* amongst other titles. What is less well known is his association with Cornwall, or that his father, Thomas Borrow, was born at St Cleer in East Cornwall.

After a fight with the local constable and maltster (to whom Thomas was apprenticed) our hero's father fled Cornwall, and ended up in Norfolk where George was born, but in 1853/4 George visited Cornwall to meet his Cornish cousins, and made a walking tour from one end of Cornwall to the other, then back again; writing two note-book diaries as he did so.

A transcript of these notes was later written up by Knapp, and an abbreviated edition of them was published, but perhaps the most interesting notes, from a Cornish point of view, were left aside.

Recently these unpublished manuscripts led George Borrow enthusiasts to meet in Cornwall, to walk in the footsteps of their hero, and to study in depth some of Borrow's Cornish notes.

Talks were given on the 'Cornish Identity' (of which Borrow was so proud) by Dr Philip Payton, Director of the Institute of Cornish Studies, and Reader in Cornish Studies at Exeter University; Ass. Professor Kabell spoke about the 'Hasfield Connection' while R. Gendall, Hon Research Fellow of Exeter University, spoke about the previously unknown Cornish language notes made by Borrow while he was visiting Cornwall. His folkloric notes were expanded and explained by J. Gendall.

An after-dinner speech was given by a native of St Cleer, the well known academic Dr John Rowe, and the whole week-end was admirably presided over by Angus Fraser, who requested that Dr Rowe give the toast to **Er Co Visquethack a Jory Borrow** (to the immortal memory of George Borrow) in Cornish, which Borrow himself had so proudly declared 'was the language of my forefathers'.

The book George Borrow had promised to write on Cornwall may never have materialised, but his memory and Cornish connections live on.

Jan Gendall

KESKERDHI KERNOW 500

"500 years ago the sons and daughters of Cornwall made HISTORY. 500 years on we are carrying that HISTORY forward. In commemorating the bravery of Michael Joseph An Gof, Thomas Flamank and the Cornish host that marched to London in 1497, we have done Cornwall a great service. There has never been a better celebration of Cornish culture and identity, than this year's re-enactment of that original march which culminated at Blackheath, on the 21st June."

Dick Cole

The commemorative march to London, re-tracing the very steps of Michael Joseph An Gof and Thomas Flamank, is over but it will never be forgotten.

There has been nothing like it before.

The sight of over one thousand people marching out of St. Keverne or the many hundreds of people crossing Polson Bridge into England and the sheer emotion experienced by the hundreds leading onto Blackheath Common will endure as evidence that the Celtic nation of Cornwall is alive and well.

Furthermore, the endurance of those marchers that walked all the way from St. Keverne to London, some 350 miles, will continue to stand out as the modern spirit of Cornwall which has also endured, against all the odds.

The march has also left physical reminders of 1497 in its path, such as the wonderful bronze sculpture honouring the martyrs erected at St. Keverne, thanks to the hard work of the St. Keverne Sculpture Trust. Other new memorials included commemorative granite stone in the main street of Bodmin, a similar granite memorial near Guildford on the site of the first skirmish of the original uprising and a slate memorial on Blackheath Common.

The commemoration in London, that has been organised by the London branch of Mebyon Kernow since the early 1970s, was greatly extended this year with the co-operation of Keskerdhi Kernow 500.

MK Press Officer and member of Keskerdhi Kernow 500 committee, Dick Cole spoke at the Marble Arch commemoration and outlined the significance of the celebrations of 1497 to modern Cornwall. He said:

An edited version of his speech is included here. Mr Cole said:

"500 years ago this weekend An Gof and Flamank were executed here at Tyburn. It was here that Michael Joseph addressed a hostile crowd with that famed statement, which has this year reverberated around

the whole world – that he would have "a name perpetual and a fame permanent and immortal."

"And as we have already shown this year - this was not an idle boast."

"These were the Brave and prophetic words of a courageous Cornishman on the way to his death. These were the last words of a man who stood up for what he thought was right, in order to win a better deal for Cornwall.

"500 years on we must again stand up for Cornwall. We must demand a greater say in our own affairs and demand action to combat the poverty and hardship suffered by so many people in the Cornwall of 1997.

"As we all know Cornwall continues to have the

- * lowest wages in Britain
- * unacceptably high unemployment
- * our young people are still forced to move away to find work
- * social deprivation equal to the inner cities

On Blackheath Common, the modern day Cornish marchers of 1997 made their **BLACKHEATH DECLARATION** in which they also called for a better deal for Cornwall.

"This declaration demanded action to protect our distinctive way of life and challenge the economic injustice to be found throughout Cornwall – with a list of four important, but very achievable demands:

- * A Cornish Development Agency devoted exclusively to the economic problems of Cornwall
- * A European Parliamentary constituency for Cornwall
- * A University campus in Cornwall
- * Space within the curriculum for the teaching of Cornish history, culture and the Cornish language.

"The march has brought together people from all aspects of Cornish life, of all ages and of all political persuasions; and I see no reason why there shouldn't be universal support in Cornwall for the Blackheath Declaration."

Dick Cole also called for a Cornish Assembly, and finished his speech by saying that "in commemorating the events of 1497, 500 years on; we have demonstrated the continuing confidence of the Cornish people in their land and identity. Let us build on this confidence as we fight for a better deal for Cornwall."

MANNIN

Feailley Bleeaney Cholum Keeilley

Hooar Colum Keeilley baase 1,400 blein er dy henney. Bee yn ennym echey kianlt seose dy bragh lesh Doon ny nGoal, Doirrey as Ellan Ee. She flah, bardagh as saggyrt v'ayn. V'eh ruggit ny pheiaagh oasle as er y hon shen v'eh coontit dy ve cooie dy yannoo briwnys er arganeyn politickagh eddyr Nerin as Dalriada, y reeriaght va currit er bun ec ny Yernee ayns Nalbin (shen yn agh haink y chengey Ghaelagh gys Nalbin).

Ta skeel ayn dy jagh Colum er eebyr kyndagh rish argane mychione jannoo coip jeh laue-screeuyn. Lurg shen, ec chaglym Druim Ceat sy vlein 575, ren eh shickyraghey dy beagh pooar ec ny bardee sy teihll Gaelagh son thousane blein as ny smoo. Agh ta cooinaghtyn ec y chooid smoo dy 'leih dy dug eh er bun mannishter Ellan Ee. Haink shoh dy ve yn ard-ynnyd jeh'n Agglish Cheltiagh ayns ny ellanyn shoh. She ard-ynnyd jeh'n ynsagh v'ayn neesht.

Shoh tree reddyng ta kianlt ry-cheilley ayns bea Cholum Keeilley: politickaght, ynsagh as craueeaght. Hug y Chreestiaaght niart oor da'n chultoor Celtiagh. Chammah as y beaal-arrish, va Celtiee ynsit screeu ayns ny chengaghyn oc hene. Hug ad dooin y lettyraght Oarpagh shinney nagh row screeut ayns chengaghyn classicagh. She ynnydyn-ynsee va ny mannishteren v'ayns Ellan Ee as feiy'n Cheer Vooar Oarpagh.

Va co-chultoor currit er bun ayns Nerin, Nalbin as Mannin va feer lajer son keeadyn dy vleeantyn. Shoh yn eiraght ainyn ooilley, s'cumme cre woish haink shin ny cre'n chraueeaght t'ain ny cre'n daah ta'n crackan ain.

T'eh feer chooie dy vel Mary Robinson, Eaghtyrane Nerin er chur shillee er Mannin as Nerin mleeaney. Hug ee leaght Sabhal Mor Ostaig syn Ellan Skianagh. Sy leaght shen, dooyrt ee paart jeh ny reddyng heose. As ayns Mannin doshil ee Thie Vanannan ayns Purt ny h-Inshey dy oikool. Tra doshil ee yn ynnyd-eiraght shoh, dooyrt ee dy nee yn chengey Ghaelagh yn ayns smoo scanshoil jeh'n eiraght Vanninagh. As loayr ee ayns Gaelg, beggan. Va sheshaghtyn



Mary Robinson, Eaghtyrane Nerin

Manninagh er ghuee dy jinnagh ee y lheid, agh ren ee ny smoo na v'ad jerkal. Va politickeyr Manninagh ny ghaa beggan brasnit liorish goan yn Eaghtyrane. Kuse dy pholitickeyryn Manninagh, t'ad foast cliaghtey jannoo beg jeh'n chengey ashoonagh: cha nel ad cliaghtey clashtyn peiagh scanshoil ginsh yn 'irriney dauesyn - she yn Ghaelg y red Manninagh smoo scanshoil t'ain.

Ta leac syn entreilys jeh Thie Vanannan. Er y leac (ayns Baarle ny lomarcen!) ta chaghteraght mychione kiangley eddyr 'daa ashoon Celtiagh'. Feer vie, agh s'treih nagh vel Gaelg ry-akin er y leac shoh. Goll dys cooishyn Manninagh elley, fy-yerrey hoal ta ny smoo Manninee toiggal dy vel Nerin ayn. As dy vel ram argid ry-chosney ayns Divlyn erskyn ooilley. Bee Manninee geeearree croo toillee kianglaghtyn eddyr Mannin as Divlyn, ta cheet dy ve ny smoo scanshoil myr ynnyd-argidys. As ta tooillee Yernee cheet dy chummah ayns Mannin. Yernee nagh vel goll rish ny stereoplaityn ta Manninee credjal ayn rish ymmodee

blein. Ram jeh ny Yernee t'ayns Mannin nish, t'ad aghtal as bioyr as berchagh dy liooar. Jarrood ny Paddies shen as bootsyn laaghagh orroo. Bee argid Yernagh caghlaa ny aignaghyn jeh ram jeh ny Manninee shen ta foast cummal ayns seihll ren goll magh ass tammylt er dy henney.

Lieh-cheead blein er dy henney, ren de Valera goll er turrys dys Mannin as ny ellanyn Albinagh va goll rish y turrys ta Mary Robinson er nyannoo mleeaney. Geiyrt er turrys de Valera, va recortysyn jeant jeh ny loayrtee dooghyssagh jeh'n Ghaelg. Neemayd cur ayns cooinaghtyn y theay dy daink de Valera dys Mannin as dy row ny recortysyn shen jeant. As fodmayd troggal er goan Mary Robinson ayns Purt ny h-Inshey. Lhisagh Manninee, Albinee as Yernee co-obbraghey foddey ny smoo.

Myr dooyrt Mary Robinson ayns yn Ellan Skianagh y sourey shoh, ayns Nerin ta'n cultoor Celtiagh kianlt rouyr lesh ashoonaghys Yernagh as Catoleaghys (ta mish er veeiteil rish Yernee nagh vod credjal nagh vel mee my Chatoleagh er y fa dy vel Yernish aym). Fodmayd toiggal yn agh dy vel shoh taghyrt, agh shegin dooin streeu nish dy hoilshaghey magh nagh vel y cultoor Celtiagh coon as dy vod dy chooilley pheiaagh goaill soyilley jeh. Ga nagh vel y chengey Yernagh sauchey foast, ta bree noa ry-ennaghtyn ayns Nerin nish. Ta ymmodee sleih aeg sy cheer, sleih as creeaght ayndaue. Shooill mygeayrt Divlyn as jeeagh er paart jeu.

Gyn ourys erbee, ta creeaght ec Yernee dy liooar nish er y fa dy vel y cheer syn Unnaney Oarpagh. Ta'n Phobblaght Yernagh coontit myr cheer Oarpagh as ta'n chooid smoo dy Yernee coontey ad hene dy ve nyn Oarpee. Lurg keeadyn dy vleeantyn as caggey agglagh, ta ram Yernee er scapail veih'n tranlaase va ginjillaghey ad dy ve myr guillyn-drid. Sonny's orroo.

Ta obbyr niartal jeant ec Mary Robinson. Sy cheer eck hene, cha nel paart dy 'leih coontey monney jee er y fa nagh loayr ee magh son seihll coon ny shenn Chatolee. As ta Yernee elley er chraidey mooe er yn oyr dy dug ee cainle ayns uinnaghtyn Thie yn Eaghtyrane ayns Divlyn. Ta'n cainle shoh ry-hoi soilshaghey magh dy vel ish (as sleih elley) smooingaghtyn mychione y diaspora Yernagh - thousaneyn as thousaneyn dy Yernee ren faagail y cheer, y chooid smoo jeu eginit dy gholl ayns joarreeaght ayns stayd agglagh. Foddee 'Moirrey Crebbin' jarrood y sleih treih ta craidey mooe er y hon shoh. Choud's ta fys aym, ish y chiead eaghtyrane Yernagh ren riau soilshaghey magh dy vel ee boirit mychione y sleih va eginit faagail y cheer. Lhig dooin guee dy bee y nah eaghtyrane Yernagh chammah as ish.

Bee cooinaghtyn ain dy row 1997 ny blein scanshoil son cooishyn eddyr-Ghaelagh. Ta treisht ain.

Orree Crennell

1997 saw the commemoration of the death of Colum Keeilley and the visits of the Irish President to the Isle of Man and Scotland - events of potentially great significance for inter-Celtic collaboration.

No Hiding Place for the Money Launderers

Our fight to clean up the tax havens and centres for "dodgy" money was given a grudging acknowledgement in the Business News (08/97), an Isle of Man publication aimed at the Manx business finance sector.

Over the years we've highlighted the fact that the drugs gangs and other criminal elements use the offshore centres to launder their illegal funds.

Two issues in recent years gave our campaign new impetus.

The death of investigative journalist Veronica Geurin and the Mil-Tech (Rwanda Arms) scandal.

The people who ordered the slaying of Geurin could not operate if there were not centres where they could "wash" their money.

Mil-Tech (involved in the Rwanda arms scandal) and the others who service the illegal international arms trade, and bring misery to millions, could not function if the accounts of their transactions were not concealed, in a maze of countries, in the offshore centres.

Now two of those centres are starting to clean up their act! But driven from one location the dirty cash will go elsewhere. Co-ordinated action to control the international money trade is needed. The element of this trade which trades in death and misery should find no bolt hole!

Bernard Moffatt



Manx dancers outside Thie Vanannan

Tynwald Day 1997

Guest of honour at the annual Tynwald Ceremony (Manx Parliament) was President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. She also officially opened Manx National Heritage's 'House of Manannan', in Peel.

Mrs. Robinson did not disappoint nationalists and Manx language protagonists, by using Manx in her speeches and giving her good wishes for the language revival. She was certainly a more appropriate guest of honour than we have seen for some time.

Tynwald's reason for inviting Ireland's President was not only because of the cultural and historic connections between our two countries, but also because both the Island and Dublin are finance centres. The President referred to the loss of some of Ireland's brightest and best, who leave to work in finance houses in Mann.

Public consultation on ways to improve Tynwald Day did little improving; other

than to give local organizations priority over stall spaces at the Fair. The militaristic element was as strong as ever.

According to the practice of recent years Parliament met on the 7th July because Tynwald Day (i.e. the 5th July) fell over the week-end. There cannot be a sound, practical reason why the proper date should not be observed. I would guess that many people would be uncomfortable celebrating Christmas on the most 'convenient' day to the 25th December. In Peel at least, many households displayed the national flag and at least one person was wearing the tradition herb, bollan bane, on the 5th July. Let us now campaign for Tynwald Day to be held on the proper day next year. Our National Day should not be a 'moveable feast'.

C.J.K.

Money Laundering Bill

Controversial new legislation extending the Island's anti-money laundering laws to cover the proceeds of tax evasion will be published for public consultation soon. The Criminal Justice (Money Laundering) Bill will extend existing Manx legal provisions against laundering the proceeds of drugs trafficking and terrorism to cover the proceeds of all serious crime, including fiscal offences. It is believed that the Westminster government will not allow a fiscal crime's exemption in any territory for which it has international responsibility. While the target would be fraudulent tax evasion, as opposed to 'legitimate tax avoidance', [?] some in the offshore industry are concerned at the practical implications of enforcing the law.

The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands have agreed to progress the 'all crimes' money laundering legislation at around the same time.

The first paper, proposing a new system of locally accountable 'corporate agents', ran into finance sector opposition when it was published in 1995. New moves to revive 'corporate agent' accountability began shortly after a non-resident company, Mil-Tec, was involved in allegations of breaking an international arms embargo on Rwanda.

Treasury Minister, Richard Corkill, conceded in March this year that non-resident companies were occasionally used for purposes 'not conducive to the good reputation of the Isle of Man.'

LETTER

A charaid,

I was interested in Niall MacCoitir's article about the names for Wales and Brittany in Gaelic and Irish (Carn 98) but would like to point out that the correct Scottish Gaelic spellings for these places are A' Chuimrigh and A' Bhreatainn Bheag.

*le deagh dhàrachd,
Alasdair MacCaluim*

This year's AGM was held in Clwb Hwyllo in Caernarfon on the 26th July. The meeting opened with verbal tributes to Pádraig Ó Conchúir, a founder member of the Celtic League, followed by a minutes silence. Sympathies were also extended to Tom Cullinan, American distribution Secretary, on the loss of his wife.

Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions

* This AGM welcomes Comunn na Gàidhlig's plan for official status for Gaelic but believes:

- that any new Gaelic Language Board should be answerable to Gaelic related organisations and their members rather than being a Government appointed Quango;
- that Gaelic is, and has always been, important to the whole of Scotland and that the *basic level of Gaelic provision* in Lowland Scotland referred to in the CnaG report should be as great as possible;
- that Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dundee and Greater Glasgow should be given the same level of Gaelic provision as the Highlands and Islands under official status legislation due to the large percentage of Gaels living there.



Cristl Jerry, Mannin Secretary

* This AGM urges the French Minister for Education to include the teaching of the history of Brittany in the programmes of the primary as well as the secondary schools of its five departments.

* This AGM calls upon the British government to ratify the European Charter on Regional and Minority languages without delay.

* This AGM urges the establishment of an inter-parliamentary union to initially include members of the Tynwald and the Oireachtas with membership also initially open to MPs and MEPs from the other Celtic countries on an individual basis. The body to include members of the Cornish Stanneries and also Breton Deputies from the Assembly national. The basis of this assembly to be the long

established and effective Nordic Inter-parliamentary Union (1907-57).

* This AGM calls upon the Irish government to appoint an official with a remit of Inter-Celtic Affairs.

* Considering that France 3 TV is unwilling to broadcast even 1hr 15mn a week of programmes in Breton, that this broadcast time is insignificant compared to the 840 hours a week of programmes in French broadcast by the various French TV channels, that in the West of Brittany alone 240,000 people speak Breton and 30-40% of the people understand it, while 88% want the language to live, this AGM urges the elected councils of Brittany to join efforts towards providing or obtaining the



Les McNulty, Alba Branch

financial means necessary for the setting up of an adequate TV service broadcasting in Breton several hours a day, similar to the services available to other speakers of minority languages, the Irish, Welsh and Scottish Gaelic speakers among others, it being recognised that such a service is nowadays necessary for the survival of these languages.

* This AGM

a) supports the demand for an enhanced role and status to be given to the Committee of Regions in the EU;

b) urges that the regions be given a greater responsibility in the field of job creation and in the administration of the EU structural funding with a view to restore their strength and to curb the depopulation of rural areas;

c) asks that the Committee members be elected by the people of each region to represent its interests;

d) welcomes and supports the recent vote by the Rennes (Brittany 4) Regional Council for the inclusion of Loire-Atlantique in the administrative region, Brittany

* This AGM of the Celtic League held in Caernarfon (Wales) on July 25/26 1997, in the presence of delegates from the six Celtic countries, wishes to express its full agreement with the proposals formulated on June 15 by the Breton Language Service as a contribution to the

Conference due to be held in Rennes on 4/10/1997 on the theme 'What will be the culture of Brittany in the 21st Century?'

Convinced as we are that a genuine Breton culture is not sustainable without a flourishing Breton language, we support the Breton Language Service's demand that a contract be signed by the French State and the elected councils of Brittany, incorporating the priorities established by that Service, so as to enable the Breton language to exist and develop in the coming century, not only as a vehicle of the Breton culture but also as a means of everyday communication;

We urge the said elected councils to financially back the setting up of monitoring office bureau as proposed by the BLS to keep under review the language situation and the measures taken to restore it;

We deem it important for all to realise that for its survival those who know or have learned Breton must be provided with frequent opportunities and facilities to speak it (in games, clubs, excursions etc.)

* This AGM expresses its dismay at the failure of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly, held in June, to reach agreement on a political declaration concerning the measures required to curb climatic change;

deems it incumbent upon the rich industrial countries as the main polluters to give the example in re-orienting their economies towards a substantial reduction in their use of fossil fuels (without substitution of nuclear power); urges their governments to take a leading role in a sustained campaign through the media to convince their citizens of the urgency of measures to control fuel consumption so as to make the necessary restrictions acceptable and to be able to overcome opposition from powerful sectional interests;

calls for the use in the Celtic countries of non pollutant energy resources and effective energy conservation measures.

* This AGM urgently calls on the Irish government to maintain Irish military neutrality. We reject attempts in recent years to soften public opinion with regard to military alliances. We call on the Irish government to develop an active neutrality alliance policy with other neutral countries in the EU and urge other like-minded organisations to promote this aim, particularly all organisations working for the Celtic countries. We further suggest that the Celtic League develop a suitable inter-Celtic campaign, complete with an emblem and motto.

* This AGM calls on the Manx Gaelic Broadcasting Committee to fund and commission TV programming in the

Manx Language to be shown on TnaG at times to be agreed with them.

As a gesture of goodwill TnaG should initiate some Manx Language programming, such as, say, a nightly weather forecast concerning the IOM in Manx.

* This AGM recognising that the current strength of the Manx language and cultural movements is based on the diversity of the range of organisations/groups which sustain it, calls on the Manx government to recognise the strength of that diversity and provide appropriate and independent funding to each group

* This AGM deplores the failure of some Departments of Government to implement government policy in relation to the prominence of the Manx language on its signs and vehicles, in particular notes the failure of the Isle of Man Department of Home Affairs to introduce bilingual livery on Police vehicles.

* This AGM, bearing in mind that it is Celtic League policy to seek the closure of Sellafield nuclear reprocessing facility:

- a) registers its concern at the decision of the British government to sustain the operation of the Sellafield nuclear plant and expresses alarm at the reports of increased contamination in the Irish sea area adjacent to the Plant;
- b) calls for urgent independent scientific research into the levels of radiation contamination in the North Irish sea area;



Ivor Kenna, England Branch

- c) calls for an urgent risk assessment of all the United Kingdom's ageing nuclear installations around the Irish sea.

* This AGM welcomes the proposal received from the Liga Celtica, Galicia to establish co-operation on an ongoing/permanent basis between the Celtic League and the Liga Celtica in pursuing the aim of securing the political, cultural, social and economic freedom needed for the survival and development of our nations as distinct communities, suggests that co-operation could express itself in particular by giving mutual support to decisions, resolutions, campaigns of our organisations subject to

their being in agreement with our respective constitutions.

* This AGM warmly welcomes the announcement by the Scottish Office Minister with special responsibility for Scottish Gaelic of a plan, *Columba Initiative* for improved contacts between Scottish Gaelic and Irish speakers.

Expresses the wish that the plan, while concerning primarily the areas where the two languages are commonly spoken, should seek to familiarise all the people of Scotland and Ireland with the aspects of history, language and culture which they have in common.

* This AGM calls on all League members to write to the UK Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, MP House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA on the following lines:

"I note that Chris Smith MP wrote to Mr and Mrs Kenna on 26th September 1996 re The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as follows: 'I have only now heard back from Robin Cook, but you will be pleased to know that the Labour Party are in full support of the Charter.' On what date do you expect to sign the Charter as Foreign Secretary please?"

* This AGM requests the governments of the United Kingdom and Spain to pay due regard to paragraphs 43(1), 65(c), 66(b) and 68 of *The European Prison Rules* in promoting the rights of prisoners to have reasonable access and communication with their families; urges these governments to cease locating (Irish and Basque) political prisoners in prisons distant from their home countries and effectively using them as bargaining tools in conflict resolution.

* This AGM welcomes the announcement by the Minister for the Marine (Ireland) Dr Michael Woods that he is establishing a 'task force' to press the British government over the sea disposal of radioactive waste in the Beaufort Dyke sea dump; urges the Minister to seek from the British a full inventory of all materials dumped in sea dump areas of the western British Isles and in the Irish Sea.

* This AGM urges that the Irish British inter-governmental conference establish an independent scientific enquiry into claims that radio surveillance and electronic equipment used in British bases in South Armagh poses a threat to public health.

* This AGM

- a) expresses its concern at the contradiction between the *Final Report* of the "investigation of the feasibility of carrying out a prospective epidemiological study of potential health effects from exposure to noise from low flying military aircraft in the United Kingdom" and research carried out in other countries;



Julia Gwyrfai, Cymru Secretary

- b) requests that the General Secretary draw the attention of the Ministry of Defence to the work in this field carried out by H. Ising and A. Jacobs for the Federal Environmental Agency in Germany and its conclusions that there is a link between low flying and health problems.

* This AGM

- a) views with contempt the decision of the British government to proceed with the sale of Hawk warplanes to the Indonesian regime and believes that this decision exposes the commitment made early this month by British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook as a tawdry farce;
- b) believes the British government in supplying these arms which will be used with other aircraft previously supplied to kill and maim the East Timor people has put the narrow self interest of British arms manufacturers before the right of the indigenous people;
- c) calls on the Celtic League's Welsh and Manx branch to continue support for the campaign against the training of Indonesian personnel from the base at Valley in Anglesey (which use facilities in other parts of Wales and the Isle of Man).

* This AGM supports the renewed demands for a Property Act for Wales as a protection for Welsh speaking communities against the threat of renewed large-scale English immigration.

* This AGM notes with sorrow the continued bias of the broadcasting authorities (i.e. Radio Cymru) towards 'Anglo-American' music, and their ignorance (or boycott) of the vast wealth of Celtic music. We urge the media in Celtic countries to co-operate, re-assess the situation and actively promote Celtic music.

* The AGM agreed to implement Alba's recommendation that the spelling of "Celtic League" in Gaelic on all Celtic League publications should be changed from "An Comunn Ceilteach" to "An Comann Ceilteach" in line with the Gaelic spelling reforms.

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NOTE: *Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper), uses the term e-bost in preference to e-mail, like the Welsh. When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.*

Tomás Scott

† Obituary — Stop Press

We were saddened to hear at the time of going to print of the sudden death of Tomás Scott, a long time member of the League and Secretary of the Irish Branch for many years in the eighties. Tomás was most diligent in his League work and was ever a charming and pleasant man. He also represented the Irish Branch on many external organisations, such as the Pearse Foundation, and was active in various ways in promotion of the Irish Language. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam - our sympathies to his widow and family.

Letter

Mr & Mrs Kenna, England Branch received the following letter from Labour MP, Chris Smith in September 1996. A resolution was passed at the AGM (see page 23) calling on all members to write to Robin Cook, U.K. Foreign Secretary asking him to ratify the European charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Dear Mr and Mrs Kenna,

Thank you for your letter and I am sorry for my delay in replying. I am very aware of how long this matter has been going on and I do apologise for this. I have only now heard back from Robin Cook, but you will be pleased to know that the Labour Party are in full support of this Charter. I've written again to the Government on your behalf, and I am enclosing a copy of my letter for your information. I hope that this will be helpful.

I will, of course, write to you again when I receive a reply. In the meantime, if I can be of any further assistance to you with this, or any other matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely
Chris Smith MP.

Membership and 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.

For information about the Celtic League write to any of the the following secretaries:

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BREIZH Jakez Derouet, 14 Hent Kemper 29000 Plugüey/Pluguffay, Brittany.

CYMRU Jina Gwyrfa, 3 Croes Y Waen, Waenafawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

ÉIRE Subscriptions: c/o 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath.

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USA Stephen Paul de Villo, 313 East 201 Street, Bronx, New York 10458.

INTERNATIONAL BRANCH Alan Heusaff, Seana Gharráin, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, Éire.

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Articles for the Editor may be sent on diskette in either Apple or IBM compatibles for Microsoft Word/Works or Word Perfect along with hard copy, or faxed to 00 353 31 - 458 9795

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Nr 301 (March-April) brings a continuation of "Liv Ruz an Hesk", Yann Gerven's murder investigation (by now approaching novel proportions) and of Reun ar C'Halan's study of a manuscript from Meven Mordiern recording his father's part as an army doctor in the French intervention in Mexican affairs (1861-1967). These are the main contributions in this issue of 112 pp. Four poems take pride of place, one of them by Jan Deloof, a Fleming to whom we owe translations of Breton poems and short stories into Flemish. Let us also mention Goulc'han Kervella's story about a nonchalant priest who is troubled by an unusual request to celebrate a funeral mass in Breton for an old woman, the transkation of a Catalan story by Gw. Emelyanoff and of a tale from Breton into Cornish by S. Amos.

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