

comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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ALBA: AN COMANN CEILTEACH
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CELTIC LEAGUE





Alba



A' Choille Ghruamach (Oran do dh' America)

Gaelic Original

1. Gu bheil mi 'm ònrachd 's a' choille ghruamaich,
Mo smaointinn luaineach, cha tog mi fonn:
Fhuair mi 'n t-àite so 'n aghaidh nàdair
Gu 'n thréig gach tàlanta 'bha nam cheann:
Cha dean mi òran a chur air dòigh ann,
'N uair 'ni mi tòiseachadh bidh mi trom:
Chaill mi 'Ghàidhlig seach mar-a b' àbhaist dhomh
'N uair a bha mi 's an dùthaich thall

2. Cha 'n fhaigh mi m' inntinn leam ann an òrdadh,
Ged bha mi eòlach air deanamh rann;
'S e 'mheudaich bròn dhomh 's a lùghdaich sòlas
Gun duine còmhla' rium a ni rium cainnt.
Gach latha 's oidhche 's gach car a ni mi
Gu 'm bì mi cuimhneachadh anns gach àm
An tìr a dh' fhàg mi tha 'n taic an t-sàile,
Ged tha mi 'n dràst ann am bràighe ghleann.

3. Cha 'n iognadh dhomhsa ged 'tha mi brònach,
'S ann tha mo chòmhnuidh air cùl nam beann,
Am meadhon fàsaich air Abhainn Bhàrnaidh
Gu 'n dad a's feàrr na buntàta lom.
Mu 'n dean mi àiteach 's mu 'n tog mi bàrr ann
'S a' choille ghàbhaidh 'chur às a bonn
Le neart mo ghàirdein, gu 'm bi mi sàraichte
Is treis air fàilinn mu 'm fàs a' chlan.

4. 'Si so an dùthaich 's a bheil an cruadal
Gun fhios do 'n t-sluagh a tha tigh 'nn a nall,
Gur h-olc a fhuaras oirn luchd a bhuaireadh
A rinn le 'n tuairisgeul ar toirt ann.
Ma ni iad buannachd cha mhair i buan dhaibh,
Cha dean i suas iad 's cha 'n iognadh leam,
'S gach mallachd truaghain a bhios 'g an ruagadh
Bho 'n chaidh am fuadach a chur fo 'n ceann.

5. Bidh gealladh làidir 'ga thoirt an tràth sin,
Bidh cliù an àite 'g a chur am meud ;
Bidh iad a gràitinn gu bheil 'ur càirdean
Gu sona saibhir gun dad a dh' éis :
Gach naigheachd mheallta 'g a toirt gu 'r n-ionnsaidh-se
Feuch an sanntaich sibh dol nan déigh ;
Ma thig sibh sàbhailt 'n uair 'chi sibh iadsan
Cha 'n fheàrr na stàtachan na sibh féin.

6. 'N uair théid na dròbhairean 'sin 'gur n-iarraidh,
'S ann leis na briagan a ni iad feum,
Gun fhacal firinn a bhi 'g a innse
'S an cridhe 'diteadh na their am beul:
Ri cur am fiachaibh gu bheil 's an tìr so
Gach ni a's priseile tha fo 'n ghréin:
'N uair thig sibh innte gur beag a chi sibh
Ach coille dhireach 'toirt dhibh an speur.

English Translation

1. That I am alone in the gloomy wood
My thoughts restless, I can't raise a tune
I find this place against nature
So that each talent that was mine has abandoned me
I can't make a song that is structured
When I try to start I am heavy of spirit
I've lost [the] Gaelic I was accustomed to
When I was in the country 'cross [the water]

2. I can't bring my mind to order
Although I know about composing verse
My sadness is stronger with the lessening of light
Without anyone with me that will make for me a song
Each day and night and each job I do
I'll be remembering each time in
Th[at] land that I left [by] support of the sea
Although I am now in the heart of a glen

3. It's no surprise to me, although I am sad
Here is my dwelling behind the mountain
[In] the middle of the wilderness on Barney's River [Station]
Without anything better than a single potato.
As I cultivate the land and as I raise my roof above
It's a dangerous forest that is spreading below
I am fatigued by the strength of my arms
And my strength [may] fail before I raise [my] children

4. This is the country that is the hardest
Without the people who are coming here knowing.
Ill [the words] that were received by those who heard them
That gave up the earnings they made.
If they [the sellers] make a profit it won't last long for them
It will not improve them, no surprise to me
Each poor cursed one of them that chase[d out people]
Back when the Clearances were first began

5. A strong promise it is that he gave that time
The place is incredible, ?given its qualities?
They are happy to be your friend
Happily rich without wanting anything.
Each beguiling rumour that he gave for your instruction
Trying your greed to go and follow them
If you arrive safely, then you will see them
In no better state than you yourself

6. When those drovers ask you
Those are the lies that they will make use of
Without a true word that will tell you
A condemned soul it is [to whom] the[ir] mouth will suggest
To pay the [great] price that is on this land.
Each thing that is precious [to you] under the sun
When you will come [here] you will see little of them
Except forest alone, taking away [view of] the sky

It is widely recognised that in order to “save Gaelic”, outreach campaigns must enthruse the general Scottish population with a passion for “our language”. In my opinion, the trouble is that it is often impossible to recognise the qualities in a language until it is gone. While a language is commonly spoken its virtues are often taken for granted, and while a language is dying its virtues are often lost in the flurry of nationalistic flag waving. Therefore loud proclamations of the need to protect Gaelic can often only enthruse those who are already impressed by a language, whilst leaving the target audience completely unimpressed. A

more effective argument is an appeal to the literature of a language, but there the problem is that the literature of Modern languages like Gaelic often cannot compete with the massive corpus of Modern literature in English, Spanish or Mandarin. However, even amongst this smaller corpus there are many gems, some of which really highlight the unique nature of the living Gaelic language.

One such, “A' Choille Ghruamach” (The Gloomy Wood), also called “Oran do dh' America” (A Song to America) is presented below. This poem is perhaps one of the most famous in all of Gaelic literature, and was written by a colonist in Nova Scotia in the nineteenth century. For our purposes it is especially interesting because it was written by somebody who had left behind Scotland, and Gaelic, and therefore is ideally situated to explain the relative merits of Gaelic and Scotland, compared to Canada and his life there. Since it was published in 1881 it is also entirely public domain in the UK (and most other countries), making it a treasure trove for modern researchers or for writers of derivative works, since it can be edited and re-published without any permission needed.

I have also given a rough translation to assist those without either perfect 19th century Gaelic or a few hours to spend with Dwelly (and the quirks of the author, e.g. *mu=ro[imh]*). Irish readers might be very interested to note that unlike in the most recent Scottish Gaelic, which only uses one accent (*stràc/fada*), this poem actually uses both grave and acute accents and therefore represents an earlier step in the evolution of the language. Finally, in part 2, next issue, Canadian readers will no doubt note the native borrowings (e.g. *moccasins*), and of course the fun colloquialism *'dollair ghorma'* (blue dollars). Words in square brackets [] are not indicated in the original text. Finally, as tempting as it would be to coin a new (or old) phrase, grizzly bears are not native to Novia Scotia, and therefore the phrase *'na mathain bhèisteil'* probably just refers to an especially grumpy group of black bears.

Lee Ramsay

Not in My Name

One of the best things at 2011's Edinburgh Festival was Kevin Williamson's show "Not in My Name" about Robert Burns. But I'm not actually sure whether I was more amazed to see a piece of Scottish culture so prominently advertised at the Festival, or the fact that the National Library of Scotland was hosting the event. Most Scottish culture at the Festival consists of the Military Tattoo, performances of *Macbeth* and busking bagpipers. Enough said.

**ROBERT BURNS:
NOT IN MY NAME**
Robert Burns/Kevin Williamson
Featuring films by Alastair Cook
Directed by John-Paul McCourty

www.robertburnsnotinmyname.com
www.alastaircook.com

This is the radical subversive poetry of a Scottish rebel.
Patriotic, republican, revolutionary - the dangerous stuff
Burns couldn't put his name to during his lifetime.

 nls
National Library of Scotland, 4-12 August, 24-28 August. Starts 7pm TICKETS: £8 (£5)



"... Williamson's Burns is stirring, lyrical, explicit, frequently hilarious and above all feels contemporary"
DARRAN ANDERSON, 3AM MAGAZINE

As Pushkin is to Russia, and Goethe to Germany, so Burns is to Scotland. He is widely loved, and dare I say, a wee bittie overexposed. He is secular saint and literary hero, Casanova and cliché. But forget the staid conservative (and unionist?) guff that gets recited at many a Burns Supper... "Not in My Name" reclaims Burns as a radical, and republican, and makes him fresh and relevant once more. Williamson's renditions of Burns' more controversial poetry were lively, fluent, rousing, and often funny. This was enhanced by well-considered multimedia, which matched parts of the performance to images of various contemporary events and people.

I hope Kevin considers taking "Not in My Name" on the road. Not only to other parts of Scotland, but to other Celtic countries and beyond. There is another Burns that needs to be heard. I'm not sure how most Americans would react to it though. Some passing tourists seemed puzzled that the man off Scottish tea towels could write such subversive filth. Why shouldna pair folk mow, mow, mow?

Ray Bell

Ruaraidh MacThòmais RIP



Ruaraidh MacThòmais

Ruaraidh MacThòmais (Derek Thomson) died at the age of ninety on the 21st March. Equally at home as a poet, a professor, a publisher and an editor, MacThòmais revolutionised Scottish Gaelic studies and literature. He was the author of numerous books including *An Introduction to Gaelic Poetry*, *Gaelic Poetry in the Eighteenth Century: A Bilingual Anthology* and *European Poetry in Gaelic*. His collected poems *Creachadh na Clàrsaich* (Plundering of the Harp/Clarsach) shared the Scottish Book of the Year Award in 1983.

In 1984, he won the Oliver Brown award for his service to Gàidhlig. He edited *The Companion to Gaelic Scotland*. His English-Gaelic dictionary was published in

1981. He has published seven collections of Gaelic poetry in all, with many English translations, including *Meall Garbh/The Rugged Mountain* (1995) and *Smeur an Dochais*.

He was at the helm of *Gairm* magazine (and the publishing house of the same name) for over fifty years. Sadly, since he retired from *Gairm*, nothing else seems to have replaced it, as a long-term all-Gàidhlig magazine or newspaper. Both *Gath* and *An Gàidheal Ùr* attempted to fill the gap, but both have since folded. He also wrote, or was involved in, numerous works which introduced Scottish Gaelic culture to the wider Scottish public including *Why Gaelic Matters*.

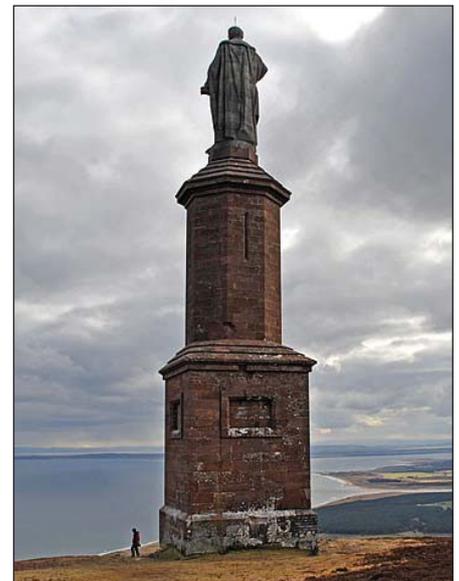
In the 1970s, he was Chairman of the SNP's Gaelic Committee. He was a proud Leòdhasach, a supporter of independence and a seminal figure in the Scottish Gaelic Renaissance. He has left a great legacy, and one we can all rightly be proud of. Cuirear clach air ur càrn.

On a happier note, his fellow poet Aonghas MacNeacail (Aonghas Dubh) from Uig, Skye recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. An entire issue of *North Words* magazine was dedicated to him. Meall ur naidheachd, Aonghais!

Duke Damaged

The massive statue of the Duke of Sutherland, which stands above Goillspidh, has long been a subject of controversy. The Duke was one of the most notorious figures of the Highland Clearances, and so the statue is considered highly offensive by many people. While he evicted his tenants from their homes, raised their rent, replaced them with sheep, and so on, he built himself a castle and gardens which were modelled on the palace at Versailles.

Recently, a few stones have been moved, or removed from the plinth of the statue. These actions have gained a fair bit of press coverage, but no culprits have been found. (I think if I had a penny for every person who claimed to have made an attempt to destroy this statue, I would be a wealthy man!) I myself have mixed feelings about the action. If it succeeded in making the statue genuinely unsafe, then it could have resulted in the squashing of several well-meaning activists. We also now have official means of removing the statue through the Scottish Government, if anyone is actually bold enough to do so. If the countries of Eastern Europe could remove Stalin etc from their streets, why can't we do likewise? Would it actually lose the SNP the election? I think



not. A few people in Goillspidh want the statue to be left up there. God knows why. We don't need it as a memorial to the Clearances. The ruined villages around the Highlands are memorial enough. We could, on the other hand, seriously do with a proper land reform act in this country.

R.B

MacPherson's Rant

MacPherson's Rant takes its cue from another quarter. Somewhat like *Mamma Mia*, *We Will Rock You* and *Moulin Rouge*, this musical recycles a number of old songs, and strings a story between them. However, in this case, it tends to work, and the songs are some of Scotland's best loved folk tunes, including the *MacPherson's Rant* of the title... songs which have survived the centuries better than those of Queen or Abba ever will. I'm very familiar with the original story as it took place a few miles from where I used to live. Basically, it concerns James MacPherson a gypsy, who fights for love, is falsely accused, and has some run-ins with the local landowner, and the British state. It's an old story, but a good one. The MacPherson of the story was also a legendary fiddler, who played below the gallows he was just about to be hanged on.



While I enjoyed the show, I had two major issues with it. Firstly, the actors did not sound as if they came from the north east, and east Highlands, where the story is set. This seems to be a common problem, and I had the same issue with a production of *Sunset Song*. Most Scottish theatre doesn't seem to really appreciate the importance of regional accents. Admittedly, if you come from the north east, you notice this much more than a southerner. Not everyone in Scotland sounds as if they come from round about Edinburgh or Glasgow. Secondly, one of the characters is a young girl who is mentally disabled. While the actress herself gave a decent performance, I felt that the role should be rewritten as it is wide open to criticism as it stands.

The story is somewhat melodramatic, but it is family friendly (hanging aside!), and the audience loved it. Because of its reliance on folk tunes, it will also appeal to people who don't particularly like Broadway/West End style musicals (I count myself amongst them). There is a delicious nationalist undercurrent in the whole thing too. All in all, it's good light entertainment. <http://www.macphersonsrant.com>

Ray Bell

The Bugaled Breizh

Truth Sacrificed for Reasons of State

On January 14th 2004, just off the Lizard Peninsula in Kernow, the Breton trawler Bugaled Breizh (Child of Brittany) from LokTudi, sank in 90 seconds killing all five fishermen aboard. Immediately the fishermen thought that the net had hooked the propeller of a submarine, but 8 years on and the cause of the sinking remains a mystery and the questions that need to be addressed are still being avoided by the French state.

The skipper of the trawler, Yves Gloaguen (Youn) had time to call his colleague Serj Cossec from Eridan who was fishing in the same zone a few miles away. The call lasted for only 90 seconds before the boat sank, which is too short a time for the ship to sink naturally.

The inquiry into the sinking has now lasted for 9 years and during that time the French state has played with a range of different theories as to why the trawler sank, including blaming a Philippine cargo ship, the Seattle Trader, of colliding with the trawler and even blaming the crew of the Bugaled Breizh for snagging the sea bed with the net. Soon after the people of Bigoudenie - the fishing community where the Bugaled Breizh was based in the southwest Breizh - learned that NATO was engaged in maneuvering activities in the area of the sinking on the day that the Bugaled Breizh sank.

Since the sinking of the Bugaled Breizh the Celtic League has been drawing attention to the possibility that a submarine could have sunk the trawler. The Bugaled Breizh is not the first trawler from the Celtic nations to sink in strange and mysterious circumstances like this, which has resulted in speculation about how the boat might have sunk. The possibility that a submarine may have sunk the Bugaled Breizh has become something of an 'open secret'. Rumours have grown with the apparent cover up of the British and French states appearing to be complicit in their seeming desire to disrupt the legal inquiry into the sinking, by giving false testimonies, intimidating witnesses, providing distorted expert reports and the refusal of the French Minister of Defence, Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie, to disclose documents to the lawyers of the families of the drowned fishermen.

The lengthy case is continuing amid an atmosphere of distrust, but the Breton families are more determined than ever to see justice done. Recently the legal inquiry has suggested the involvement of the HMS Turbulent submarine - a British nuclear submarine - in the incident, but the French state seem determined to play British involvement down. Reports from British authorities claim that there were two survivors from the sunken trawler, but the Royal Navy say that no bodies were found.



Such inconsistencies have led to many questions being asked by the people of Loktudy and Gwilvinec.

Robert Bouguéon, the former president of the fishing community where the fishermen originated from, said that he is more determined than ever to find out what happened, saying: "We are not going to let them down like that and time will not run against us."

As it happens, as time passes since the disaster people are less afraid to speak out. Two years ago, I met a member of the military personnel, working at the maritime headquarters, who said that a quarter of an hour after the Bugaled Breizh sank, the French authorities ordered the deletion of all messages relating to the Bugaled Breizh. Last year, G. Lemetayer, the son of the mechanic on the Bugaled Breizh, went to England with Yann Queffelec, as part of his own investigation. While in England Lemetayer met a colleague of the commander of HMS Turbulent who said that he had admitted responsibility for the sinking of the trawler. Meanwhile Michèle Alliot-Marie attempts to blatantly cover up for both the French and British Navy, preferring to accuse the Seattle



The Bugaled Breizh wreck after being lifted to the surface by a salvage vessel.

Trader for a collision that people believe did not occur.

It may be left up to the European Court of Human Rights to get to the bottom of what really happened. The solicitors working for the families of the drowned fishermen had their offices burgled, confirming their belief that what they think is right: that the French state is actively trying to cover up what really happened in 2004.

Thierry JIGOUREL



Breizh



Arzourien eus Breizh e Bro Skos

Ur gazetenn skosat war ar Genrouedad hag ispisializet en abadennoù sevenadurel e Din-Edin e oa bet skrivet warni e miz Kerzu 2011: “Al livourien gweledvaou eus Breizh a zo re nebeut da zont betek Bro Skos. Padal kreizenn sevenadurel Bro Frañs e Din-Edin a ziskouez tri war an taol. Ur gwir blijadur evit an daoulagad profet gant hor c’heniterv kelt, Breizh”.

Un nebeut dervezhioù goude, ar gevredigezh Breizh-Alba he deus resevet ul lizher e-bezh digant ur Skosadez: “Hiriv em eus bet tro da welet an diskouezadeg gant arzourien eus Breizh e kreizenn sevenadurel Bro Frañs hag em eus kavet anezhi brav-kenañ !”. Gwir eo ar vaouez-se, o chom e Din-Edin, a lavare e oa dimezet gant ur Breizhad eus Pempoull. An dourlivadur graet gant Manya, al livadurioù Laskal, graet gant eoul hag akrilik, Pêr Deligniere, o tiskouez gweledvaou Breizh dindan a bep seurt tu ha stumm a oa bet graet evit plijout dezhi ! Hag ouzhpenn-se e oa un tamm droughirnezh gant ar Skosadez-mañ. Ur seurt “riviera” evit Kelted an hanternoz eo Breizh, n’eo ket ‘ta ?

Visant Gerin, rener Kreizenn Sevenadurel Bro Skos, hag eñ a-orin eus Roazhon, en deus graet un taol kaer, a-raok Nedeleg, o pediñ an arzourien eus ar gevredigezh Breizh-Alba er savadur Randolph Crescent. Gant e skipailh e oa laouen gant ar vrud graet d’an diskouezadeg.

An arzourien-se, e Breizh-Alba n’int ket gant an taol-esa. Nedeleg tremenet e oa evito ar pevare gwezh. Ouzhpenn al livadurioù diwar-benn Breizh eo bet savet un nebeut taolennoù diwar-benn Bro Skos ivez.

An diskouezadegoù o deus bet tro vont du-mañ du-se a vloaz da vloaz.

Da gentañ edo e-barzh ar “Byre Theatre” e Sant Andrew, e miz Gouere 2010. Daougent taolenn a oa bet diskouezet eno. Er memes bloavezh e miz Du, an diskouezadeg-se a oa bet degemeret e Ti Tudor un ostelleri e kreiz-kêr Din-Edin. Ur staliad-win eus ar c’hentañ klas a zo bet savet gant an itron Virginie Brouard, eus Daoulaz. Ur vaouez a galon he deus savet ur greizenn evit sikour bugale Ethiopie, asambles gant livourien Breizh hag all...

Livourien Breizh a zo bet laouen-tre o ziskouez o labour en ur gwir gastell. Un dra ret e Bro Skos evel-just. E miz Ebrel 2011, Laskal gant e daolennoù arouezek ha misterius ha Pêr Deligniere, plijet gant an doare arouezel met diheverzh, a glot mat gant ar gweledvaou eus Breizh ha Bro Skos o deus

bet ur gwir blijadur o tiskouez o labourioù da weladennerien kastell Balgonie. Hemañ ‘zo bet savet er XIVvet kantved gant ur manac’h templour eus Bro Fife.

Evel-just, an arzourien eus Breizh-Alba a gendalc’h da vont war raok. Pep hini gant e zoare da livañ ar bed keltiek, a zo a-du da gendalc’h, dreist-holl e Bro Skos. Setu perak e savan ur galv evit sachañ lec’hioù nevez da ziskouez o livadurioù.

Per Delignere.

evit gouzout hiroc’h:

www.bretagne-ecosse.org



Laskal & Per Delignere e kastell Balgonie.

Summary

The strong links between the President Per Deligniere and Vice-President of Bretagne-Ecosse, Rob Gibson, brought about the opportunity for Breton artists to organise exhibitions in special places in Scotland.

Brittany – French General Elections June 2012

UDB – The Breton Democratic Union – A moving force for the country.
The UDB will field ten candidates in the General Elections in 2012 throughout the five Breton departments (counties).

The French system and its constraints

Ever since the reform of the French five-year-term of office the Presidential Election has taken place a few weeks before the General Elections, which strengthens the presidential side of the fifth republic. A king like president to rule a jacobin (i.e. centralised) country. The presidential candidates are in the public eye for months and the media places more importance on the statements made during the week than on the actual background discussions. The main function of the general elections, which follow close behind the Presidential Elections, is to give the new President the majority in the National Assembly – thus allowing him/her to rule as he/she pleases. The phrase “dictatorship of the useful vote” may then be used.

In such a context, it is no easy task for the UDB, a federalist party striving for autonomy and which by definition is present in the five Breton departments, to be seen and heard, all the more so as access to the national media is limited.

Given the French system as it is, alliances are essential. Concerning the first round of the Presidential Election, the UDB has called for votes for Eva Joly (Europe Écologie –The Greens) whose programme clearly integrates a large number of their own claims – a federal republic, the ratification of the European charter for regional languages, boundary changes allowing the reunification of Brittany as well as giving up nuclear power... In the run off the UDB has backed François Hollande, a candidate for a grouping of the left. Although his

programme is well short of the proposals of the UDB the fact remains that he turns out to be the only left wing candidate in a position to beat Nicolas Sarkozy, from whom Brittany can expect nothing since his policy is so deeply impregnated with destructive and ultra-jacobin liberalism.

Will a Breton federalist become deputy (M.P) in June?

The UDB is a member of R & P S (Solidarity between Regions and Peoples), a national federation, and has made a global agreement with EELV (Europe Ecology – The Greens). This agreement enables the UDB to gain the support of EELV in a number of constituencies and, in particular, to contemplate the election of a deputy (MP), a Breton militant, in the PLOERMEL constituency, where the UDB has in fact appealed to Paul Molac by opening up the political spectrum. He is a local, born and bred in those parts, and the first President of the new Breton Cultural Council. He has the support of the UDB, EELV as well as the socialist party, which makes him the challenger of the UMP candidate in that historically right – wing constituency.

A UDB plan which aims at making Brittany a laboratory for the better

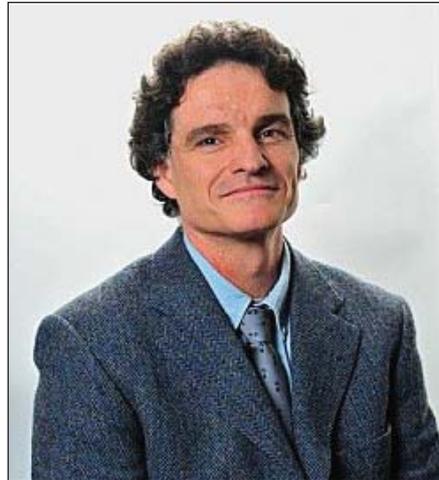
The philosophy of that plan is reflected in

the slogan “in love with Brittany with our hearts inclined to the left”. The plan revolves around six main axes.

An economy centred on human beings, an industry and agriculture both rooted in territories, so as to let people work and live in the region where they belong.

An ecology acting jointly in order to give up nuclear power and allow a vigorous transition to create jobs.

A genuine social and fiscal justice, which redistributes wealth and raises low wages as



Paul Molac

well as small pensions and favours welfare. A society in which people live and stick together with public services within easy reach, access for all to education, health and housing facilities.

A strengthened democracy within a parliamentary and federal republic accepting cultural and linguistic differences, including in addition self-governing regions and a reunified Brittany.

A federal and democratic Europe in order to check the drifting of financial internationalisation.

Ten candidates are nominated by the UDB: 5 women and 5 men.

All Celts are welcome to give a hand to their Breton *cousins* who stand in the election. Cash donations as well as practical support will be highly appreciated.

UDB:Morgan Perhirin.

www.udb-bzh.net

Editor's Note: *Eva Joly received 2.3% in the first round (would go to Hollande in 2nd round). PS candidate Hollande came first with 28.7% against Sarkozy's 27.1%. National Front's Marine Le Pen received 18.5%, their highest yet causing commentators to speculate that the outcome of the run off would be decided by the way this vote goes.*

12,000 Demonstrate in Kemper for the Future of our Languages (Breton, Gallo) and for Reunification.

This demonstration, planned at the end of last summer, was held during the French Presidential elections, other protests were also held throughout the state and in its overseas territories; this campaign was organised by all parties in favour of the recognition of minority languages.

On March 31st 55,000 citizens took part in a protest- march in order to put pressure on the candidates standing in presidential election to declare their intentions regarding the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML). The French state has signed the agreement, however only 39 out of the 98 articles of this Charter were accepted. The EU only requires States to ratify the charter without overseeing the implementation of it. In France the political parties in power, both right and left, refused to fully ratify the Charter, they preferred instead a specific law which did not endanger French unity and the future of their “loved” language. They fear that this partial ratification of the European Charter will force them to go down the path to full recognition of the minority languages giving them the same status as French. We are far from this situation!

Demonstrations took place in Occitania, the Basque country, in Cataluña, in Alzas, in Corsica with respectively: 28,000 in Tolosa, 7,000 in Baiona, 6,000 in Perpinyà, 500 people in Strasburg and a human chain of 300 people at Aiacciu. One hundred people

gathered at Lille demanding the right to teach Flemish in schools. There were other demonstrations in Savoy, in Picardy and Poitou. Occitania represents one third of the French state from Provence to Bearn etc... That's why they were able to muster some 28,000 demonstrators in Tolosa. The demonstration in Kemper was a success with regard to organisation and participation thanks to Kevre-Breizh.

Kevre Breizh

As the Cultural Council of Breizh (CCB) had lost its independence the Breton movement needed to build a new association that would have the freedom to organise demonstrations without having to get approval from the Regional Council. Kevre-Breizh (Brittany's League) was born last year... The coordination of the new body is managed by President T. Louarn (EBLUL.); the Vice-President is P. Herve from the Diwan schools. The composer and singer, G. ArFUR, was in charge of the demonstration in Kemper. The Webmaster is L. Tavennec from Studi & Dudi (Study & Pleasure) etc... Kevre Breizh gained support from most of

the cultural associations, which represent more than 50,000 members in the five departments in Breizh.

The demonstration

In Breizh sixty VIPs including artists, journalists etc... appealed for support for the march -protest. Amongst them were Alan Stivell, PPDA (journalist Patrick Poivre d'Arvor), eighty cultural clubs and the federation of Breton wrestling (Gouren). About 1,600 other people and groups signed the appeal. On the Friday night before the protest the famous psycholinguist, Gilbert Dagalien, hosted a conference which focused on answers to the questions about linguistic and cultural diversity in favour of: “l'hominisation” since the beginning and for the next centuries, at least.

Saturday started with the installation of a Village with a dozen stands from clubs and publishing houses. We will mention the stand of the Redadeg. It's a long-race (1,500Km) where different relay runners take over each kilometre. Sponsorship cost €100 per Km and the funding raised will go towards helping a number of bodies. A debate also took place with representatives of the presidential candidates in order to ascertain their stance on the issue of linguistic rights. In the afternoon the protest-march started at 3pm with a few bagadoù bands and dancers leading with the protesters following. This demonstration was supported by the city hall, which was only too happy to transform this protest-

march into: «Kemper Cultural Capital of Breizh». Several councillors in the city are already engaged in the cultural fight. The population, including shopkeepers, showed their approval of the event. They appeared to be delighted to hear the songs from choirs, especially «Kanomp Breizh». The other good news was the strong participation of the people of Naoned, under the leadership of «Bretagne-Réunie». They produced more than 300 posters with symbolic slogans like: «Breton language on my TV in L.A. », «Reunification Now» and «Pays-de-Loire get out of L.A. ».

The march-protest ended in front of the state building (Prefecture), where non-violent activists from Ai'ta showed the crowd about thirty road signs in French taken from all over Breizh, which they had dismantled previously. Even if Kevre-Breizh had not given their agreement, due to delays, this display was a success gaining the attention of the media. The day ended with a concert by a famous punk-band, «Menhir's Sweeps», along with the traditional singer Louise Ebrel.

Local, Regional and state TV covered a few demonstrations as well as some interviews that night. However, on Sunday and Monday only the Regional newspapers carried reports of the protest-march in Kemper. Unfortunately the French TV did not take into account the scale of the different demonstrations across the state, with 55,000 demonstrators this campaign should had gained more attention. Must we go to Paris and stop the traffic in order to be really taken seriously?



Demonstrators march through the centre of Kemper. Courtesy YAI!

The inter-languages coordination, in which Kevre-Breizh took part, reaffirms their opposition to the French state's long-term propaganda of uniformity and assimilation. They express their will to work for a «Republic» of diversity and democracy. The candidates were asked:

1) Modify the Constitution so that the French Republic would protect and promote the diversity of the languages...

2) Ratify the European Charter for Minority Languages from the Council of Europe.

3) Vote for a new framework that allows territorial language legal rights

4) Generalise the teaching of regional languages, taking into account immersion pedagogy, at all levels.

5) Help to set up specialised media: radio, TV, WEB, newspapers...

6) Nominate at state level, a person to take charge of the regional languages in order to ensure a link between the different ministers involved and the Regions.

7) To have a specific budget for the minority languages.

The only candidates in favour of the European Charter were: Eva Joly (Green), François Bayrou (MoDem), François Hollande (S.P.) and Philippe Poutou (NPA).

The others were totally opposed, like Nicolas Sarkozy (UMP) and J.-L. Melenchon (Left-Front). However, if F. Hollande, with the help of J.-L. Melenchon, succeeds: What will happen???

Otherwise, regarding the reunification of Breizh, we cannot expect any help from F. Hollande because his close friend, J.-M. Ayrault (Mayor of Naoned), and the socialist President of "Pays-de-Loire" are strongly opposed to this political option. The financial crisis or the French state debt will be an excuse to avoid all or part of our demands. One step forward has been taken; it is now up to us to try to transform this achievement ASAP...

Jakez Derouet

Gallo is a roman dialect spoken in the eastern half of Breizh.

L.A.: Loire Atlantique...Department (county) N°:44...in "Pays-de-Loire".

Christian TROADEC (B.W.R.): M.P.?

The French centralised state will be holding its Parliamentary elections in June, some five weeks after the Presidential elections. Consequently, the newly elected President will have a strong majority in the House of Parliament. This kind of situation is a drawback for all the Regional parties, in Brittany.

Christian Troadec, leader of Breizh War Raok (B.W.R. - M.B.P. in French), started his public life with the Rock Festival: Erer Kozh, in Karaez. The challenge was already in place: the farmers versus the city and the navy. This year the navy will organise, in the port of Brest, an important meeting of «old boats». The Erer-Kozh Festival, which takes place in the summer, will attract more than 150, 000 fans in the fields of Kerampuilh. Last year, to celebrate its 20th anniversary they invited the Mayor of Woodstock (USA)!!! The people of Central Brittany are proud to have a lively social scene in the summer time. They thrive in this open world!!! At the same time as this special event, C. Troadec launched a local newspaper: Le Poher. After he sold this well-known paper from Central Brittany to the *Telegramme* he became the boss of Korev/Coreeff's brewery, a business he had to sell when he was Mayor of Karaez city.

He started his own political party: Breizh War Raok, which means: Breizh Forward! The first election result in Breizh5, with 4 million people, was very good, even if the party did not reach 5%. BWR is a regionalist Republican Party on the centre left. C. Troadec is backing F. Hollande, which brings him into competition with his old enemy, Richard Ferrand, the apparatchik leader of the socialist party in Central Brittany. As Mayor, C. Troadec has beaten him a couple of times, but thanks to the party-list, R. Ferrand was elected at the Regional Council. The first tensions



Christian Troadec

between the two appeared when C. Troadec's newsletter was published, which carried a photo of himself and F. Hollande at the 20th rock festival with the slogan: F. Hollande: President - C. Troadec: M.P. In Brest the jacobin leader of the socialist party in Penn Ar Bed (29), took objection to this and was quick to remind his socialist members that R. Ferrand was the only socialist leader in Central Brittany!!! On the right wing, former M.P. C. Menard, will not be competing in the elections but Dominique Cap, a centre-right candidate will run for the conservative party of Sarkozy. So the question is, who will be the strongest challenge to him in the second round, C. Troadec or R. Ferrand?

C. Troadec and BWR have a strong political programme for Breizh. R. Ferrand's social policy has been unpopular especially when he accepted the state's decision to close Karaez's Hospital, whilst C. Troadec and the people of Central Brittany took to the streets and won the right to keep the Hospital open. Troadec is a strong leader ready to fight hard in order to: «work and live in his own land».

Regarding the farming industry, J.Y. LeDRIAN (S.P.) is in favour of more exchanges and a new orientation in this sector in order to help the farmers to survive. Agriculture is economically by far the most important industry in Breizh. Central Brittany

is already very weak in terms of population and the politicians know that they need to reverse this decline to keep the countryside alive. In order to develop the financial capacity of Breizh, alongside of the Social and Economic Council he is in favour of a «Big Loan for Breizh». This money should help to create 130.000 new jobs in the sustainable energy sector like it did in Scotland. This celtic nation inspires a lot C. Troadec's policies in many spheres. With a budget of 1billion Euro, Breizh is far behind most of what the devolved Regions in the E.U. receive!

The windmills at sea also offered the leader of BWR the opportunity to speak about fishing and tourism. In both these industries he is ready to accept new concepts, new training and to initiate workshops in order to create new jobs for the young workers. As an important leader of the Breton language he is backing all cultural activities as well as Diwan lise (A-level) and the Rock-Festival. He believes that, "Culture and social services must be developed in Central Brittany".

He is a strong character willing to go forward together with the people. Hopefully, his regionalist's ideas will gain ground during this election for the position of M.P. for the state... That will be good news in the forthcoming local and regional elections.

GiK

<http://mouvement-bretagne-progres.fr/>

Yves PELLE MP for Dinan?

In November 2010 Yves Pelle was elected President of Strollad-Breizh (S.B. - B.P., in French). From the outset he strongly opposed bipartisanship at state level and now at the regional and local elections (cf.: New territorial law). The next election for the Parliament will give an important boost to the winner of the Presidential election. Therefore it is a huge challenge for this Breton regionalist, democratic and European parties. The centralised French political structure has inbuilt limitations within the EU. Strollad-Breizh considers that in an open market Europe is the good size. So, they ask for more Devolution in the European community. Cataluña and Scotland are good examples for Breizh.

Yves Pelle started his political career in the city of Erquy, not far from ST Malo. As a member of PWC he had a good knowledge of the Breton economy. At the Regional Council for Social and Economic Affairs he was President of the infrastructure of roads, rails, cities countryside and environment etc. As the President of the DEB (Diaspora Eco.Breizh), he developed the links between Brittany and the rest of the world. He also learnt a lot from his involvement with the think tank of the Lokarn-Institute. In 2010, he took over the presidency of Strollad-Breizh in order to gain more influence at a regional level.

Y. Pelle, stressed that agricultural production was by far the most important



Yves PELLE

mainstay of the Breton economy. Today farmers and citizens are well aware that we must improve the system and develop a new organisation: sustainable but intensive. We must ask for the control of the C.A.P. by the Regions. Breizh must promote new products in order to make higher profits. We must also keep in mind that whilst the production of organic foods is doing well at a local level, the level of production is low. This problem can be overcome by introducing a more professional structure in this sector, as they did in Germany. Whilst the landers are allowed to produce energy from mechanisation and get some revenue for doing so, the EDF in France controls the production of electricity and are not willing to develop small units of production. As a consequence the farmers do not make enough money to cover the cost of wages.

About the SICA's platform, S.B. is not going to interfere in local questions. Anyway, S.B. is very much in favour of COMBIWEST. This organisation of producers manages, with the help of the Deutsche Bahn, to transport vegetables, by rail, from Breizh to Lyon and then on to Italy. It's a very positive challenge in terms of carbon emissions and money for our regional economy. Unfortunately, the French railway, SNCF and the French administration is trying to stop this new challenge in the Law Court. Regarding air transport. S.B. is not in favour of a new important airport, in Naoned. They do not think that Naoned can be a new hub on the continent. Yves Pelle stated that, «We must develop other ways to attract tourists to Breizh». As an elected member of Erquy, Y. Pelle is very concerned about the fishing industry, especially scallops. ST Brieux's bay is doing well in terms of marketing, keeping a tight control of production. Today the main worry is about the age of the boats, some over 20 years old. S.B. is willing to prepare for the future within the E.U.

After the important protest-march in Kemper, in March, Y. Pelle expressed the need to develop Breton schools throughout Breizh. «We must do what is done in Wales», he insists. It is important to both children and parents that Breton is seen to be used in the community and in the public sector. S.B supports Ai'ta and believe they are right to ask for Breton on road signs, in post offices and in

railway stations. We need to secure the professional goal of the teachers who are ready to teach Breton. It's very important for the kids to have two or three languages in their brain in order to accept different cultures and be open to the world.

Yves Pelle believes that the conditions exist for devolution to become a reality and now is the time to create strong political opposition to the state. Breton people are disillusioned with French administration so Breizh should strive towards more subsidiarity like in a lot of the other euro-regions. Y. Pelle also considers that in a globalised world Europe is the right good size. It's with these new ideas that Pelle, a manager with a strong economic background, will stand for M.P. in the area of Dinan.

Gi Keltik.

<http://www.partibreton.org/>
Strollad Breizh Parti Breton

The Bard of Orkney

George Mackay Brown was born on Orkney on 17 October 1921. His father was a postman whilst his mother worked in a local hotel. He attended Stromness Academy and was a voracious reader as a child. Tuberculosis ended his school education -he was sent to a sanatorium-but the "enforced leisure" enabled him to read further and to "develop his literary taste" (Spence 2004).

His health remained poor. It meant he couldn't serve in World War Two for instance and he found himself virtually unemployable. George began to write however and by the early 40's his reviews began to be published and he had a regular column in Orkney's weekly paper.

His life was "coloured" though, Spence (2004) says, by a "fondness for drink." For 10 years his writing remained sporadic until, in 1951, he was invited to become a mature student at Newbattle Abbey College under the auspices of the Orkney poet, Edwin Muir.

At Muir's behest he also went to Edinburgh University to read English literature and then later published his first major book of verse, LOAVES AND FISHES, in 1959. Another volume of poems, THE YEAR OF THE WHALE, appeared in 1965 and it was followed in 1967 by his literary prose work, A CALENDAR OF LOVE AND OTHER STORIES.

All this work and his next offering, A TIME TO KEEP AND OTHER STORIES (1969), told of Orkney folk and their lives from the "deepest history to the present day" (Spence 2004). A sense of community was important to Brown and in his first novel, GREENVOE (1972), he wrote of island life being threatened by Black Star, a "mysterious nuclear development" (BBC 2011).

Brown was awarded an OBE in 1974 and made a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1977. His final novel, BESIDE THE OCEAN OF TIME -published in 1994- was short listed for the prestigious Booker Prize. It was also judged Scottish Book of the Year by the Saltire Society.

Alan Stewart



Cymru



Sianel Gymraeg newydd ar yr awyr – Sianel62

Lansiodd Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg sianel deledu Gymraeg newydd - "Sianel 62" - ar y 19eg o Chwefror fel rhan o'u dathliadau hanner canmlwyddiant. Cewch ei gweld ar www.sianel62.com.

Sianel 62 ydyw'r sianel Gymraeg newydd gyntaf ers 30 mlynedd. Mae'n fwriad gan y Gymdeithas dangos rhaglenni heriol, gwleidyddol, doniol, dychanol, dwys ac ysgafn, bob nos Sul rhwng 20:00 a 22:00.

Yn ôl y trefnwyr y gobaith yw y bydd y sianel yn "llai fel Noson Lawen ac yn fwy o Noson Chwyldroadol". Mae'r Gymdeithas wedi sefydlu dau hwb i'r sianel, yng Nghaerdydd a Chaernarfon, ar gyfer y prosiect a darperir hyfforddiant ac offer i bobl sydd am gyfrannu iddi.

Dywedodd Cydlynnydd Sianel 62 Greg Bevan adeg y lawnsio:

"Mae hwn yn brosiect nid yn unig i ddathlu hanner canmlwyddiant y Gymdeithas, ond hefyd yn brotest yn erbyn diffyg rhaglenni heriol am y Gymru gyfoes ar hyn o bryd. Mi fydd y sianel yn cynnig llwyfan newydd i leisiau amgen ac unigryw sydd yn tueddu cael eu hanwybyddu gan y darlledwyr traddodiadol."

"Sianel 'ifanc ei naws' fydd hi a phobol gyffredin yn y gymuned fydd yn datblygu'r syniadau a chynhyrchu'r rhaglenni o dan arweinyddiaeth tîm proffesiynol. Wrth gwrs, gall sianel deledu fod yn fecanwaith dylanwadol a phwerus iawn, felly mae hwn yn gyfle digynsail i sefydlu'r strwythurau i rywbeth a all fod yn ganolog i waith y Gymdeithas am flynyddoedd i ddod. Mae llwyddiant y fenter yn ddiabynnol ar bobl yn cyfrannu, felly cysylltwch gyda ni os gallwch fod o gymorth - greg@cymdeithas.org."

Ychwanegodd Bethan Williams, Cadeirydd y Gymdeithas:

"Bydd y sianel yn llai fel 'Noson Lawen' ac yn fwy o Noson Chwyldroadol, gobeithio. Mae'n fenter gyffrous iawn, ac mae 'na groeso i bawb gymryd rhan. Fe fydd lleisiau

a chynnwys gwleidyddol a dychanol na allwch weld ar y sianeli teledu presennol. Bydd nifer o ddiwyddiadau i ddathlu ein hanner canmlwyddiant yn cael eu darlledu, gan fod y sianel yn gyfle arall i ddiolch i'r holl bobl sydd wedi ymgychu dros yr iaith dros y degawdau."

Cynhwyswyd yn y darllediad cyntaf hanes teulu Caerdegog yn Ynys Môn, clipiau comedi, Tynged yr Iaith II a cherddoriaeth gan fandiau a fyddai yn perfformio yn yr Ŵyl Hanner Cant ym Mhontrhydfendigaid ym mis Gorffennaf ymysg pethau eraill.

Felly, bob nos Sul rhwng 20:00 a 22:00 – www.sianel62.com !

Summary

As part of their 50th anniversary commemoration Cymdeithas yr Iaith have launched their own TV channel. It broadcasts 2 hours per week on Sunday evenings between 20:00 and 22:00 on www.sianel62.com. It is also to compensate for the tame nature of most of the output on S4C, the official Welsh TV channel.

Welsh language communities lobby launched

A Welsh-speaking village where the local school is under threat will have become the first area to join a new alliance to lobby for the future of Welsh-language communities.

Y Parc, near Bala, is the first area in Cynghrair Cymunedau Cymru (Alliance of Welsh Communities). The launch was held in March during a day of protest in the village against Gwynedd Council's decision to seek to close Ysgol Y Parc. The alliance is an initiative of Cymdeithas yr Iaith (the Welsh Language Society), established so that

Welsh-language communities can campaign together for their future. The last census showed a significant drop in the number of communities where Welsh is spoken by over 70% of people and the results of the next census are expected to show the same pattern.

Cymdeithas will use their Wales-wide "Taith Tynged yr Iaith" (Fate of the Language Tour), part of the society's 50th anniversary celebrations, to draw attention to the state of the language at a community level and encourage other communities to join the new alliance. Hywel Griffiths, communities spokesman for Cymdeithas said: "*Merched y Wawr was established in Y Parc, an example of a movement which has gone from strength to strength; contributing significantly to our communities and the Welsh language. We hope that this alliance we're starting today can gain momentum and act as a voice for Welsh-language communities which are facing a crisis. If Welsh is to continue as a viable and thriving language, we must defend and grow the number of Welsh-language communities.*"

Penri Jones, spokesman for the campaign in Y Parc, said: "*Our native Welsh language rural communities are increasingly scarce and decaying... the natural Welsh speaking areas are facing a real risk of being deprived of everything at the moment. The local school almost without exception has been, and is, the heart of the rural community and when the countryside's schools are lost the other ties are certain to be undone.*"

"I see setting up the alliance ... as an essential step to a strategy of sustaining and keeping a thread which connects the network that's left ... the latest visionless attempt by councils to close small schools has highlighted the reality of the situation. The Welsh language areas must prosper if we are to see any long term successful future of the Welsh language and culture. 'You cannot reap unless you sow,' says the proverb. We must continue to sow and nurture the shoots of our rural communities come what may."

Launching the alliance, Cymdeithas welcomed the unanimous vote in the Assembly that week calling on the government to set up a task and finish group to plan for an increase in the number of communities where Welsh is the main language. Bethan Williams, Cymdeithas leader commented:

"We're pleased the Welsh Government will be establishing a group to examine the language's future at a community level. The Government's planning and sustainable development bills offer an opportunity for the Government to reverse the pattern where the interests of developments take priority over the interests of the Welsh language and its communities. We will be urging the Government over the months to come to accept that housing developments in a number of places in the country are damaging the language and commit to changing the planning system to prevent that pattern from continuing."

Nuclear Threat to land in the Bro Gymraeg

A dispute has been brewing in Anglesey over the last year between a local dairy farmer and a nuclear giant. Richard Jones, who runs Caerdegog Uchaf Farm near Llanfechell, has found his land threatened by Horizon Nuclear Power. His land (which borders land that Horizon has purchased on the Wylfa site) has been in Mr Jones's family for 300 years, but the firm now wants to buy some of his best agricultural land in order to build a new generation nuclear power station next to Wylfa, on the northern shore of the island.

Horizon, which is an amalgamation of German-owned E.ON and RWE npower, has already bought roughly 230 hectares of land on Anglesey and has its eye on a further 65 ha.

Mr Jones has said that 26 ha of his best land, and another 8 ha that they rent, were threatened. This would result in the 80 cows that they milk having to be dispersed meaning that the remaining land would not be viable as an agricultural unit.

Although some farmers have already sold their land to the firm, Eifion Hughes, chairman of the Farmers Union of Wales milk committee, said "the loss of land would have a devastating effect on the farmer and his family".

Mr Jones and his family have been visited three times by the surveyors, Fisher German, who are acting on behalf of the nuclear firm. The surveyors have been very forceful and won't take no for an answer. Surveyors have told them that they may buy the land by compulsory purchase.

Horizon Nuclear has stated in press reports that they have not ruled out forcing through the sale of land with Compulsive Purchase Orders so that Wylfa B can be built – but it would be a last resort.

Richard Jones and his wife Gwenda have stood firm against these bullying tactics, they have made their position clear and will fight to the end. Selling 34 hectares of land to Horizon would prevent his family from making a living. His son Owain has hopes to carry on farming.

Dewi Jones, Anglesey NFU Cymru County Chairman, said authorities and company representatives should resist turning to the Compulsory Purchase Act 1994 to acquire land. "Compulsory purchase can ruin a farm, especially if a road is built in the middle of it, thereby splitting it in two and forcing the farmer to move his livestock back and forth in a trailer or wagon. Dividing farmland in such a way can also reduce its market value. Anglesey is one of the most important farming areas of Wales," Mr Jones told NewsWales.



Farmer Richard Jones and his family

But why is Horizon so determined to expand at this specific location? It would appear that back in June 2011, the British Government confirmed a list of eight suitable locations for new power stations by 2025. I assume that Wylfa has made this list due to its sparsely populated location on the north Anglesey coast? Amlwch is the nearest small town, it's roughly 7 km east of Cemaes Bay. If Wales must have a new power station, I guess that Wylfa is geographically the furthest point away from any of our most populated towns and cities.

Horizon held a media briefing in Caernarfon recently, and were greeted by several protestors from PAWB (People Against Wylfa B). PAWB are calling for a nuclear free Wales and for investment in the green energy market. They believe nuclear energy is dangerous, as has been shown at stations in the past, such as Fukushima in Japan. The group are also worried about the impact that this development would have on the Welsh language and culture of the area.

Leon Flexman, Horizon's director of communications, told the Daily Post "The overwhelming support of the people of Anglesey for another power station on the island had been a major factor in Horizon's decision to seek to build Wylfa B".

This is in stark contrast to the concerns that worry many local residents. Concerns have been raised that, in an emergency, the mass evacuation of Anglesey in the wake of a Fukushima style disaster would be impossible, since only two escape routes onto the mainland exist, via the already congested Menai bridges. Farmers are obviously worried about consumer confidence in their products.

According to a recent survey commissioned by PAWB, almost three quarters of the 500 locals asked stated that they would prefer to see jobs created through renewable/alternative energy, and a similar percentage of locals were alarmed that nuclear waste could be stored on site for 160 years.

The Welsh Language Society are equally concerned about Wylfa B, and have declared their support to Richard and Gwenda Jones. The Society noted at their AGM in October, that since the Fukushima disaster back in March 2011, the German Government decided to close down all their nuclear stations by 2022. A referendum took place in Italy earlier in 2011 when 95% voted against building new nuclear stations. The Japanese are also pressuring their Government to abandon nuclear power.

The Society have grave concerns that the migration of thousands of builders would have a damaging effect on the Welsh language

They note that the present Wylfa station has contributed greatly to the Anglicisation of the north and the east of Anglesey. According to an Estyn report on Cemaes Primary School in 2006, only 4% of pupils came from Welsh speaking homes.

Although it's easy for Horizon to boast on their website (Feb 2011) that they will be investing £90k to support 30 apprentices, I wonder how many locals have the necessary skills and expertise to capitalise and compete for the job opportunities which could arise? Considering the number of power stations across Europe, who says the company won't recruit cheap skilled foreign workers and contractors as they did to keep down building costs for the London games?

I personally object to the construction of Wylfa B for a number of reasons. I'm highly sceptical of the grand claims made by Horizon Power, (which are supported by Anglesey County Council and the island's political parties) regarding the potential job boost for the region's workers. The health hazards associated with nuclear power are another huge turn off for me. We are regularly told by the press that these clusters, or higher than average incidents of cancers, are attributed to our lifestyles, (such as reported in the Daily Post on May 31, 2011), and I agree that this is a growing factor, but no government is going to openly admit any incidents of radiation leaks in Britain. Being honest would cause too much alarm, which is of course an added health risk!

I believe that the family should be supported all the way in their brave stance against the bullying nuclear giants.

Horizon even denies Mr Jones the courtesy of correspondence in Welsh.

I fear that this is a growing trend, where arrogant, super-rich firms seem to have the power to do as they wish, with government backing.

Since March this year there have been major developments to the Wylfa B plans as a direct result of strategic decisions taken in Germany. E.ON and RWE npower, (the parent companies who formed Horizon), have pulled out of the plans due to the global economic crisis, recent nuclear developments in Germany and the significant costs of the project.

Continued on page 11

Welsh language Commissioner's first day

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg wished Meri Huws, (see photo p.14), a former leader of Cymdeithas, well as she started her new job as the first Commissioner for the Welsh language in April. This new position has been created by the Welsh government to replace the now terminated Welsh Language Board, of which Meri Huws was the last chairman.

Bethan Williams, chairman of Cymdeithas commented: "We hope she will take the opportunity to make the substantial changes needed for the benefit of the language. With a cross-party consensus and amongst civic society in favour of establishing the post, she has a golden opportunity to start afresh and ensure this new system prioritises people.

"Although there are a number of weaknesses in the system set up by the new legislation, with goodwill and clear commitment from the Commissioner and the Government they can make a big difference. A difference that will enable people to use more Welsh day to day. We should see major improvements to services for Welsh speakers, learners, and others like parents with children in Welsh-medium education.

"We expect the Commissioner to be an independent voice for the language and to put the interests of people first, rather than following the tendency of the old Language Board, a Government agency who concentrated on compromising with large businesses and organisations.

"We hope that the Commissioner will secure rights for people to high quality Welsh language services by placing clear and ambitious duties on companies and bodies.

"She also needs to tackle the discrimination against Welsh speakers in the workplace, by securing rights for people to work through the medium of Welsh. We hope we can make Welsh organisations bilingual in the true meaning of the word, where there is substantial use of the language internally. This is an area where neither the Assembly nor the Government are showing leadership at the moment."

Continued from page 10

The UK government are hopeful that other investors will be found. In April, the Russian nuclear firm Rosatom have declared an interest in the development. If we can take any comfort from this news, it is that Rosatom insists that "the Chernobyl experience helped the Russian nuclear industry reach new standards in achieving safe nuclear power" (Telegraph 25 April, 2012).

Aled Cottle

S4Craffu - new group to monitor Welsh TV

The relationship between S4C (the Welsh-language TV channel) and the BBC will be under the microscope following the announcement on the 10th of April of a new alliance between unions and language groups. The group S4Craffu has been created following the campaigning partnership formed during the battle against the cuts to S4C's budget. The intention of the new group is to continue to defend S4C and its independence in addition to monitoring standards in the TV industry in Wales. Members of the group include the trade union BECTU, the Writers' Guild, and Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg.

Speaking about the new group, Madoc Roberts from the union BECTU said: "This new group is a chance to keep a close eye on the standard of the TV industry in Wales and to scrutinise the relationship between S4C and the BBC. This is a positive initiative, with the intention of ensuring that S4C offers the best possible service to its viewers. The group will enable anyone who fears for the future of broadcasting in Wales to raise any concerns they have."

S4C is facing cuts of over 90% to its grant from the UK Government, and BBC Wales is suffering because of cuts to Welsh services meaning 120 jobs risk being lost at the corporation in Wales. Madoc Roberts added: "The UK Government promised that the BBC would not gobble up S4C and that the relationship between the two broadcasters would not damage production standards in Wales. The two broadcasters are facing big cuts so we are very keen to ensure that this doesn't have a negative effect on the quality of the productions."

Last year, S4C accepted an agreement which meant that the BBC would be the main

source of funding for the channel. Bethan Williams, chairman of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, said that concerns remain about the channel: "Our campaign last year did ensure that there is some type of future for the channel but the future remains uncertain. There was a only a compromise on S4C so the work continues to make sure that S4C continues to contribute to a prosperous culture and creative broadcasting.



Roger Williams

"Roger Williams on behalf of the Writers' Guild said: "During all the discussions the UK Government was very keen to convince everyone that there was no threat to S4C's independence so during the consultation on S4C's future, we will be active in ensuring that the Government stick to the promises made about the relationship between the BBC and S4C and that the relationship will not interfere with the ability of S4C to act independently."

NO TO "TEAM GB"!

When the British Olympic Association (BOA) suddenly announced back in June 2011, that a "historic agreement" had been made with the English Football Association (FA), regarding fielding a Great Britain team, "Team GB", for next summer's Olympic Games in London, they must have hoped that the news would slip beneath the radar of the three other FAs of the home nations, however there was an immediate reaction.

A joint statement from the others rejected this and claimed that no discussions ever took place. "The Football Associations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland reiterate our collective opposition to Team GB participation at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, contrary to the media release issued by the BOA.

"We have been consistently clear in explaining the reason for our stance,

principally to protect the identity of each national association. With that in mind, we cannot support nor formally endorse the approach that has been proposed by the (English) Football Association." This statement was signed by all three chief executives, as reported by the BBC in June 2011.

The FA sanctions all competitive matches in England, with HRH Prince William as its President. However, as the Welsh FA president Phil Pritchard stated, "The [English] FA have no authority to speak on our behalf, they do not represent us."

What concerns international fans organisations from around Great Britain is the real threat to the four associations' proud and long standing independent status. They state on their website (noteamgb.com), that there is a view within FIFA, the world governing body, that the home nations

should compete jointly under the same banner. "It is our view that a joint Great Britain football team at the Olympics would further enhance their case", they state.

But since the FIFA secretary general has given all four associations written assurances that participating as Team GB would not compromise their football sovereignty, it's strange that only the English FA are satisfied by this guarantee? Can anyone really trust FIFA today?

When FIFA (the international organising body) was formed in Paris in 1904, they declared that they would adhere to the rules set by the IFAB. As football's popularity grew around the globe, FIFA representatives were soon admitted to IFAB. Furthermore, by saving FIFA from bankruptcy in 1947, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland earned themselves a permanent position on FIFA's eight man International Football Association Board. I hope this explains the political power that the home nations have enjoyed over FIFA until recent times.

But times have changed and, crucially, football has since grown to become a global sport, hence the growing pressure from the International Football community for the home nations to merge under one banner, with one FA and a single membership of FIFA and UEFA. This is quite understandable of course. It must be very difficult for many European and Southern Hemisphere nations to understand why half of FIFA's eight man Board is made up from one state. They question the injustice of one state being able to send four teams to play in international tournaments, and in their eyes, the UK are denying three other nations the opportunity to compete at the top level by overcrowding tournaments. If the UK had only one seat on the IFAB, this would provide opportunities for South American nations for example to have a much greater influence on FIFA.

My opinion is that this situation should be looked at again, and surely there is a way of re-distributing IFAB board seats without having to abandon our individual identities. Since FIFA already recognises 23 non-sovereign entities as distinct nations, I believe that resisting Team GB is the most sensible way of preserving Team Cymru in this global game.

Scottish fans are the most vocal in their opposition to Team GB. Some fear they could lose more than just their national team. If Scotland lost its status as an independent football nation, it would also lose its FA and with it the opportunity to enter teams in the Champions League.

Concerns have also been raised that the start of the SPL will clash with the London Games. The Olympic Charter insists that no top class football games will be played during the Olympics. Although the BOA stated publicly there will be no domestic games played during the Olympics, the SPL

have informed the BOA that they will do as they wish. Further complications could arise if Rangers or Celtic FC have a home European qualifier during this time.

The Northern Ireland situation is a little baffling to say the least. Nigel Worthington, who has recently stepped down as the Northern Ireland manager stated that "he doesn't have a problem with Northern Ireland players competing in a GB team at the Olympics" (Belfast Telegraph, 23 June 2011). s. The Irish FA, just like the Welsh and Scottish FAs, fiercely oppose the idea.

But how can a Northern Irish athlete qualify for 'Team GB' if Northern Ireland isn't part of Great Britain? Great Britain refers to the countries of England, Scotland and Wales.

So, since the BOA has not proposed to create a 'Team UK', and all the Olympics literature and promotional material refer to Great Britain alone, isn't this an insult to proud Northern Irish athletes?

next World Cup qualifiers start on 7th September 2012 against Belgium, and the FAW will be keen to keep their star players free from any avoidable injuries, to give the nation the best possible chance of reaching the 2014 World Cup, which is after all our priority, and what most professional football players really aspire to reach.

Neville Southall, Wales's most capped player, also opposes Team GB. He told BBC Sport "The whole point of going to the Olympics is that special moment when your flag goes up. What flag are they going to put up if they win it? The Union Jack? It's not my flag. My flag's a dragon." A valid point considering Wales isn't recognised on the Union flag!

It's incredibly arrogant of the FA to go ahead and appoint Stuart Pearce as Manager in the wake of such opposition. The headline "Stuart Pearce preparing to select players for Team GB" appeared in The Telegraph (1 Dec 2011), and in the same article it stated



To add further confusion, any 'Team GB' gold medallists at the Games will be greeted by the UK Union Flag, and hear the UK anthem, God Save the Queen. As if this isn't enough to mull over, the current International Olympic Committee's charter states "The mission of the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) is to develop and protect the Olympic Movement on the island of Ireland".

In contrast, this is a current quote from the British Olympic Association website "Team GB is the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Olympic Team", "The Team is selected and managed by the British Olympic Association", "There is only one Olympic team from Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Team GB."

As a result, the Olympic Council of Ireland sends a team to represent Ireland and the BOA sends a team representing Great Britain.

Although the official title for the Olympic team is "Team GB and Northern Ireland", I wonder whether the last part of the title is dropped because the BOA is aware that the OCI have jurisdiction for all 32 counties.

FSF Cymru spokesman Vince Alm has previously said, "The majority of Welsh supporters are against it ... This could be the end of the home unions and I think that would be sad". No Team GB banners were unveiled by fans during Wales's friendly against Norway last month.

It's also worth remembering that Wales's

"Another potential complication is the opposition to a unified British team from the Football Associations of Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland". Many have suggested that this Team GB football farce is all about selling more tickets next summer. Why else would the English FA and the BOA go out of their way to bully the Celts into submission? And why is all the opposition brushed under the carpet with the full assistance of the brainwashing British media?

I hope that it's not a knee jerk reaction by the Government to the SNPs growing popularity up north.

And since the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry have been made official Team GB ambassadors, combined with the recent announcement that the Queen will travel around the UK (or should that be GB) in the run up to her Jubilee, it looks as if there will be a lot more media and political brainwashing in support of this false united front right up to the opening ceremony.

I have friends in Catalonia who are envious of our Welsh national team; it's a form of national identity that they desperately want. Many Welsh fans are taking it for granted, but we don't have much time if we want to preserve our Team Cymru. Our national team is worth more than Lord Coe and the BOA's financial targets!

No Team GB!

Aled Cottle
Director of Information Cymru Branch



Éire



Vir Ex Navi

cur chuige nua critice curtha i bhfeidhm ar shaothair mhórúdaire gaeltachta

Scribhneoir gaeltachta a fuair bás sa bhliain 2002 ab ea Pádraig Ua Maoileoin. Chaith sé a shaol oibre sna Gardaí Síochána, i gColáiste na hOllscoile agus sa Roinn Oideachais (agus é ag obair ar Fhoclóir Uí Dhónaill). Ar nós an fhile Albanaigh, Somhairle MacGill-Eain, tógadh Ua Maoileoin sa chultúr béaloídis gaeltachta a bhí i réim ar feadh na mílte bliain sular scauib an cultúr angla-mheiriceánach chun bealaigh é le teacht na mórmeán cumarsáide leictreonach. Ní nach ionadh, mar sin, bhain sé leas as an mbéaloideas a bhí de dhlúth agus d'inneach ina shaol chun cuid mhaith saothar próis a scríobh.

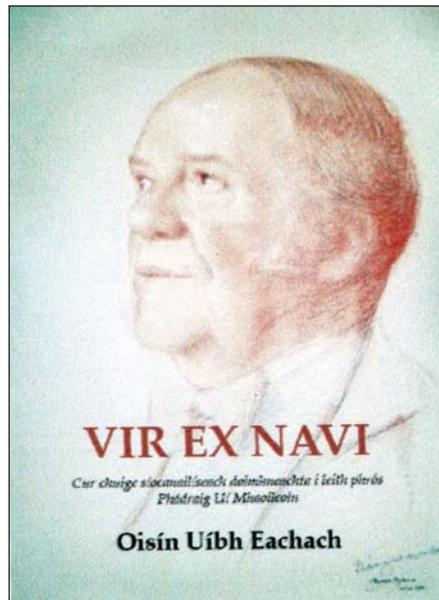
Dar le hOisín Uíbh Eachach, údar leabhair nua faoin Maoileonach, ní bhfuair Pádraig Ua Maoileoin a cheart riamh ón lucht léirmheastóireachta agus tá leas bainte ag Uíbh Eachach as cur chuige nua léirmheastóireachta chun téamaí agus coincheapa de chuid Carl Gustav Jung a aimsiú i saothair Uí Mhaoileoin. *Vir Ex Navi - cur chuige siocanailíseach doimhneachta i leith phrós Phádraig Uí Mhaoileoin* atá mar theideal ar an leabhar agus déantar cur chuige critice, cur chuige atá bunaithe ar an gcritic liteartha shiocanailíseach Jungach, a chur i bhfeidhm ann ar thrí saothar de chuid Uí Mhaoileoin – *Bride Bhán*, *Fonn a Níos Fiach* agus *Ó Thuaidh*.

Leis an gcur chuige nua seo, cuirtear léargas nua ar fáil ar chruthaitheacht an mhórscribhneora chomhaimseartha Ghaeilge seo. Déantar plé leathan i dtús an leabhair ar an Jungachas, is é sin cur chuige an tsíceolaí, Carl Gustav Jung. Cur chuige siocanailíseach doimhneachta is ea cur chuige Jung i leith na síc, mar is cur chuige é a phléann leis an gcaidreamh idir an comhfhios agus an neamh-chomhfhios. Cuirtear ar chumas an léitheora leis an gcur chuige nua seo an ceangal idir an scríbhneoir comhaimseartha agus an béaloideas i litríocht na Gaeilge a fheiscint i gcomhthéacs nua. Pléitear úsáid chomhfhiosach na síceolaíochta ag scríbhneoirí móra de chuid na Gaeilge – Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill agus Máirtín Ó Cadhain ina measc – agus an chritic atá ann i leith saothair na scríbhneoirí sin. Cé nár mhaigh Pádraig Ua Maoileoin riamh go raibh úsáid chomhfhiosach á baint aige as coincheapa síceolaíochta ina chuid saothar, tá gá le cur chuige nua chun síceolaíocht

shainiúil a chuid saothar a ionramháil.

Scrúdaíonn an t-údar próiseas an chruthúcháin, an próiseas as a bhforbraíonn saothar liteartha, agus tá téis ilghnéitheach forbartha aige chun anailís a dhéanamh ar thoradh an phróisis sin sna saothair atá roghnaithe aige agus coincheapa éagsúla de chuid Jung i leith na litríochta a aimsiú iontu. Léiríonn an t-údar máistreacht agus é ag plé le coincheapa Jung agus tugann tuiscintí nua i dtaobh na critice Gaeilge chun cinn – tuiscintí lena dtugtar léargas as an nua dúinn ar saothair Uí Mhaoileoin.

Cuireann an t-údar go mór leis an léamh is féidir a dhéanamh ar na trí saothar a bhfuil



an cur chuige siocanailíseach curtha i bhfeidhm aige orthu, saothair a bhfuil easnamh ar an tráchtairacht a deineadh orthu go dtí seo. Leis an anailís atá déanta ag Uíbh Eachach ar na húrscéalta *Bride Bhán*, *Fonn a Níos Fiach* agus *Ó Thuaidh*, tagann an léitheoir ar thuiscint nua ar thábhacht agus ar chruthaitheacht Phádraig Uí Mhaoileoin agus a saothar. Déantar gach saothar a thógáil leis féin agus féachtar air i gcomhthéacs choincheap an ghníomhaí éifeachtaigh. Coincheap is ea an ghníomhaí éifeachtach a úsáideann an t-údar chun plé le saothar liteartha i gcomhthéacs an charachtair is fearr ar féidir gach gné den scéal a cheangal leis ar mhaithe le síceolaíocht shainiúil an tsaothair a lorg. Dar

leis an údar, tá síceolaíocht shainiúil ag baint le gach saothar, is é sin go mbíonn síceolaíocht ar leith ag gach aon saothar liteartha. Cuirtear an léamh atá déanta ar gach ceann de na saothair i gcomparáid leis an tráchtairacht a deineadh orthu go dtí seo. Sampla maith de sin is ea *Ó Thuaidh*. Dar leis na criticeoirí go dtí seo, ní thugann Ua Maoileoin léargas iomlán ar na carachtair sa saothar sin ach, leis an gcur chuige nua a sholáthraítear ar an saothar sin in *Vir ex Navi*, éiríonn sé soiléir go bhfuil léargas i bhfad níos mó á thabhairt ag an Maoileonach ná mar a tuigeadh go dtí seo.

Dar le hOisín Uíbh Eachach, níor tugadh a cheart don Maoileonach mar scríbhneoir go dtí seo agus níl dóthain scríofa ó thaobh na critice de chun cruthaitheacht agus tábhacht a chuid saothar a thabhairt chun léire. Leis an leabhar nua seo, áfach, tá modh aimsithe faoi dheireadh chun gnéithe de chruthaitheacht Uí Mhaoileoin agus dá thábhacht mar scríbhneoir comhaimseartha a léiriú, gnéithe a rabhtas dall orthu go dtí seo.

Agus tionchar chomh mór sin ag an mbéaloideas ar an litríocht sna tíortha Ceilteacha, is mithid cur chuige critice a bheith ar fáil a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas léargas ceart a thabhairt ar shíceolaíocht na saothar litríochta is fearr dá bhfuil fágtha le hoidhreacht againn ag ár mórscribhneoirí. Tá an méid sin bainte amach anois ag Oisín Uíbh Eachach.

Tadhg Ó Broin

Summary

Vir ex Navi is a book by Oisín Uíbh Eachach presenting a new understanding of the literary works of Pádraig Ua Maoileoin. Ua Maoileoin was a 20th century author from the Kerry Gaeltacht. Uíbh Eachach's methodology is based on the depth psychoanalytical approach of CG Jung, the groundbreaking 20th century psychoanalyst. It offers Ua Maoileoin's readers a fresh understanding of his works and illustrates the often underplayed creativity of this author. Publishers Coisceim, Price €7.50.

Irish Language App Launched

Abair Leat!, the first ever Irish language social network launched the 'Lámha Suas' app, a Facebook application for Irish speakers of all-levels, from second-level to professionals in early Arpli.

The interactive game is made up of rounds of 13 questions. These questions vary from Irish grammar to guessing the lines from famous songs and movies, which have been dubbed in Irish.

The 'Lámha Suas' app is available from www.facebook.com/abairleat

Abair Leat!, was launched in February of this year and currently has 5000 users, and 1,000 people visit the site on a daily basis.

BAD NEWS FOR IRISH LANGUAGE FROM LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER

While Irish census figures released in April show an increase in those who say they can speak Irish to 1.77M this seemingly positive result does not mean that much as the vast majority of them do not speak the language on a daily or even regular basis. Only 55,554 speak Irish on a daily basis and 103,132 on a weekly basis. The overall position is that the Gaeltacht is still in a precarious state while no progress has been made on the use of Irish as a community language outside it.

The 20 year strategy for the Irish Language claims to aim for 250,000 daily speakers to be achieved within the 20 years (almost 2 gone already and no concrete steps taken on implementation). It does not seem likely this will happen as matters exist now, certainly not with plans by Foras na Gaeilge (FnaG) for a New Funding Scheme for Irish language voluntary bodies which is trying to force short term project related funding arrangements on them instead of providing the steady financial support needed to found Irish nursery schools, Gaelscoileanna at primary and second level and initiatives to bring the language into everyday use. Incidentally the voluntary groups get a third of the Foras budget, the other 2/3 is spent on the Foras bureaucracy with no talk of cut backs on that.

The North South Ministerial Council to whom FnaG answer to (FnaG is one of the few cross border bodies that emerged from the Belfast agreement) mandated a three month consultation period for bodies and the public which finished on 2nd April. A submission was sent on behalf of the Irish Branch on the New Funding Schemes opposing them strongly. The full statement issued on the census results 'Irish Language – Positive Census Results but Major Threats Loom' may be found on the League web site in www.celticleague.net/news archives.

It would seem that the analysis on the 20 Year Strategy given last year by two of the authors (Conchúr Ó Giollagáin and Brian Ó Curnáin, who contribute to the MA program in Language Planning of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, NUI Galway) of a new book (in Irish) *An Chonair Chaoch: an Míonteangachas sa Dátheangachas* [The Blind Alley: The Minority Language Condition and Bilingualism] is valid.

"Perhaps these weaknesses can be rectified in the implementation of the Strategy as it evolves, but as it stands it can be compellingly portrayed as a costly and ineffectual palliative care model for dying Irish without disclosing its real intent to the patient or its carers, i.e. Irish speakers and Irish language institutions. It is unclear how the Strategy's proposed supports for the

Irish language sector will provide a sufficiently dynamic boost to the remnants of the Gaeltacht and to the learner community. This sectoral approach of the Strategy represents an anaemic response to serious issues of linguistic meltdown in the Gaeltacht. It appears to be a strategy towards a post-Gaeltacht Ireland; it is not a strategy for native Irish communities or their regeneration. The Gaeltacht in common with many minority language communities, no longer has the critical demographic and social density in all age groups necessary for the viability of this proposed delayed bilingual strategy. A prerequisite for such communities is the local reconsolidation of a critical mass of active native speakers.

To appreciate how precarious the position is in the Gaeltacht read the 2007 report *A Comprehensive Linguistic Study of the Use of Irish in the Gaeltacht*, available to download on the web.

At the end of April the Irish Language Commissioner, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, published his report for 2011. It makes for sombre reading. Some key points (extracts from Summary, full bilingual report available at www.coimisineir.ie.)

long periods (> 3 years) at the end of 2011: the Office of the President, the Arts Council, Office of the Ombudsman, the Courts Service, Galway County Council, the Revenue Commissioners, and the Department for Education and Skills.

- By year end, no language scheme had been confirmed for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, which was formally established on June 1st 2011. Last year's statistics show that matters have undoubtedly been allowed to slide out of control and that the system for the confirmation of language schemes appears now to have failed completely. **I regret to say that I am of the opinion that it will prove next to impossible to re-establish confidence in that system.** (Author's emphasis).

- Particular significance attaches to an investigation which found that An Garda Síochána stationed a substantial number of members of the force, who did not speak Irish, in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht in breach of statutory obligations. Only one of the nine Gardaí stationed in the parish of Gaoth Dobhair spoke Irish. This occurred at a stage when the status of Irish as a community language in the Gaeltacht is more vulnerable than at any time in the past. The State can hardly expect the Irish language to survive as the language of choice of Gaeltacht communities if it continues to require people in such areas to carry out their business with the State through English.



An Coimisinéir Teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, at a meeting in Dublin with Meri Huws – the first Language Commissioner appointed in Wales. He offered her the assistance and co-operation of his Office.

- The report stated "The system of language schemes is at the very heart of the legislation and we rely on the language scheme system to improve the quantity and quality of much of the services provided in Irish by public bodies. In total, 105 language schemes have been confirmed by the Minister to date, but by the end of 2011, 66 of these had expired. This means that no second scheme has been confirmed for two thirds of public bodies.

- At least 20% of the language schemes had expired for more than three years and a further 20% for more than two years. The following were among the public bodies whose language schemes had expired for

- As a result of two other investigations it was found that the Department of Social Protection failed to correctly award bonus marks for competence in Irish and English in internal promotion competitions. The system, which is in operation since 1975, was set up as a replacement for 'compulsory' Irish, and it was designed to ensure that Irish-speaking staff would be available at all grades in the Civil Service. The Department of Social Protection did not appeal the decision of the investigation to the High Court, but neither did it implement the recommendations. That in itself is a matter of concern but the situation is made worse by the knowledge that the practice of failing to

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The Fiscal Treaty – Indefinite Austerity. Vote NO!

Legal Challenge on EMS

At the end of February the Government announced that a referendum would be held on the Fiscal Treaty. While they clearly wanted to avoid a referendum they were advised by the Attorney General that one was necessary. This, it was stated, was due to the fact that the Fiscal Treaty, although it transfers sovereignty to EU institutions, is not an EU Treaty. It applies only to the states which agree to sign it (Britain and the Czech Republic have refused to do so). The date later set for the referendum is 31st May. The full Treaty title is ‘Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (TSCG) and it is now being promoted by the Government, clearly for scaremongering (who would vote against ‘Stability’?) as the Stability Treaty. The Treaty includes requirements that Governments run balanced budgets with ‘structural deficits’ that do not exceed 0.5%. Incidentally it can take affect if only 12 of the Eurozone states accept it.

Speaking at the launch of his pamphlet *The Fiscal Treaty and the Euro Crisis* (available from www.voteno.ie) Kieran Allen, senior lecturer in sociology in UCD said the treaty would lock down public spending and ensure that the people of Europe are squeezed for years to come in order to pay back bonds.

Continued from page 14

award bonus marks correctly is common throughout the Civil Service.

- If bonus marks are not awarded for proficiency in the two official languages in internal promotion competitions at a time when little recruitment is taking place in the Public Service and at a time when the work of Gaeleagras, the Irish language training body for the Public Service has been all but terminated, it is very difficult to see how the quantity and quality of state services through Irish could be improve

As the Irish Times Irish language columnist put it in his headline ‘A Frightening Insight...’

Meanwhile we have the hypocrisy of the first cosmetic effort of the Family Support Scheme (which replaced the Scheme for Spoken Irish in the Gaeltacht) of issuing pamphlets to pregnant women in cities in the West encouraging them to rear their children in Irish while the Department of Educations and Skills totally ignores the right to education through Irish in the vast majority of the country and Government Departments and An Garda flaunt the recommendations of the Language Commissioner.

Séan Ó Faircheallaigh

In early April a group of some forty economists and social scientists made a public appeal in an Irish Times article ‘Austerity without Growth a Guarantee of Stagnation’ for a U turn on economic policy. In the course of this they stated ‘*At a European level instead of addressing the roots of the crisis – continuing instability in the financial sectors, unrainable debt burden and the flawed design of the Eurozone itself – policy focuses on enshrining austerity through the proposed fiscal compact.*’

At the Dáil committee on European Affairs Professor Terence McDonough of NUI Galway said the Treaty was ‘completely without historical precedence’. Forcing a country at the bottom of a depression to run budget cuts and tax increases year after year and forcing the same policy on its neighbours was not the safe option.” If the Irish people are against permanent austerity they should reject this Treaty “he said.

It was also clarified at the same hearing that there was no provision to withdraw from the Treaty. Dr Andy Storey from University College, Dublin emphasised the opposition of the European Trade Union Confederation to the Treaty. To date three Trade Unions (Mandate, Unite and TEEU) in the Republic have come out calling on their members to vote against the Treaty. The General Secretary of the TEEU, Eamon Devoy, in an article written after the first round of the French Presidential election said the final outcome could offer a window of opportunity which should not be ignored. He called on the Irish Government to await its outcome before attempting to lock us into a fiscal compact that will be bad medicine for Europe and possibly fatal for ourselves. “By deferring the referendum and capitalising on the groundswell against austerity across Europe it could help tilt the balance of power back towards the people of Europe “ he wrote. Unfortunately there is little hope that this plea will be heeded by Government. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) is sitting on the fence, not making any recommendation on voting. Their General Secretary of ICTU said they had ‘a gun to their head’ in the threat of being locked out from the new European Stability Mechanism if we do not sign up to more austerity. However this is the first time that ICTU has not backed a Yes vote in an EU referendum.

The full establishment, political and media and many economists back a Yes vote, ironically even some who at the beginning of their statements point out had bad the Treaty is conclude it must be supported.

MRBI opinion polls published in mid April

showed 30% Yes, 23% No, and 39% don’t know (8% will not vote). This unfortunately is rather different to a poll last October when there were 28% Yes, 47% No and 25% undecided. It would seem that scare tactics have brought about a shift from No vote to Undecided for the present. However it may be noted that in the first Lisbon Treaty in May 2008 the Yes side had a bigger lead in polls but lost in the referendum by 53% to 47%. So it is clear that the coming weeks of campaigning will be crucial and that the undecided must be won over to No side if years of austerity are to be avoided and hopes of recovery dashed.



**Thomas Pringle,
TD, Donegal South West.**

An interesting feature is that the main argument for supporting the Fiscal Treaty – access to a permanent eurozone loan fund to be set up by a another new Treaty the European Stability Mechanism Treaty (ESM) could be fallacious as this might never come into force. The Irish Government has deemed that no referendum is necessary and proposed bring this into law after the referendum on the Fiscal Treaty. It has to be ratified by July and is authorised by an amendment to Article 136 of the European Treaties agreed by the European Council (Prime Ministers and Presidents) last year. However the establishment of the EMS is arguably illegal under EU law unconstitutional in Ireland and the proposal is in conflict with the amendment to Article 136.

A legal challenge was launched in the Irish High Court by Thomas Pringle, an Independent TD from Donegal, in mid April. Mr. Pringle said he was concerned the European Stability Mechanism treaty and the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (Fiscal Compact) treaty raised “serious legal difficulties” both in Ireland and Europe. He said was asking the courts to examine if the European Stability Mechanism treaty could be passed without ratification by the Irish public and to assess if it went against principles previously ratified by Irish voters.

Raidió na Gaeltachta – 40 years on the air

In Easter week Raidió na Gaeltachta celebrated this major milestone in its history with a series of programmes and a new radio drama, *Baile an Droichid*. It was at 3 o'clock on Easter Sunday 1972, that Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcast its first programme. The founding of the station came as a result of a long running campaign.

Saor Raidió (Free Radio) Chonamara was established in 1970 by the Gluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Civil Right Movement) in the Comamara Gaeltacht to put pressure on the authorities to set up a radio service to cater for the Gaeltacht community. One of its notable broadcasting events was during the Oireachtas na nGael festival in Rosmuc. They succeeded in their campaign, the Government bowed to their demands and Raidió na Gaeltachta was set up two years later.

In the beginning, 7 broadcasters provided the service within the Gaeltacht regions for 2 hours a day. 40 years later and the station is now a national institution, on the air 24 hours a day, seven days a week all around the country, and in recent years internationally through the internet and satellite services.

A public event was held on Easter Sunday, 8th April in Óstán an Cheathrú Rua, from which *Togha agus Rogha* (a listener's choice music show) was broadcast live and the attending crowd entertained for the evening.

The celebrations will continue over the next couple of months with one-off programmes and concerts, and the highlight will take place in May when the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, will visit the station's headquarters in Casla, cementing the importance and status of Raidió na Gaeltachta in the lives of Gaeilgeoirí all over the country, and now, the world.



Seán Ó hÉanaigh who, with Mairi Anna Nic Úlraig linking in from BBC Radio nan Gaidheal. Alba, co-presents a programme with an interceltic flavour, *Sruth na Maoile*, with Irish and Scottish music and songs in Irish and Gàidhlig.

CALLS TO RELEASE MARIAN PRICE

About two hundred people participated in a demonstration in Derry in mid April demanding the release of prominent republican Marian Price.

The demonstration included a march from Free Derry Corner to Guildhall Square. At Guildhall Square, the march was addressed by different speakers, including Jerry McGlinchey, husband of Marian Price, Mons. Raymond Murray, former Long Kesh chaplain and human rights campaigner, Kate Nash, Bloody Sunday relative, and Foyle SDLP MLA Pat Ramsey.

Mr McGlinchey called for the secretary of state to release his wife, who was returned to prison when her licence was revoked following her arrest after an Easter commemoration in Derry last year. "He has not made clear in any way what threat she poses. I don't think she poses any threat. He refuses to say what evidence he has," he said.

SDLP MLA Pat Ramsey called for a meeting with the secretary of state to discuss

all costs, even if that means bringing in internment." MLA Jennifer McCann, a Sinn Féin member of the justice committee at Stormont who met the minister in Belfast, demanded in early April that she be freed.

She said: "The doctors have also stated that she is not fit to participate in any legal proceedings. The fact that she has twice been released on bail by senior judges, who have seen evidence not available to her solicitors, raises the question, how is she a threat to anyone?"

"This is an abuse of natural justice. On humanitarian terms alone she should be moved to an outside hospital, never mind the fact that her continued imprisonment damages public confidence in the justice system."

See also: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/sinn-fein-knows-the-real-risk-of-a-prison-standoff-16137090.html#ixzz1syO7zrLS>



Kate Nash, Jerry McGlinchey, Mons. Raymond Murray, and Pat Ramsey MLA, leading the demonstration calling for the release of Marian Price.

the ongoing detention of Ms Price. "It is fairly obvious that 12 months of solitary confinement has taken its toll. The SDLP are of the opinion she should be released. There is something not right if we have senior consultants telling us this lady should be in a hospital environment and the justice minister is being told something else."

A supporter of the dissident republicans stated "In the past year and a half there has been a concerted effort by the British Government to silence opponents of the Good Friday Agreement, known in the media as Dissident Republicans. In the English media dissidents in countries like China, Burma and Libya are portrayed as people we must support, however in Ireland, being a dissident means that you must be stopped at

The Celtic League has highlighted the Marian Price case with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Owen Patterson. See press release on www.celticleague.net. We would ask all members of the Celtic League to write to ask for the immediate release of Marian Price and two others detained in similar circumstances, Martin Corey, and Gerry McGeough. You can send a letter or email to Owen Patterson MP Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, England or patersono@parliament.uk or to David Ford MLA, Justice Minister, Room 221, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX, Ireland or david.ford@MLA.niassembly.gov.uk



Ruaraidh Arascain is Mhàirr

Kenedhlekter Albanek arnowyth re beu kuhudhys yn fenowgh ha gans y skoodhoryon ha gans y arveusysi a vos re dhidheuryans gans erbysieith, orth kost a wonisogeth. Ny's tevo yeth yn arbennek an rol gresel yn kenedhlekter Albanek an ugensves kansvledhen del re's tevo yn Kembra hag yn Iwerdhon. Byttegyns, yth esa pub prys elven genedhlogek Godhalek a-ji dhe'n omsav anserhogeth re's teva amkan a dhri Godhalek dhe voward an rol negys politek. Yn kynsa bledhennyow an omsav kenedhlek ordenys, yth esa unn den neb a'n jevo meur a vri awos y jalenj rag omsav Godhalek kenedhlek yn Alban, a via par a Sinn Féin ha Conradh na Gaeilge (Kowethas an Iwerdhonek). Hemm o an kenedhloger a'n kledh Ruaraidh Erskine, po – del o gwel ganso – Ruaraidh Arascain is Mhàirr.

Erskine a veu genys yn Brighton yn 1869, nessa mab an pypes Arludh Erskine neb esa ow servya ena yn kaslu sowsnek. Y floholeth a veu spenys yn Keredin hag yn y yowynkneth ev a dhyskas Godhelek yn freth a'y vagores Hebridek. Hag ev tevesik yowynk Erskine a dhalathas skrifa hag ev eth ha bos figur lyha a lien yn Loundres. Politegieth eth ha bos bern bras dhe'n Erskine yowynk hag yn 1892 ev eth ha bos islewydh a'n SHRA (Kowethas Rewl Teytheyk Albanek), kowethas a vedra kavos senedh Albanek a-berth y'n Emperoureth Predennek.

Nyns o politegieth Erskine kehalval orth an re a'n SHRA ha dyworth penn an gansvledhen ev eth ha bos moy ha moy omres dhe dowlan bolitek fest moy gwreydhyel, henn yw anserhogeth Albanek ha'n dasserghyans a Wodhelek dres Alban oll. Kenedhlekter Erskine o pan-keltek ynwedh hag ev a grysni yn keffrysians hag ynno oll an hwegh bro getek. Rann aral a vri a'y skians politek o kryjyans may fe unn parti politek kenedhlogek. Ogas ha certain yw y feu Erskine neb a omgmeras dyllans an “Dowlan rag Parti Albanek” gans “John, Earl of Marr” yn 1907 hag a elwis rag an daswrians a gemenieth Wodheleger y'n Uheldiryow ha rag prov a wodhvos a Wodhelek rag oll an re a synsi soodh a'n stat yn Alban.

Tybyansow Marr a vedha avonsys der aray a lyvrow termyn a dhylli ev hag yn Sowsnek hag yn Godhelek. An moyha a vri a'n lyvrow termyn ma o *Guth na Bliadhna* yn tiwyethek (1904-1905) ha'n *Daswel Albanek* yn Sowsnek (1914-1920). An *Daswel Albanek* a veu selys rag may fe gwelwaow Erskine moy hedhadow dhe'n

poblans iseldirek, amkan may sewenis dre vras, redys a-les del o gans an kledh Albanek. Kyn re bia ev pub prys gorthpredennek ha gorthvreselek, ny via ev bykken socyeleri hag yn 1906 ev re dhenaghas socyelogeth avel “kryjyans preydherek”. Byttegyns, del hevel, yth esa Erskine ow mos ha bos moy ha moy gwreydhyelhes a-dro dhe dermyn an vresel, bresel deskryfys ganso avel “*kasadow... anewn... skollyek ... kilwelek*” (*Guth na Bliadhna*).

Delanwesow troboyntel prys an bresel yn displegyans socyalogeth Marr o Sordyans an Pask ha'n Domhwelyans Russek, hag a weli ev dhe vos gorthemperourethek ha dhe skoodhya omervirans. Erskine o onan a'n bohes a'n kledh Albanek dhe skoodhya sordyans 1916 hag ev a wre devnydh a'n *Daswel Albanek* rag kyhwedhla nowodhow Sinn Féin. Ynwedh ev a assaya avonsya kevrennow ynter Alban hag Iwerdhon yn unn assaya selya paper nowodhow mellek keltek Albanek hag iwerdhonek war-barth hag Art O'Brien, gidyer Kesunyans Omerviransek Iwerdhon (Irish Self Determination League) yn Breten Veur.

Orth diwedh an vresel, y ledyas Marr assay may fo dhe Alban y honan kannas dhe Geskussulyans Kres Paris, assay heb sewena wor'tiwedh, hag a waynyas skoodhyans efan a Eseli Senedh Lavur “Clydeside Rudh” y'ga mysk John MacLean meur y vri.

Keffrysias politek aral Erskine o y goweth Liam Gillies (1865-1932) a veu genys yn Loundres dhe gerens Albanek hag omvyskys o ev yn ogas ha pub bywder yn Loundres



Liam Mac Gille Íosa (Liam Gillies).

mellys orth Godhelek, kyn fe politek po gonisogethel po liennek. Marr ha Gillies a fondyas an Kesunyans Kenedhlek Albanek (SNL) warbarth yn 1920.

An SNL yw onan a'n chapters an moyha a vri yn hwedhel kynsa dedhyow Kenedhlogeth, hag an moyha a vri a'n lies bagas may feu Erskine a Varr omvyskys gansa. An SNL a synsi ynno dres oll kenedhlogoryon trigys yn Loundres ha selys o war remenantow diwettha inkarnatyans Kesunyans an Uheldiryow (Highland Land League). An chyf diffrans ynter an SNL ha'n SHRA (Kowethas Albanek Rewl Teytheyk) o an SNL dhe skoodhya anserhogeth Albanek hag a synsi yn y eseleth Keltegydhyon dre vras.

Ny gavas an SNL dalleth da awos y vos selys yn Loundres ha spena moy termyn y'n kynsa bledhennyow ow tadhla hag owth argemynna savla Iwerdhon ha huni Alban. Byttegyns, yn despit dh'y fowtys, an SNL a besya yn kres an bledhennyow 1920 dhe vos ha bos nerth a vri yn politegieth kenedhlogek. Yn 1926 y talathas an *Anserheger Albanek (Scots Independent)* avel organ an SNL yn-dann gespennskriforyon Liam Gillies ha'y vab Iain Gillies. An SNL a skoodhya ynwedh kaws an unnnes kenedhlogek y'n furv a barti politek kenedhlogek, kaws a via sewen yn 1928 pan wrussa an Kesunyans omjunya gans SHRA ha Kowethas Kenedhlogel Albanek Pennskol Glasgow (GUSNA) rag furvy a'n NPS (National Party of Scotland – ‘Parti Kenedhlek Alban’).

Erbynn termyn fondya an NPS, Erskine e ha bos figur le posek yn politegieth kenedhlogel. Ha moy a genedhlogoryon bennfrosek tennys dhe'n SNL, an Geltegyisi y'n bagas a dheuth ha bos yn minorita ha'n messach kenedhlogel Godhelek o tanowhes. Hemm o a kas a-berth an NPL yn arbennik mayth esa Marr ha'y dhyskyblon yn minorita a'n dalleth.

Ha Marr settys moy ha moy a-denewen y'n omsav kenedhlogel, yth hevel y vrys dhe vera war-tu ha ragdresow politek erel. Warbarth ha Hugh MacDiarmid, ev a lonchyas an lyver termyn kenedhlogel berr y vywnans *Daswel Pyktek* (1927-8). Yn 1929 fondyer o ev a Gesunyans Keltek berr y vywnans, restrans a besya a-dro dhe unn vledhen na allas askorra saw unn lyvrik hepken. Yn 1930, wosa gwryth wann an NPS y'n etholans ollgemyn a'n vledhen gyns, Hugh MacDiarmid, war-barth ha Ruaraidh Erskine ha Compton MacKenzie, a formyas Clann Alban. I a vynnas bos Clann Alban omsav kudh domhwelul ha kenedhlogek ha dhedhi, del leveryys, towlow a sesya an Men a Denkys ha degemeres Kastel Keredin po Ynys Rùm. Byttegyns, ny seweni an restrans ma.

Ny ylli Erskine akordya gans strateji NPS a sevel rag dewisyans dhe Westminster. Ow krysi bos polici omhedhans Sinn Féin an unsel fordh a gowlwul Rewl Tre, Erskine a skrifas erthygel a guhudha an NPS a vos “kesoberyek” y'n *Alban Arnowyth* yn 1930 hag ev a removas dhe Bow Frynk Dyhow.

Kyn fewas ev bys dhe 1960, mar vras o didolans Erskine gans an movyans kenedhlogel ma na gemeras ev bythkweh rann vyth yn politegieth Albanek.

Kyn hwra nebes a bolicis Erskine, evel y Jakobegieth, heveli bos nebes gis koth y'n dydhyow ma, y gryjyansow a-dro dhe Wodhelek a vira a-rag yn hwir hag yw fest haval orth an welva a lies gweythresydh yethek a-lemmyn. Ny'n jeva dout Erskine bos Godhelek, kewsys kyns oll a-derdro Alban, poosek gans Alban oll. Yn dyllans Kynyav 1912 *Guth na Bliadhna* ev a skrifas: "Dhe witha an omsav Godhelek strothys dhe'n Uheldiryow a via, a pe hewul – ha nys yw – polici omladhek yn hwir". Del grysi Erskine ynwedh, y tegoodh dhe'n omsav Godhelek bos onan politek ha breusel o ev a'n Comunn Gàidhealach (Kowethas Godhalek) ha korfow erel a avonsya dre vras ilow hag gwedhow erel a'n wonisogeth wodhelek dre Sowsnek yn le avoncy a yeth. Yn 1904 ev re arveussa an plegians kemmyn:

"...dhe dhyghya an omsav yethek avel neb gwariel – avel hoba gwiw rag gorthuherow gwav tewl, po avel askus rag "kuntelyansow kowethasek" may hyllir omvodhya yn te ha kyhwedhlow (an brassa rann yn Sowsnek) [...] Termyn leun yw lemmyn ragon ni dhe hepkorr agan gwariow – dhe dhiwedha bynnari agan flows romansek gwra-travyth oll a-dro dhe gordhow ha "Pennsevik Charli Brav" hag omri yn sad dhe negys."

Y'n gordhiwedh, res yw leverel Erskine dhe dhegemeras dyghtyans pur gemyskys y'n lyvrow istori. An Istoriar H.M. Hanham a'n henow "onan a'n genedhlogoryon an moyha abel ha lel dh'y bennrewlys re beu askorrys gans Alban bys dhe lemmyn". Rag an achesonyow ma, gwell yw mires orth Ruaraidh Arascain is Mhàirr avel den neb esa ow mires yn kettermyn hag yn-rag hag a-dryv. Kows a-dro dhe agh ha Jakobegieth yn sampel yw moy y'n gis a kenedhlogieth a'n nownsegves kansbledhen ages a'n ugensves. Nowythta o y skoodhyans a anserhogeth, polici nag o synsys yn *manifesto* an SNP bys wosa an Nessa Bresel an Norvys. Na res ankevi y vos onan a'n kynsa neb a elwis rag furvyans a barti unys kenedhlogek y'n kynsa le. Tybyans a Gesunyans Kelttek politek o a-dherag y dermyn ha ny veu fondys an Kesunyans Kelttek del y'n aswonnyn lemmyn bys yn 1961.

Summary

Ruaraidh Erskine of Marr's importance to the history of Scottish nationalism and the Gàidhlig. He helped set up the NPS, predecessor of the SNP, the Scottish Home Rule Association, the Scots National League, and the Highland Land League, which fought for crofters' civil rights and the breaking up of the large estates. He was a powerful campaigner for Gàidhlig, and was responsible for the earliest journalism and novel in the language. He also proposed a Celtic League decades before it actually happened.

Why don't we stop feeding the trolls?

Unionist arguments claim that we are financially better off within the U.K. but such arguments do not stand up to scrutiny. Under international law, much of the oil extracted from the North Sea is within Scottish waters, but the money seems to go to Westminster. Cornwall, despite being the poorest region of the U.K. receives so much in aid, but Cornwall still pays more than it receives, and it goes to the exchequer in Westminster, to the net loss to Cornwall of £600 per head per year! We can assume that a similar pattern prevails in Wales where similar arguments are used against autonomy. (Imagine if Wales actually received the money for all the water in their daily "gift" to Birmingham?)

Meanwhile, the London banking system remains corrupt with the current global financial crisis generated by bankers gambling with your money, then getting bailed out with more of your money and carrying on as before. The conditions that created the crisis have not gone away, and the bankers still pay themselves huge bonuses with money taken from you.

The Occupy movement has many detractors, but one thing they have got right; our current system is not working. Usually accused of failing to provide any solution to this situation, they have generated at least one simple one-stop feeding the trolls. Instead of us giving our money to the rich bankers to play fast and loose with our money, transfer our accounts to the many credit unions that are regulated like the banks, but managed by their members and keep your money local?

While all of the economic arguments mainly apply to those Celtic lands still shackled to the corruption in Westminster, the corrupt banks operate in all of the Celtic lands. If we stop feeding the trolls, it is not the solution but it is one step, one way that we as Celts can begin to reclaim our selves and make a difference on an individual, community and international level.

Ireland's credit unions face strong criticism (see www.irishcuvoice.com) but it is worth noting that 3million of Ireland's 4.5million population hold accounts with credit unions. They are widely seen as the people's bank and while they too need bailing out, they are to need only 1bn Euros in their bail out across 407 credit unions, while the banks needed 63billion Euros. This simple comparison suggests that while some credit unions are more reliable than others, the sector as a whole is still vastly more stable than the banking sector.

For Scotland, see the Scottish League of Credit Unions (www.scottishcu.org). There are twenty-two credit unions operating in Wales (<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/debt/affordcredit>). Beware of bogus credit unions operating in the Isle of Man, check they are registered with the Financial Supervision Commission (www.fsc.gov.im). Cornwall has an association of credit unions (www.cornishcreditunions.co.uk) and Brittany has at least one (www.breizh-credit.fr).

Again, this is not a solution, but it is perhaps the road to a solution and maybe a small step towards our own money benefiting our own communities rather than providing bankers' with their inflated bonuses?

Matt Blewett

THE INDEPENDENCE EFFECT

With the Scottish independence referendum moving ever closer and the Welsh government securing more law making powers last year in their own referendum, there is a growing interest from the media in what the knock on effect will be for Cornwall. A number of journalists have contacted activists within the Cornish movement in recent months to find out more about the strength of nationalist feeling.

Only last month a Russian television crew from Vesti TV visited Cornwall to film the St Piran march in Truro and interview various people, 'The Times' newspaper sent journalists to write about the nationalist movement, BBC News Night contacted the General Secretary (GS) of the League wanting to know more about the Cornish movement and said that they would be in



touch again later in the year to make a programme, then a journalist for the Japanese daily newspaper, 'The Asahi Shimbun', interviewed the GS and several others for an article being written about devolution in the UK.

Growth in Declaration of Cornish Nationality

In 2006 the category 'Cornish' was introduced on the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) survey for the first time and since that point the number of pupils being recorded as 'Cornish' on the survey has been increasing. This figure has risen from 24% and 37% was recorded in 2010. This was extrapolated to suggest as many as 200,000 people consider themselves Cornish – over five times as many suggested by the 2001 Census. This anomaly is more profound when other factors are taken into account.



In 2002 an application to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe was made by the UK Government on the inclusion of Cornish under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Council of Europe accepted this application. The Cornish language Partnership was set up in 2005 "to promote and support the Cornish language" and one of its main achievements was the agreement of a Standard Written Form of Cornish in 2008. However the number of fluent speakers is small and widely spread preventing a nucleus of fluent speakers forming.

The Cornish are not recognized as a distinct group under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM). The inclusion of the Cornish under the terms of the FCPNM would allow a sizable minority of people in Cornwall who regard their identity as Cornish some form of protection.

A separate tick box option has never been included on the ONS Census for Cornish ethnicity, although it has been recorded. Since 1961 migration into Cornwall has accelerated, compared to most other regions of the UK. So it would be logical to believe that fewer children would be self-identifying/identifying as 'Cornish' on the PLASC survey's than current results indicate. With such minimal official recognition, protection and promotion from successive UK governments, a severe lack of political and economic devolution compared to the other Celtic countries, a surprising feature of the Cornish is not that fact that they are in a minority, but that they exist at all.

The 'persistence of difference' in Cornwall could indeed be solely attributed to a sense

of Cornish national identity, but this is to over simplify a complex issue. The role of culture in the development of a Cornish consciousness should not be underestimated in Cornwall. Cultural sporting pastimes such as rugby, wrestling, hurling and surfing are not distinctly Cornish, but are seen by many to be typical Cornish pursuits. Cornish dialect, pasties, tourism, the prominence of Methodist chapels and standing stones will all be familiar aspects of a child's everyday understanding of the place they know as Cornwall, but how that understanding manifests itself into the self identification on the PLASC survey as Cornish is not clear.

Article 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that Governments shall respect the right of a child to preserve his/her identity, but even though the UK Government are signatories of the Convention and 41% of children in Cornwall identify themselves as Cornish on the PLASC survey, schools in Cornwall are not obliged to teach the Cornish language, heritage and culture as part of the curriculum in order to help meet the requirements highlighted in the UNCRC unlike Scotland or Wales.

Like Scotland, Wales has a long history of conflict with the English and that the Welsh people traditionally regard themselves as being part of a Celtic nation and a geographic minority within Britain. This argument can similarly be applied to the Cornish, but the Cornish as a geographic minority grouping within Britain have traditionally been excluded from such arguments. In Wales, it is argued that young people can grow up in a local majority culture and at the same time be part of a minority culture within a wider societal context. In Cornwall this idea is different in that Cornish people are part of a local minority culture within a minority culture within a wider societal context. If some form of crisis is needed to resolve issues of identity then the Cornish – at both a local and wider level are certainly that people.

16 What is your ethnic group?
Choose one section from A to E, then to best describe your ethnic group of

A White

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other White background, write in

Kurdish

As noted above when there are so many factors seemingly working against the free expression of the Cornish to assert their identity, why an increasing number of children are being recorded as Cornish on the PLASC survey is certainly worth exploring. At the same time it is worth trying to determine how and where the role of the family has contributed to the increase in

these figures. Are people in Cornwall increasingly feeling antagonised by the lack of recognition for their Cornish identity, which has resulted in a growing surge of Cornish expression or are people finally feeling more confident about expressing themselves as Cornish? It could also be the case of course that the younger generation feel more Cornish than their forebears. Whatever the case, the results of the 2012 PLASC survey and the 2011 Census will make for interesting reading.

R Tal-e-bot

Cornwall Still Poor!

Recent figures from the European Commission show that Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are still among the poorest areas of the EU despite receiving over a billion pounds of aid from the European Union since the mid 1990's. The European cash seems to have done little to alleviate Cornwall's dire economic problems with the latest figures revealing that Cornwall's GDP was 71.9% for 2009 - 3% below the EU average. This means that Cornwall is poorer than parts of the Eastern European countries, including Romania, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic and compares unfavourably with the County of Devon, which had a GDP in 2009 of 86.5% of the EU average.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will therefore qualify for another round of EU funding over the next seven years, equivalent to £410 million

One ex Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament, Lord Robin Teverson, said that Cornwall "needed to get off the long term support" – a move that would no doubt drag the economy into further recession in the current economic climate!

Mebyon Kernow Members Visit Plaid Cymru Conference

MK party members travelled to the Plaid Cymru Spring Conference in Ffos Las Racecourse near Llanelli in March 2012 in what is becoming a regular event in the calendar of MK activists. Over the last few years members of both MK and Plaid Cymru have attended and spoken at each other's party conferences. At the 2011 MK conference in Bodmin, Plaid Member of the UK Parliament Jonathan Edwards was invited to address delegates and in 2010, MK Leader Dick Cole addressed Plaid's pre election conference in Cardydd/Cardiff.

Y Chorn noi'n Cho-reiltys Goaldagh

Roish screeu mychione scoillyn sy Chorn, lhig dou gra dy vel mee er naa-vioghey yn cedilla! Va mee goaill aggle nagh beagh sleih ennagh abyl eh y chlou, agh nish ta mee daaney dy liooar eh y chur erash.

She Screeudeyr Ynsee y Cho-reiltys Goaldagh Michael Gove. Sleih casley rhym pene va cliaghtey fakin y fer agglagh shoh er claare ny h-ellynyn oie Jeheiney er BBC2 paart dy vleeantyn er dy henney, gyn ourys ta ram jin goaill yindys dy vel pooar dy liooar ec y toot sonaasagh shoh sy reiltys smoo Thoreeagh t'er ve ayns Lunnin rish ymmodee bleaantyn. Agh foddee nagh lhisagh shin goaill yindys: she reiltys feer varb as almoragh t'ayn, ta currit da daa eie-oaylleaght nyn lomarcen: cur ooashley da argid as tranlaasey sleih boght. Ta Gove jeeaghyn gollrish as loayrt gollrish yn ard-yilley ayns scoill Hostnagh son gillyn berchagh. Agh she dooinney feer ghaueagh t'ayn, dy jarroo. T'eh jannoo e chooid share dy stroie scoillyn y phobble t'ayns Sostyn nish as dy chur colleishyn-Gove syn ynynd oc. T'eh gra 'academies' rish ny colleishyn shoh. S'treih yn red eh dy vel y Chorn coontit dy ve ny h-ayrn jeh Sostyn as dy vod Gove cur yn olk er ny Cornee.

Ayns y Chorn, tra hug Gove toshiaght da'n chalee echey, dooyrt kuse dy h-ard-ynseyderyn dy row ad arryltagh goaill Skillin y Ree - v'ad aarloo dy chaglaa nyn scoillyn dy ve nyn gollishyn-Gove. Hug shen broo mooar er scoillyn faggys daue y red cheddin y yannoo. Agh hass ard-ynseyderyn elley dy dunnal noi caghlaa ny scoillyn oc gys academeeyn. Ghow ny h-ard-ynseyderyn toshiaght dy smooinghyn mychione cur er bun coarys-ynsee sauçhey veagh coadey yn fallsoons jeh ynsagh-steat as credjue firrinagh ayns co-phobbleyn.

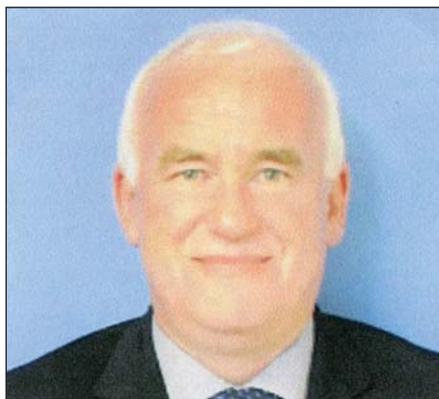
Shimmey scoill veg t'ayns y Chorn, as dy mennick ta ny scoillyn begghey shoh ayns buill fadaneagh. Yn agh ta scoillyn geddyn argid (coardail rish formley ayns Sostyn), v'eh jannoo baggyrt dy ragh scoillyn begghey sy Chorn er dooney. Hoig y lught-reill ynyndagh nagh voddagh ad cur argid son dy bragh dy chummal scoillyn begghey foshlit. Begin red ennagh y yannoo dy chummal ny scoillyn shoh myr ayn jeh ny co-phobbleyn ynyndagh oc. Y feaysley - cheet dy ve nyn aynryn jeh treishtyn co-obbragh (co-operative trusts).

Cheet dy ve ny aynr jeh treisht cho-obbragh, shen agh ta scoill dy hannaghtyn ayns boodeeys marish lught-reill ynyndagh as, ec y tra cheddin, cosney yn foays as so-

lhoobaght jeh rheynt argid as skimmee marish scoillyn sy nabooys. Ta treishtyn goll er stiurey myr sheshaghtyn coreggyrtagh ta freayll shirveish-ynsee ta deynlagh - shirveish raad oddys skimmee, paarantyn, ynseydee as y co-phobble gra myr possanyn corrym cre'n agh lhisagh scoillyn goll er stiurey.

Jon Lawrence, ard-ynseyder ec Scoill Sir James Smith ayns Camelford, she eshyn va'n chid ard-ynseyder sy Chorn dy ghoail ayns laue yn coarys co-obbragh. Ren eh co-obbraghey marish yn NASUWT dy chummey treisht ren shickyraghey dy row fail as conaantyn ashoonagh er nyn vreyll, as dy row bree ec sheshaghtyn-keirdey bentyn da barganey. Dooyrt Mnr Lawrence: 'Cur er scoillyn dy ve nyn academeeyn, cha nel shen croo anchaslys as cur reih er e hoshiaght. Dy bunneydagh, t'eh noi cooishyn ynyndagh as t'eh noi deynlaght - t'eh cur smaght er ynsagh ayns ny laueyn jeh possan feer veg. Ta'n coarys co-obbragh cur cryss hauaillagh dooin - caghlaays ta dy firrinagh so-chummal seose, ta cur ablid da sleih ynyndagh dy obbraghey ry cheilley ry hoi yraghey stundayrtyn - as dy hauail scoillyn-çheerey begghey.'

She yn Dr Pat McGovern ard-ynseyder Colleish Co-phobble Helston. T'eh gra dy cruinn: 'She shirveish heayagh yn ynsagh, oddys chebbal cairys sheshoil da dy chooilley pheiaigh. Cre'n agh oddys peiaigh erbee ve daaney dy liooar dy chur ny scoillyn ain da possan beg dy leih nagh jagh er reih ec y theay - possan phoint ad hene? Scoillyn ta cheet dy ve nyn academeeyn, t'ad cheet dy ve neu-chrogheydagh, t'ad gobbraghey ayns boayl-margee. Myr shen, foddee ad brishey seose coarys ashoonagh. Ta'n Treisht Cho-obbragh er ny cur er bun er co-obbraghey,



Dr Pat McGovern ard-ynseyder Colleish Co-phobble Helston.

cairysh heshoil, shassoo ry cheilley as boodeeys. T'ee bentyn da coreggyrtys, cha nee preevaadaghey. T'ee bentyn da possanyn dy scoillyn gobbraghey ry cheilley marish y co-phobble er agh strateishagh gys feesh rheyntit jeh ynsagh share.'

Ta tooilley scoillyn er jeet ry cheilley dy yannoo dossyn as er ngoaill ayns laue dy ve nyn dreishtyn co-obbragh. Ta Mark Clutsum ny ard-ynseyder ec Bunscoill Upton Cross, scoill-çheerey veg as ny sloo na shiaghtad ynseydee aynjee. T'ee shirveishagh ard-eiryns ta skeaylt harrish Reeast Bodmin. Haink eh dys y vriwnys dy nee cur treisht co-obbragh er bun va'n ynrican agh dy livrey curriglym lhan da e ynseydee, red nagh dod agh bunscoillyn mooarey jannoo. Dooyrt Mnr Clutsum: 'Cha nel treisht cho-obbragh caghlaa ny conaantyn ta'n skimmee gobbraghey fo - t'ee niartaghey as formoiley yn obbyr erbashtal t'er ve fo raad harrish y Chorn'. Nish, ta ny shlee treishtyn co-obbragh sy Chorn na academeeyn. Ta'n Chorn soilshaghey magh dy vel feesh-ynsee ayn ta freayll y spyrryd jeh ynsagh-steat, feesh ta cur ny femeyn jeh skimmee-scoill as ynseydee kiart ec e cree.

Cha nodmayd cur y loght er Michael Gove boght son academeeyn ny lomarcen. Va'n eie jeh academeeyn snaue mygeayrt ayns lhing Tony Blair - y Trass Agh as ooilley yn voghtynid shen. Agh ta loght mooar er Gove. Casley rish ram politickeyryn Sostnagh t'eh graihagh er goll gys çheeraghyn elley, jeeaghyn er ny reddyn t'ad jannoo ayns scoillyn, as cheet erash gys Sostyn dy chur bree da ny h-eieyn Thoreeagh echey hene - lligghey er dy daink ny h-eieyn shen veih çheeraghyn joarree. Ta Gove gra dy vel eh jannoo arrish er eieyn veih'n Toolynn as veih Finnlynn. Agh ny 'scoillyn Soolynnagh' t'eh son cur er bun ayns Sostyn, ta ny Soolynnee gra nagh bee 'scoillyn Soolynnagh' Gove casley rish scoillyn Soolynnagh. As, creid eh ny dyn, ta Gove coontey ram jeh scoillyn Finnlynnagh. Coardail rish gagh scrutaght eddyrashoonagh, ta ny scoillyn Finnlynnagh mastey ny scoillyn share sy teihll. Agh cha nel Finnlynn gollrish Sostyn er chor erbee. Ayns Finnlynn, cha nel paitçhyn goll er ynsaghey dy formoil derrey t'ad shiaght bleaney dy eash. Cha nel prowallyn ny scrutaghtyn erbee ec paitçhyn Finnlynnagh derrey t'ad faagail scoill, bunnys. Ta staydys ard ec ynseyderyn Finnlynnagh, ta cosney argid mie. As ayns Finnlynn, cha nel monney anchaslys eddyr sleih berchagh as sleih nagh vel cho berchagh. Cha nel ooilley yn fysseree shen mychione Finnlynn ry chlastyn voish Gove. Booise da Jee dy vel Cornee shassoo noi yn dooinney atçhimagh shoh.

Summary

There is resistance in Cornwall to the dictatorial actions of the London coalition government in forcing schools to become so-called 'academies' - a major pet project of the hyperactive Michael Gove, the coalition's education boss.

Brian Stowell

PUBLIC PROTEST OVER EDUCATION CUTS

There has not been such public anger expressed for many a year in the Isle of Man. We expected a tough budget, since the UK informed us that we had been receiving more than our share of VAT (which is controlled by and reimbursed to the Isle of Man Government by the UK under a reciprocal agreement). Nevertheless, the public was shocked and furious at the choice of cuts. The 2012 budget is considered to be one that most hurts the young, the old and the vulnerable. Chief Minister, Alan Bell ruled out any change in the tax system which favours the rich (no tax is paid on earnings in excess of £100,000) and he hopes to attract more super-rich to the Island, so that they may build their big bespoke mansions in large private grounds, away from the “hoi polloi” of England, where they conduct most of their business.

A pre-budget ‘leak’ to the media on Thursday 16th February revealed that the eleven state-funded pre-school classes were to close. Links were swiftly posted on social network sites, sparking an unprecedented deluge of letters, emails, and phone calls to Tynwald members, condemning these cuts. Online petitions immediately started.

The following day, and only after much pressure from various quarters, Education Minister, Peter Karran, (Liberal Vannin) confirmed the cuts in a poorly prepared press conference. They include closure of the Family and Rural Library service and Bride School. He stated that the closure of preschools was deeply regrettable but that it was not a ‘political’ decision, rather one of ‘fairness’ as it is not a universal provision (the pres-school classes had very tight geographic catchment areas).

News of the Family and Rural Mobile Library closures came as another bitter blow. The Family Library is an excellent facility which provides many child-centred educational activities, apart from loaning books, CDs and DVDs. It is available to all Island residents, including teachers. The Rural Library provides an important service to those whose access to other services is limited or non-existent. It also supplies books and talking books to town libraries.

Demonstrations against the cuts were held outside Government Buildings on Budget day (21st February) by the Prospect Union (representing the library staff) and parents campaigning for retention of preschool facilities. There was good public support on the day, with passing motorists sounding vehicle horns. School staff were informed of the closures and consequent loss of jobs in the week leading up to the budget, but were ordered by the department not to disclose this information on pain of instant dismissal.

They were further *advised* not to sign petitions nor attend demonstrations. This is intimidation and bullying, and the Department’s Chief Executive Officer, Stuart Dobson, quickly back-pedalled. As if to pre-empt any possible trouble, he stated that teachers in the Isle of Man had a ‘no strike’ agreement. This is incorrect, Manx unions have only agreed not to call strikes over pay as the Department agrees to pay settlements agreed in the UK!

During the budget speech, Minister Karran made a false allegation of leaking the news against fellow education member and opponent of the cuts, Dudley Butt MLC. Mr Karran was forced to make an ill-graced retraction but the damage was done and Mr Butt resigned from the Department the next day. A motion to defer the cuts for further consideration failed.



Dudley Butt MLC.

On the Saturday following the budget The Family and Rural Library held an open day, which was well attended with more protests to save the libraries. Letters to the press and to members of government poured in during the following weeks, confirming public anger.

There has been a suggestion that private nurseries had been approached, long before news of cuts broke and the Department has repeatedly claimed that private nurseries (a totally different set-up) will step in to replace the loss. This was in order to deflect criticism and no such plan actually existed.

Post event, a Council of Ministers Committee was set up to investigate alternatives and this committee has now

approved a scheme which will not be debated nor voted upon. Stuart Dobson, Chief Executive of the Dept. of Education and Children presented the scheme. Mr. Butt sent a summary of the decisions in the report to me with his own comments as follows:

The DEC will provide a voucher p.a. of £350 per child (not means tested) and for those entitled to free meals £1,150 p.a. The service will be given over to private providers. DEC school premises will be available for rent to providers. Private sector charges vary between £2.83 and £11 per hour, per child. Providers would be encouraged to follow the present curriculum. There is no means of enforcing that they do so. The DEC will no have responsibility for the curriculum nor any input.

With cost of rent included, the £350 voucher would provide 49.5 sessions of 2.5 hours per year (cheapest provider) and 12.7 sessions (dearest). The £1150 voucher would provide 162 sessions or 41.8 respectively.

Enquiries by Mr. Butt revealed, “Jersey now provides, at no cost, 760 hours of teacher led curriculum based Early Years Education (EYE) in their schools and from private providers and are led and financed by their Department of Education. I have spoken to the Jersey Education officers and asked how they can afford such a quantity of hours when they did their Cost Reduction Review (they have budget problems as well). They decided to make EYE a top priority. England and Scotland now both provide 570 hours free per year of teacher led curriculum based on EYE. My only reason for supporting EYE is because it has been proved to break cycles of poverty and Inequality through the rest of their lives”.

As to children with Special Needs or more extreme emotional and behavioural problems, I asked what incentive private providers would have to put extra resources into those needs. Chris Corlett, Chief Executive of Social Care stated that Social Care would address it at their expense. His intervention did give the impression of being made up ‘on the hoof’, as did several things said by the Minister of Education and Mr. Dobson in response to more searching questions by the Members present”.

Concerning the criterion of free meals, Mr Butt thought it imperfect. He said, “There will no doubt be children receiving free meals who have supportive and involved parents whose children will have less need of the benefits of EYE. Conversely, there will be children receiving free meals, who have emotional and behavioural problems or Special Needs and need the support of early

Continued on page 21

years, but will never have more than the £350 voucher”.

Other education cuts include a contribution of £5,000 towards tuition fees for university students whose courses are more than 3 years; discarding Primary Modern Language Service; loss of one of two health education officers; end of free instrumental music lessons and withdrawal of a grant to DASH (Drugs Advisory Service and Helpline).

Letters of protest and complaint have been the mainstay of the letters pages of local papers for the past six weeks at the time of writing. Some letters have suggested retention of primary French and instead, scrapping the voluntary Manx lessons, and questioning the existence of Bunscoil Ghaelgagh. Fortunately the latter costs no more to the public purse than any other school.

Chief Minister Bell has forewarned of further cuts in education, leaving all teachers feeling very vulnerable. The Department has grown out of all proportion to the increase in population, with an army of civil servants, a Director of Education and now a Chief Executive. Seems like a great deal of empire building to me! Gone are the days when it was run in a small office in Strand Street, with a director, an advisor and a handful of clerks. It ran perfectly well then. I know very well where any other ‘necessary’ cuts should be, but that’s unlikely to happen!

CJK

ALAN BENNETT SUPPORTS MANX LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

The campaign to stop cuts to library provision on the island received an unexpected boost of support this week from Oscar nominated screenwriter, playwright, actor and author **Alan Bennett**. Bennett has been a strong supporter of campaigns to keep libraries open in North West London, and personally sent press cuttings and a handwritten message to campaigners here stating: “... an interview I did for Camden New Journal...says all I want to say about libraries – and which applies equally to the Isle of Man as to NW1. All good wishes and with every support, Alan Bennett”

Bennett has indicated in interviews that children are vital users of libraries and the importance of free access to books for a lifetime cannot be underestimated – particularly for those without access to computers.

Angela Moffatt, Negotiations Officer for Prospect stated: “It was pretty unexpected to be honest – and was sent in a recycled envelope and with a postcard of the Yorkshire Dales. So a very efficient and quick response from him! I think the opinions he has expressed on library closures in the UK are almost weirdly in sync with the situation here.

I think the question here is whose opinion do you trust more on this? Alan Bell? Or Alan Bennett?”



Angela Moffatt

Members of the public have set up an online petition to save the library services at <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/iomfamilylibrary>.

A Facebook group has been created to save the libraries -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/36463959022322/> - Libraries

Website – www.saveourlibrary.co.uk

Paper petitions can be obtained by emailing goa@manx.net

CORNISH NEWS IN BRIEF

Pasty Tax

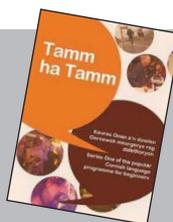
A proposed increase in the VAT of hot snacks to 20% in the UK Budget potentially means that Cornwall’s best loved daily snack – the Cornish pasty – could soon be out of the budget of many ordinary Cornish folk. As many readers of Carn will know, the Cornish pasty has become a national symbol of Cornwall and an internationally recognised part of Cornish culture. In 2011 the European Commission awarded the Cornish pasty the much-coveted protected geographical indication (PGI) status, which means that Cornish pasties cannot be called ‘Cornish’ unless they have been made in Cornwall. The award was the culmination of a long-term campaign of which the Kernow branch of the League was part. In addition to the financial cost for ordinary people, the tax will affect the hundreds of businesses in Cornwall that are linked to the making and/or selling of pasties in a Cornish economy that is severely under pressure at the best of times.

Supporters are being asked to sign an online UK government petition or write to their Member of Parliament calling for the government to reconsider its proposal. Supporters can even buy ‘Say No to the Pasty Tax’ t-shirts in a campaign that is not going to be dropped by Cornish people easily.

Cornish Language DVD for Learners

A DVD of Cornish language films for learners is now on sale from Maga for 9.99. The Tamm ha Tamm series of films includes twelve episodes on various topics such as the weather, colours, in the pub, numbers and telling the time. The films are roughly five minutes long and features a Cornish language learner learning and teaching and Cornish.

A taster of the films (including the scripts used in the films) can be found by visiting <http://www.magakernow.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=494> and can be purchased from the new Keskwesl site <http://www.keskwesl.com/www.keskwesl.com/info.php?p=10> or from Maga direct.



Waste Incinerator Plans Reinstated

Following the rejection of plans to construct a waste incinerator in St Dennis by the High Court in 2010, the plans have now been approved at an Appeal Court. The campaign to stop the incinerator being built has been ongoing since plans were introduced in 2002. Campaigners have fought a long hard battle against the incinerator, which has included a public inquiry and taking the case to various courts. In one instance UK Conservative Party Minister Eric Pickles granted permission for the incinerator, even after campaigners had been successful in democratically quashing the plans. Minister Pickles later revealed that he knew nothing about the incinerator and hadn’t even seen the report.

Mebyon Kernow – New Website Launched

Mebyon Kernow – the Party for Cornwall (MK) has launched its new website. The website is designed in a simple easy to use style and provides all the basic information you need to know about the Party. Supporters can now even join MK online, so if you are not a member of the Party, then visit www.mebyonkernow.org now.



The Way Forward

2011 was the golden jubilee year of the Celtic League and throughout the last half century members have worked tirelessly to fulfil its constitutional aims in a way that no other organisation has been able to achieve.

At the 2011 AGM several ideas about how the League should develop in the future were presented and discussed by delegates. It was agreed, in accordance with the League's constitution, that a special commission would be set up to investigate the extent of any transitional changes that the commission felt should be considered further. It was decided that the special commission would

Carn – Carn will become an electronic publication to be produced three times a year. However, it will continue to be printed until the end of next year (2013) while pilot e versions are tested and Paypal introduced on our web site. It is planned, subject to finances, that in addition to eCarn there will be a single hard copy publication once a year.

● **GS role** – the GS will focus a significant proportion of time on working to achieve more formal associations between the Celtic countries and maximise the benefit of having achieved consultative status for the League with the UN.



Three members of the Celtic League Special Commission on the way forward for the League (from left) Adam Philips (Cymru Branch Secretary), Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, (General Secretary) and Cathal Ó Luain (Convenor), outside the Miner's Institute in Rhosllanerchugo, Cymru where the commission met at the end of March.

make a number of recommendations in time for the AGM in 2012 where delegates would vote on the proposals made. Since the 2011 AGM members of the commission have discussed a range of ideas and held a meeting in Rhosllannerchrugog, Cymru (where the League was founded) on 31st March 2012 to decide on the recommendations to be presented.

The recommendations that have been decided upon by the Special Commission centre on four issues – Carn, the role of General Secretary (GS), membership and Celtic League news. At the AGM it was agreed that any potential changes to the structure and work of the League would be outlined in this edition of Carn, so that members and supporters would be kept informed about the issues being discussed. Consequently a brief synopsis of the proposals agreed by the Special Commission to be presented at the AGM 2012, are set out below:

● **Membership** – for a 'supporter' level of membership to be introduced at a reduced rate of subscription

● **Celtic League News** – for Celtic League News items to be given more prominence and a web page of its own and renamed **Celtic Press**

Further details of the above recommendations will be made available to Branches over the next month so that they can be discussed by the membership at length ahead of the 2012 AGM, which will be held in Breizh in the autumn. If you would like to be part of the discussion then please get in touch with your Branch Secretary or contact me using the contact details on the back cover of Carn.

We look forward to working with members of the League to ensure that we can develop in a way that will lead to the organisation's continued success over the next fifty years.

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot
General Secretary

A member of the Cornish Branch of the Celtic League has published a book that analyses the political discourse of two European left of centre nationalist parties. *Negotiating Identities in Europe* looks at how the Scottish National Party (SNP) and Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) in Catalonia have worked to negotiate their identity within a European context. The author, Emilie Champlaud, approaches the debate from a less well known and often overlooked polemic perspective by exploring how the ERC and the SNP discursively construct the political and social role of the European Union and whether their discourse contributes to the redefinition of a European political and institutional identity.

The book is an academic political analysis that offers the reader an interesting perspective on how each nationalist political party works to produce a distinct identity for itself in a Europe that is dominated by State politics. Members of the SNP or pan Celticists in general will be interested to see how the author - who originally comes from France and wrote the book whilst studying international relations at the University of Aarhus in Denmark - presents the political dialogue of these two parties from an 'outsiders' viewpoint. Emilie said: "My interest in European nationalist movements inspired me to write this text, but I was particularly drawn to the SNP who seem to have had a love/hate relationship with the European Union throughout their history. With the recent electoral success of the SNP in Scotland and the confidence with which they are currently operating at all levels of government, the European discourse that they have constructed for themselves, certainly seems to be working!"

Emilie, who now lives in Cornwall, has become the director of an educational charity there and is also a member of the Celtic League.

R. Tal-e-Bot



Emilie Champlaud

CELTIC LEAGUE FLAG



The new Celtic League flag, a composite of the flags of the Celtic Nations with the Celtic Knot in the centre, was launched by Gi Keltik, Breton Branch Secretary, at the 50th AGM of the Celtic League last year. The Celtic Knot, an intertwining design with six interlinked nodes representing the six Celtic nations, is the symbol of the Celtic League and of Celtic Unity. The design of the new flag was proposed by Gi and agreed at the 2010 AGM and Gi undertook to have it produced to mark the 50th year of the League. Our thanks to Gi for all the effort involved and ensuring it was ready to fly outside the Town Chambers in Falkirk in 2011.

The flag is full flagpole size 1.8m x 1.2m, it is hoped to produce other smaller sizes soon. It can be obtained directly from Gi Keltik for €30 plus p&p. Address alongside this or email: keltikpressbz@yaho.com, Tel: 0033(0) 698750555

We encourage all members to buy one, buy one for your friends also. All language bodies and cultural bodies would be interested, ask them. Your local authority and tourist office would like one too to welcome Celtic guests. Sports organisations and their clubs, traditional music bodies and cultural organisations will be interested. Canvass them to buy some.

Help us have this flag fly all over the Celtic countries!

Celtic League press releases

Those who would like Celtic League press releases via Electronic Mail can subscribe (free of charge) to the mailing list at:

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

International Branch Internet Site

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

Email: International Branch Secretary
mlockerby@enterprise.net



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Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership/ subscription rates (including *Carn*) are: €24.00, Sterling £14.50, Europe (airmail), £20.00, Outside Europe £22.00. US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank).

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Articles for *Carn* should be e-mailed to the Editor. Appropriate photographs should be sent with them.

Material for the next issue of *Carn* should reach the Editor no later than 15th. June 2012. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Celtic League.

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