

# CORN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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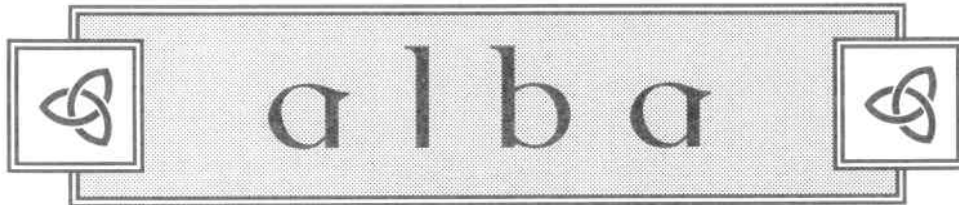


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CELTIC LEAGUE





## An d'Thàinig Sinn à Portugail?

Mata tha fios againn cheana gun d'thàinig na Gaidheil à Eirinn gu ruige Alba. Ach, cò as a thàinig iad roimhe sin? Is docha gun d'thàinig as an Spàin no à Portugail.

Tha fios a'm gum bheil sin uamhasach doirbh a dhearbhadh, ach tha dithis fhianaisean againn, agus tha fios againn ma bhios dà neach ag aontachadh sa chuir-lagha bithidh an siorram agus am breitheamh a' géilleadh gum bheil co-dhearbhadh ann.

Ach cò iad, na fianaisean seo? Mata, tha an darna fear Eireannach... Lebor Gabàla Erenn (Leabhar Gabhail na hÈireann) agus am fear eile Albannach... ar Litir à Obair-bhrothaigh 1320.

'S e leabhar inntinneach a tha anns an Lebor Gabàla Erenn oir, sa chiad dol a-mach, chì sinn gum bheil an t-ughdar a' dèanamh a dhìchill sgeulachdanan Chrìosdaidh a cheangail ri seann eachdraidh nan Gaidheal. Ach aig deireadh an leabhar seo dé tha an sgrìobhaiche a' dèanamh ag aithris eachdraidhean is sgeulan nan Seann-Ghaidheal roimh teachd Soisgeul an Tighearna.

Seo agaibh eachdraidh mic Mhìl (no Mhìlid). An deidh sìubhal tre na h-Eiphit, *Crete is Sicily* c'àite an d'thàinig iad ach don Spàinn, seadh, an Spàinn i-fhéin. Seo far an do thog Bregon tùr. Mata latha de na làithean dé chunnaic Ith MacBhregoin fad as an tùr seo ach Eirinn. Smaoinich e gun robh sin caran neònach bhon a bha Eirinn cho fad as. Air an adhbhar sin sheòl e fhéin agus a chuid dhaoine gu Eirinn!

Tri bliadhna seo chaidh bha mi a' dèanamh comhradh ri fear à Portugail air cho eu-comasach agus a bha e do MacBhregoin Eirinn fhaicinn on tùr anns an Spàinn.

"Seadh," dh'aontaich an sgoilear Portugaileach, "ach bha iongantach air an ùghdair gun d'thàinig Mac Bhregoinn agus a dhaoine thairis air an fhairge gu ruige Eirinn as an Spàinn. Carson? Mata, chuala

mi barail gun do fhuadaich na Breatannaich (As a' Bhreatainn-bhig is as a' Chuimrigh) na Gaidheal a-mach as an Spàin!"

A nisd, thug sinn iomradh air a' chiad fhianais, dé mu dheighinn am fear Albannach? Is e sin an Litir à Obair-bhroth aig 1320 mar a dh'ainmich mi mar tha. Their i gun do shìubhail na h-Albannach à *Scythia* Mhór faisg air a' Mhuir *Tyrrhene* gu Carraighean *Herculaïs* (faisg air Gibraltar) agus an sin gu ruige an Spàinn. Direach mar a thuirt Lebor Gabàla Erenn... an Spàinn?

A reir ùghdair na Litreach à Obair-bhrothaigh ghabh na h-Albannaich còmhnaidh ùine ro fhada anns an Spàinn a-measg dhaoine borb ach cha do cheannsaich iad na h-Albannaich a dh'aindeoin sin. Ach an robh e a' ciallachadh gun do dh'fhuadaich na Breatannaich na Gaidheil mach as an Spàinn gu ruige Eirinn! Ach chan eil dearbhadh ann. Chan urrainn dhuinn ach leth-fhacal a chur an cluais!

Ach tha fios againn far a bheil Tìr nan Gaidheal anns an Spàinn... sin *Galicia* no Gailisia agus dé ainm an t-sluaigh a tha air an sin ach *Gallegos*. Ged nach eil Gàidhlig aca fhathast chuala mi gun do ghabh an *Celtic Congress* iad bho'n sgiath leis gu bheil iad a' faireachdainn cho Ceilteach fhathast!

Is ann à Gailisia a sheoladh na bàtaichean gu Eirinn bho cladaichean Ghailisia aig an àm sin. chan eil sinn uamhasach cinnteach dé seòrsa dreach a bha air na bàtaichean no curaichean sin ach fhuaradh modail meanbh òir den a' chiad linn Roimh Chrìosd aig Broighter air cladach Loch Foyle faisg air Doire ann an Eirinn. Ged a tha am bàta seo cho beag chì sinn gu bheil e a' riochdachadh soitheach a bhiodh a' dol do'n mhuir fhosgailte agus bhon a bha druim a' bhàta mar sin bhiodh e comasach dhith an t-aiseag a' dèanamh thar na fairge.

Bhiodh cnàimhneach no *framework* fiodha air a' bhàta seo agus bhiodh e

còmhdaichte le seichean. A reir iomradh air turas Naomh Breandan gu Innis Tìle agus is docha cuideachd thairis air a' Chuan Siar bha gach seiche air a cartadh le rùsg daraich agus còmhdaichte le teàrr thairis air gach tathadh. Ghiùlanadh iad im air bòrd air son na seichean a chumail uisge-dhionach.

A reir aithis bhiodh a' churach aig Calumcille rud eigin coltach ri i seo, corr is trì fichead troigh agus bhiodh fichead seiche oirre le sgioba mu fhichead fear agus treallaichean gu leòr air air an giuain cuideachd.

Ged nach eil lorgan na Gàidhlig ach uamhasach tearc a-measg na cànaichean Ghailisianach agus Phortugaileach tha aitealan inntinneach againn air na daoine a tha a' fuireach ann an Gailisia agus ann am Portugail mu thuath an diugh agus sna làithean a dh'aom.

Tha iad a' cluich na pìob-mhór ann an Gailisia agus caithidh fir am feile-beag fhathast ann am Portugail air aon latha sònraichte. Sin agad an fhirinn! Iongantach ri ràdh. Chì sinn am fheile-beag Portugaileach fad aon latha a-mhàin agus sin sa bhaile beag Miranda do Douro agus sin ar an treas Di-domhnaich den 'n Lùnasdal gach bliadhna. Dannsaich na h-òganaich nam fèilidheachan-beagadanns a' chlaidheimh. Ach chan eil na claidhmhean air an cur tarsainn air an làr ach air an riochdachadh le maidean nan laimh. Agus chan eil breacan air na fèilidheachan-beaga ach air dath geal. Bu mhór am beud.

Ged nach eil cus Gaidhealachas no Ceilteachas air uachdar an talmhainn a-measg nam beò an sin tha seachd bailtean deug Ceilteach a tha nise 'nam bruan ri fhaighinn anns an àirde tuath de Phortugail.

Is e Citânia de Briteiros am baile Ceilteach as ainmeile agus tha e seachd mìle gu leth à Braga san taobh tuath de Phortugail. thuirt me Braga. Bha am baile seo (a tha an diugh an ire bhith 'na bhruan) stéidhichte sa bhliadhna 800 Roimh Chrìosd agus bha daoine a' fuireach ann fad ceithir ceud bliadhna. Is docha gun robh Gaidheil a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann roimh teachd nam Breatannaich a' bruidhinn Seann Chuimreis.

Sa bhliadhna 1875 fhuair àrsair (*archaeologist*) d'am b'ainm Dr Martin Sarmiento tughan (*axes*) cloiche, seudraidh (*jewels*), crèadhadaireachd (*pottery*) dhathte, còrr is trì fichead bonn airgid is umha bho 149 Roimh Chrìosd agus an Iompaire Constantine, buill-airm (*weapons*) is innealan agus tha iad uile ri fhaicinn faisg air laimh sa bhaile Cuimeares ann an ceann a tuath Phortugail.

Tha làraichean aig na bailtean Ceilteach

sìn ri fhaicinn, gach baile air cnoc creagach. Chì thu ceud gu leth taighean ann an Citània de Briteiros dìreach mar a tha ri fhaotainn ann an Afraca an diugh. Tha iad cruinn agus bhiodh iad tugtha dìreach mar a tha na taighean cruinn ann an Afraca a nìsd. Tha na taighean cruinn sin dealaichte o chéile le cabhsairean le claisean eatorra. Bha taighean ceart-cheàrnach (*rectangular*) móra le seòmraichean ann cuideachd agus talla a bha nas mó na bha iad uile.

Mach as a' bhaile seo bha faingean ann far an robh iad a' cuail na h-ainmhidhean aca. Bha amaran-ionnlaid choitcheann ann cuideachd. Bha dà bhalla daingnichte a' cuartachadh Citània de Briteiros seo. tha seachd bailtean deug daingnichte sgriosail mu thimcheall Guimaraes is Braga.

A reir na Ròmanaich, cha robh ach aon bhean aig gach duine. Bha na daoine seo seasmhach anns gach cath agus chordadh e riutha a bhì dannsadh is gabhail òrain nuair a bha an t-sith ann. Mata, bha iad nan Ceiltich agus chan eile sinne cho eadar-dhealaichte oir theagamh gu robh iad na sinnsearan againn!

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich**  
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

#### Summary

*Amazing as it may seem evidence exists that could mean that the Gaels came from Galicia in North West Spain and Northern Portugal to Ireland and from there to Scotland. There is documentary evidence in the Irish Book of the Invasions and in the Scottish Arbroath Declaration of 1320 that the Scots and Irish did come from Spain here. With boats similar to those of St Brendan and Columba this is indeed feasible.*



## An Gaidheal Ur

Scotland's new monthly all-Gaelic paper *An Gaidheal Ur* was launched in Stornoway in May. The paper is produced by the Gaelic cultural association An Comunn Gaidhealach with financial support from the government and is printed by the West Highland Publishing Company in Skye and distributed free inside the West Highland Free Press newspaper. *An Gaidheal Ur* is also posted free to all members of An Comunn Gaidhealach each month. The new paper has created three jobs in the Western Isles.

**Alasdair MacCaluim**

# THE SNP UNDER ALEX SALMOND'S LEADERSHIP

The decade of the 1980s was dominated first by internal divisions in the SNP which saw the banning of the '79 Group. Amongst its leaders temporarily expelled from the party along with seven others was Alex Salmond, a graduate economist who had initially worked for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at the Scottish Office and then as a junior economist with the Royal Bank of Scotland, where he invented the Oil Production Index.

He grasped the need for a more radical edge for the SNP and for its positioning in the context of the European Community. At first he had Jim Sillars, the former Labour and Scottish Labour MP, as an ally and they continued to attract support from the radical wing of the party. After Sillars was elected as SNP MP in the sensational Govan By-election of 1989 Sillars tended to work more closely with the party chairman, Gordon Wilson who had been elected in 1974 and only lost his seat in Dundee East after a rise in the Labour Party at the 1987 election when Alex Salmond had been elected MP for Banff & Buchan, Margaret Ewing to Moray and Andrew Welsh to Angus East.

As a reaction to the SNP by-election triumph Labour in Scotland joined up with the Liberals and others to form the Constitutional Convention and dared the SNP to join. Over a weekend Sillars, Ewing and Wilson agreed to announce the withdrawal of the SNP from the Convention – much to the surprise of Alex Salmond who was not consulted despite being senior vice-chairman of the party. When Wilson announced his retreat in 1990 Wilson and Sillars backed Ewing against Salmond. The latter and a string of new office bearers who generally supported him were triumphantly elected to run the party by the Annual Conference of 1990 in Perth. Tensions remained in the 1992 election and after it. Sillars and his allies Alex Neil, Kenny MacAskill and Ian Lawson presented a fundamentalist stance – ironically three of the four being recent converts from Labour and Tory parties.

Salmond was furious at the unofficial Sillars election slogan for 1992, *Free by '93*, and during the start of the 1992 parliament further flare ups ensued when the three SNP MPs, Salmond, Ewing and Welsh, voted in a minor vote on Euro



*Alex Salmond*

legislation with the Tories. Despite the activists chagrin this gained the SNP a seat on the EU Committee of the Regions for little loss. Since 1994 Salmond has been able to adopt a working arrangement with Neil and MacAskill through the strong support of John Swinney as Vice convenor for Publicity and a reconciliation with the Ewing faction in the party.

Salmond built on Roseanna Cunningham's by-election victory in Perth & Kinross in 1995 by helping her hold her seat and also increase the SNP MP tally from three to six adding John Swinney in North Tayside and Alasdair Morgan in Galloway and Upper Nithsdale.

The 1997 SNP general election manifesto displays the sophisticated stance now agreed throughout the party. Independence in Europe but not to stand in the way of the creation of a devolved parliament. It noted that during the past two years the SNP had placed in the public domain a wealth of information on Scotland's future, along with a costed budget for the first four years of an SNP government. For 18 years the Tories had told Scotland it could afford no more money to spend in Scotland and that Scotland was subsidised by England. In truth Scotland's resources, to the tune of £27,000 million more than we have received since 1979, have poured into the London Treasury.

So the SNP under Alex Salmond has gained wide credibility for the fact that Scotland is a wealthy nation, the 22nd wealthiest in the world. Scotland saves

more, produces more and exports more than England, therefore Scotland can afford many of the things our citizens have been deprived of – better health, well-resourced education, decent homes, more jobs, social justice.

The SNP has proved that she will become a full EU member as part of the rights of state succession which is enshrined in international law. Scotland would therefore have open borders with England, only political union will end – our social union with our neighbours will not. Pensions and investment will therefore be safe, while Scotland could develop an appropriate non-nuclear defence policy and offer all who wish to live in Scotland whatever their origin – full citizenship or merely residency if they so wish. In short Scotland will become a wealthier, freer nation for all its citizens, with freedom of information, a Bill of rights and as a magnet for investment.

The road to independence will be achieved by one of two routes. Firstly by winning a majority of Westminster Scottish MPs and opening negotiations. Or secondly, by winning the majority support of the devolved Scottish Parliament which will be set up in 2000AD.

Thereafter the independence package will be put to the Scottish voters in a referendum as will aspects of EU membership. Then a general election will allow Scots to elect the government of their choice. SNP will contest that election on the programme adjusted to the conditions at that time. Proportional representation will ensure a broadly based parliament that includes all parts of the country, women and ethnic minorities.

Some other key policies include:-

- \* equal status for Gaelic in keeping with a multi-cultural society. Gaelic medium education will be ring fenced as in Wales.
- \* radical land reform will include a replacement for the archaic feudal system; the development of integrated rural development as indicated by the Cork Declaration, the removal of the Crown Estate Commissioners from controlling the seashore and seabed; the establishment of an accessible land register under the supervision of a Land Commission.
- \* much stricter focus sustainable development and more imaginative environmental safeguards. Abolish Skye Bridge road tolls and build up the railways.
- \* a community based fisheries policy based on subsidiarity in the EU.
- \* planned moves to renewable energy, ending nuclear reprocessing at Dounreay,

# YES WE CAN

using the energy rich potential of Scotland to build on the long term recovery of oil and gas reserves.

- \* recycling capital housing debts to build much needed social housing across the land.
- \* introduction of a minimum social wage for all who don't work, a Cold Climate allowance for 17 winter weeks and restore benefits to 16 and 17 year olds and grants for students.
- \* international aid at UN agreed levels and targeted trade based legations worldwide.

With these policies the SNP claims to be *Best for Scotland*. That matter can now be debated all the more widely as the Scottish Parliament is set up to legislate on domestic policies.

Early opinion polls suggest that while Labour's vote is solid for any Westminster election Scottish voters may well vote strongly for the SNP in the devolved parliament. Under the Salmond leadership the SNP has moved to be main challenger for power in Scotland. The next few years should see a quickening pace in the devolution versus independence debate.

Rob Gibson



**Independent Scots read the  
'Scots Independent'**

**Contact**  
**51 Cowane Street**  
**Stirling FK8 1JW**  
**Alba/Scotland**  
**Telephone**  
**Stirling 01786 473523**

## • Railtrack •

Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central, Scotland's two largest railway stations, are currently being renovated at the cost of several million pounds. As new signage will be erected as part of this process, Gaelic activists are calling upon Railtrack, the company which owns the stations, to make sure that new signs are bilingual.

To add your voice to the campaign, write to: Railtrack Major Stations, Station Manager, Room N249, Waverley Station, Edinburgh EH1 1BB.

Railtrack Major Stations, Station Manager, Glasgow Central Station, Glasgow.

**Alasdair MacCaluim**

## British Telecom

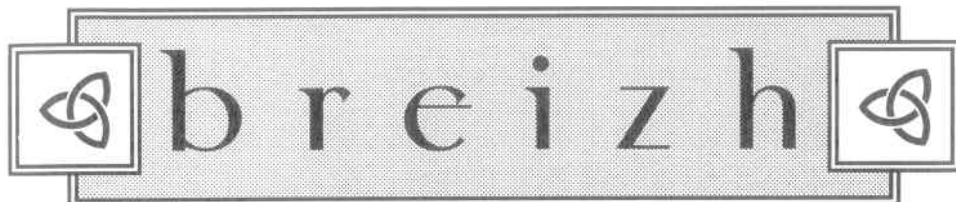
In reply to a recent letter from a Celtic League member requesting Gaelic phone bills, British Telecom said that there was no demand for Gaelic bills and that they had no plans for their introduction in future. They added, however, that they would consider the introduction of Gaelic telephone bills if they were requested by enough customers. For this reason, it is important that as many BT customers as possible request their bills in Gaelic. Write to: C. Coyle, Customer Service Adviser, BT Consumer Division Scotland, Dial House, 65 Pitt Street, Glasgow G2 7AH.

## • Border TV •

The Scottish branch of the Celtic League have resumed their campaign for Gaelic television on Border TV. The Carlisle based station which serves the Isle of Man and parts of Northern England in addition to southern Scotland currently refuse to show any programmes in Scottish Gaelic. Border TV have, however, recently indicated that they are looking at their coverage of Scotland afresh in the light of the establishment of a Scottish parliament.

If you would like to help with the campaign for Gaelic television in southern Scotland, please write to Border TV asking them to broadcast Gaelic programmes. The address is: Paul Corley, Chief Executive, Border Television, Cathair Luail (Carlisle), England, CA1 3NT.





# Ar Skinwel Iwerzhonek

Betek-henn ez eo deuet an taol da vat gant ar ganol skinwel iwerzhonek, Teilifis na Gaelige. Diazezet-mat eo bremañ, dedennañ a ra darn eus ar programmoù etre 300,000 ha 400,000 a arvesterien bemdez. A bep seurt a vez kinniget: buhez an dud er Gouezelva pe Iwerzhoniz en estrenvro, breutadegoù aferioù foran, sport, filmoù-treset evit ar vugale (a vez diskouezet a-hed ar sadorn hag ar sul enderv), sonerezh tavarn gant divizoù, keleier evel-just met ar pezh a zedenn ar muiañ eo an heuliad trivliadus eus ar seurt a reer "soap opera" anezho e saozneg hag a drofed a-walc'h gant c'hoari-bouilh rak dalc'hmat e lamm an diviz eus an eil koublad c'hoarierien d'egile. "Ros na Rún" eo anvet – Roz ar Rinoù – Graet eo dreist-holl evit an dud yaouank, ennañ nouspet koublad dimezet pe nann, ur c'houblad heñvelreviat zoken e karg eus ur c'hrouadur ma'z eo aet e gañjolenñ a vamm da c'haloupat n'ouzer ket da belec'h. Kement ha diskouez ivez e tlefed aotreñ heñvelrevidi da advabañ bugale? C'hwi 'wel, TnaG n'emañ ket diwar-lerc'h en oadvezh-mañ an dispac'h revel... Ne blij ket d'an holl gwelet ar pezh zo evito un dismegañs ouzh an talvoudoù hengounel ha kristen met n'eus ket mui a harzoù d'ar... frankiz. TnaG a ya ivez gant ar froud evit kevezañ. Ne fell ket din lavaret ez eo un dra estren evelato. Er programmoù all e vez melezeout mat buhez ar vro. Ar pal n'eo ket harpañ emsav an iwerzhoneg dre abostolerezh met degas ar yezh e buhez pemdeziek an dud en ur reiñ dihued dezho. Skignet e vez etre 4 ha 5 eurvezhiad bemdez en iwerzhoneg gant TnaG – muioc'h en daou zevezh dibenn-sizhun.

Teir eurvezhiad a vez aozet er vro, rannet ingal etre ar greizenn hec'h-unan, Teilifis Éireann 1 ha kenderc'herien dizale'h. Ar peurrest zo filmoù prenet digant broioù all, da skouer 'Machair', ur c'hoari-bouilh e gouezeleg Bro-Skos gant troidigezh an divizoù en iwerzhoneg

merket dindan. Kalz eus ar filmoù estren a vez advouezhiet en iwerzhoneg. Graet e vez gant ar gevredigezh Telegael sezet en un ti bras nevezet ha kresket e Spidéal ma'z eo bet savet en e gichen kêriadenn *Ros na Rún*.

Abaoe pell'zo ez eo bet unan eus emelloù Telegael advouezhiañ filmoù evit ar vugale da vezañ diskouezet gant Teilifis Éireann 1. A-drugarez d'al labour-se ez eo bet sanket e kalon e-leizh a grennarded ar garantez evit ar yezh, muioc'h moarvat eget gant ar skolioù. Pouezus-murbet eo bet evit TnaG bezañ gouest da gaout digant Telegael filmoù advouezhiet evit arvesterien a bep oad rak kalz koustusoc'h eo aozañ filmoù nevez. TnaG a rank mont en-dro gant nebeut a arc'hant. Goulennet e oa bet £15 milion ar bloaz pa oad o vont da sevel ar servij met ne voe asantet reiñ nemet £10 milion – B. Ahern a oa Maodiern ar Yalc'h neuze. Ur c'hresk £400,000 zo bet roet nevez'zo e-lec'h ar milion a oa ezhomm. Un aluzon! Arc'hant ar Stad a zeu dre hanterouriezh Údarás na Gaeltachta, ar bennadurezh karget da harpañ an diorroadur armerzhel er Gouezelva. Ahendall ez eus un nebeut engouestladurioù prevez ha gounidoù dister a-walc'h diwar bruderezh kenwerzh.

Ar skinwel iwerzhonek en deus roet fred d'un toullad mat a dud. Ouzhpenn 30 den zo oc'h ober war-dro ar mererezh hag ar prenañ-filmoù, ouzh o c'hinnig d'an arvesterien, h.a. Kant eurvezhiad a filmoù zo bet advouezhiet ar bloaz tremenet: 15 pe 20 gouezeleger barrek-mat ouzh en ober. Ha Telegael da vat o tiorren, hag o vont da ziazezañ kreizennoù e lec'hioù all dre ar vro, setu ma'z eus deuet ur c'heloù nec'hus evit dazont ar servij: digresket e vo a 10% evit ar bloaz'zeu ar sammad arc'hant da vout roet evit *Ros na Rún*. Ret e vo eta berraat an amzer gouestlet d'an drama-se.

Mantrusoc'h zo avat: emeur o paouez reiñ o sac'h da 15 eus an advouezhierien, ent dic'hortoz-kaer dezho.

Anat eo ez eus bec'h war TnaG evit

mont eo-dro gant an arc'hant a zebazher dezhañ. Kasas eo pa c'hoarvez an dra-se hag an holl o kanañ gloar d'an Tigr Kelt, d'al lammgresk en armerzh Iwerzhon, ha Maodiern ar Yalc'h stad ennañ oc'h embann ez eus deuet diwar an tailhoù £400 milion muioc'h eget na oad o c'hedal.

E Kendalc'h-bloaz Kevre ar Gouezeleg e kemennas sekretour meur an aozadur ez eus 1,560,000 eus poblañs ar Republik hag o deus disklêriet e niveradeg 1996 ez int gouest da gomz iwerzhoneg, ha 26% o lavaret e reont bemdez gant ar yezh, kalz pe nebeut. Kement-se a ziskouez ez eo gouest an emsav da ober berzh met ret eo e harpañ a-berzh-Stad. N'eo ket gant an hent-se e fell d'an INTO (C'hweluniad ar Skolaerien Kentañ Derez) mont hag int o c'houlenn ma vo izelaet dere an iwerzhoneg en Deskadurezh o tegemer, e sigur harpañ an Emglev a Beoc'h, skolaerien eus ar C'hwec'h Kontelezh hep dezho bezañ desket ar yezh da gentañ. Fall a-walc'h eo dija live barregezh ar skolaerien en darn vrasañ eus ar skolioù.

A. Heusaff

## Summary

*Teilifis na Gaelige has proved to be a success both in terms of the variety of programs and number of viewers. It broadcasts about 35 hours in Irish a week, 3/4 of which is home produced, the rest being bought from other countries and dubbed by a team of translators in Telegael. Unfortunately financial constraints are threatening the development of the service, at a time when "the economy is booming!" and the 1996 Census figures just released show a large increase (to over 1.5 million) in the number of people who can speak Irish, 26% of them stating that they speak it daily.*



## Ar Bed Keltiek

on line books, records, Celtic art,  
Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82  
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Note: Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper), uses the term e-bost in preference to e-mail, like the Welsh. When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

## Pascale Chevillard, "Maouez ar Bloaz '97"

The Maouez ar Bloaz (= Woman of the Year) '97 award was bestowed on March 6 on Pascale Chevillard for her important work as principal of the DIWAN secondary school ar Ar Releg-Kerhuon. This annual award, created in 1996 by Radio Glaz (Lesneven) and Keltic Associations (which aim at fostering Celtic-related activities in Brittany) is meant to highlight the part played by women in the Breton economy and promotion of the Breton culture. As headmistress in Ar Releg-Kerhuon Pascale has obtained excellent results for the 12 pupils who did their Leaving Certificate (GCE A-Levels) – the first time for her school – last year: they all passed, six of them with honours. Proof, if some doubted, that education through the medium of Breton does not disadvantage young people. She stressed however that the priority for DIWAN is not to score but to

provide education in the best sense of the word. She insisted also on sharing the honour with Anna Vari Arzur, a nun who has pioneered in Plouvien education through Breton in Catholic schools.

The award consisted of a beautiful Henriot Bollere vase (of characteristic Breton style) and a big bouquet. The

ceremony took place in the office of the Credit Mutuel de Bretagne in Ar Releg, in the presence, among other personalities, of P. Le Treut, president of the Breton Cultural Institute. CMB has been the first bank to accept cheques in Breton.

Gi Keltik  
Manager, Radio Glaz



*Maouez ar Bloaz 1997 Award (photo Gi Keltik)*

## Regional Elections

Regional elections took place in France on March 21, the departments being the constituencies in which the various parties put forward their lists of candidates to be elected by proportional representation. In Region Brittany they were competing for 83 seats on the Regional Council. The French parties' candidates sought to capitalize on the heightened sense of Breton identity, even making use of a few words of Breton in their propaganda leaflets, but there was hardly any debate of the overall Breton issues. It is interesting however, that a two and a half hour discussion in Breton organised by Radio Glaz with representatives of the 5 main lists in Finistère expressed agreement on the need to decentralize powers to the Regions in matters of language and culture. In France these elections are only regional in name, they are just a side show in the tug-of-war of the centralist parties.

The Breton independence party EMGANN did not think it worthwhile to play this game. The UDB, having failed to get a commitment from the Socialists to support Breton demands and enter into a pact with them, included 12 militant members of cultural organisations in good positions on its lists in an effort to minimize the splintering of the Breton vote



*Candidates discuss in Breton need to decentralise (photo Gi Keltik)*

without however departing from its leftist position. They campaigned under the motto "Let us succeed together in Brittany": for tactical reasons they thought it better not to call for self-government or autonomy. This soft approach has yet to prove its worth.

There were other lists with regionalist aims, a different one in each of the Brittany-4 departments. In Finistère, J.Y. Cozan, who as a General Councillor gave valuable service to the Breton language and who has now severed his links with the UDF/RPR parties, got 6.79% of the vote. He was thus elected together with another man on his list. In Côtes-d'Armor the outgoing Regional Councillor G. Gautier, close to the POBL but standing as an independent, failed to be re-elected.

The best results achieved by the UDB lists were 4.08% and 3.87% in Côtes-d'Armor and Morbihan respectively. In all they garnered 49,336 votes in the 5 departments, an increase of 13,000 compared to 1992 when however they formed an alliance with POBL and EMGANN. Not enough to get any elected. Adding all the votes cast for Breton-minded candidates, the total amounted to 95,000. The UDB is satisfied that the potential for further gains is there, and that the above increase is all the more remarkable that the abstention rate (46.5%!) was higher than before – a sign that the people recognise how little the Regional Council can do, given its very limited attributions and meagre budget.

The traditional French parties of Left and Right got 34 seats each, totalling with other minority groups 37 and 38 respectively. The National Front failed to make any progress, even lost 23,000 votes, but got 7 seats. The ecologists fared very badly.

J.Y. Cozan and his associate cast their vote for the Rightist candidate to the presidency of the B-4 Regional Council, the duke Josselin de Rohan Chabot, thus ensuring his election. The duke is expected to rock the Breton boat as little as his predecessor Y. Bourges. However Cozan was rewarded with the Vice-Presidency of the Council in charge of cultural matters. He has since pledged to promote "the Breton personality" and to work for the setting up of a Breton television channel. The pressure is mounting for such a service. Cozan is also now looking around for the possibility of launching a broadly based regionalist movement. Its appeal is not directed only to the "Right", it could be a serious rival to the UDB.

## Darempredoù Politikel etre Iwerzhon ha Bro-Skos

Da geñver un droiad e Glasc'ho d'an 9 a viz Mae e fislêrias Bertie Ahern, Kentañ Ministr Iwerzhon, e oa mennet da ziorren darempredoù politikel, kenwerzhel ha sevenadurel etre ar vro-mañ ha Bro-Skos. Se a vefe graet e framm ar C'huzul Iwerzhonat-Breizhveuriat (Kuzul an Inizi) zo da vezañ savet hervez ma'z eo divizet dre an emglev a beoc'h sinet e Béal Feirste d'an 10 a viz Ebrel. Emañ Ahern e soñj delc'her emvodoù reoliek, div wezh ar bloaz marteze, gant ar C'hentañ Ministr skosat a vo anvet goude an dilennadegoù d'ar Parlamant e Din Edin. Emvodoù all a vo etre ministred Iwerzhonat ha kargidi skosat evit plediñ ouzh al lazoù niverus ha zo boutin d'an div vro.

Goude ma oa bet dieubet an darn vrasañ eus Iwerzhon e 1921 ne oa ket bet mui a zarempredoù politikel eeun etrezo.

Er feur ma oa ul liamm bennak etre o dilennidi e rankent bezañ evezhie: ret e oa diwall na vije anaozet ar Saozon! Met bremañ gant ar c'hemmoù bonreizhel o tegas emrenerezh da Vro-Skos e vo tu da c'houarnamant Dulenn da c'hoveliañ darempredoù kefridiel ganti.

Republikaned'zo zo troet da grediñ e klaskor dre ar C'huzul-an-Inizi sachañ Iwerzhon en-dro e-barzh ar C'h-Commonwealth. Ne gav ket din, rak re a zizunvaniezh a savfe dre ar vro. Dre startaat an darempredoù gant Bro-Skos avat e tlefe bezañ gwanaet eneberezh ur c'halz eus Unanourien Bro-Ulad ouzh an Emglev a Beoc'h. Plijout a ra dezho kounaat ez int a orin skosat. Diaes e vo dezho chom da vouzhañ ma en em renk mat an div vro ez int perzhiek enno.

A.H.

## NANTES IN BRITTANY

More than 5,000 people from all parts of Brittany took part in a demonstration on March 1 in Nantes organised by CUAB, the committee campaigning for the administrative reunification of Loire-Atlantique with the other 4 Breton departments. By all press accounts it was a success, although it coincided with another demonstration, against the French National Front, of which the participants joined the CUAB's late in the afternoon. On the same day, the N.F. had a gathering in another part of the city, attended by about 2,000 people.

It is many years since so many Bretons came together to express opposition to the division of our country the main reasons for which is the will of all French governments to keep it weak. The separation of Loire-Atlantique goes back to a decree of the Vichy government in 1941. It was decided in the context of Pétain's restauration of the provinces but it deliberately ignored the fact that this area had continuously been part of Brittany since 845. The population was not consulted. This arbitrary act was confirmed in 1960 by the arch-centralist Gaullist P.M. Debré. When campaigning for the presidency in 1981, Mitterand promised reunification but forgot about it as soon as elected. Since then, public money has been lavished by the "baron" Guichard, president of the L.-A. General Council, on schemes to create some sort of identity for the artificial "Pays de Loire" region to which "his" department is attached. (Guichard has now retired. Good riddance!)



For Nantes in Brittany 1/3/98 (photo Th. Jigourel)

In April 1997 the Regional Council of "Brittany-4" adopted a resolution inviting the L.-A. Council to reunification talks. This was dismissed by Guichard. The government says no change will occur unless the L.-A. people want it. Don't expect any initiative from Paris!

Yet a majority has been repeatedly shown to be in favour. On March 1 CUAB had a tent on one of the avenues in Nantes for the public to vote on the issue under control from press. 3,032 people took part. 98% voted for reunification. Of those residing in L.-A. the figure was 72%, which was still a strong majority. Granted that it may have been influenced by the coincidence with the demonstration, but on 17 April the magazine Le Pellerin published the results of a representative poll showing that 62% of the people of L.-A. wished it to be part of Region Brittany.

This shows a great constancy in their mind: in 1986 a similar poll conducted by the Nantes High School of Commerce gave a figure of 63%. It is all the more remarkable that for the past 60 years the population of the Nantes area were kept ignorant by the media of events relating to Breton identity in the rest of Brittany.

The UDB is now campaigning for a referendum on the issue in L.-A. The party opposes any reform of the voting system for the European elections (which may finally be based in France on the regions as it is in other European States) if it does not respect the territorial integrity of Brittany. With its 5 departments our country constitutes a European region of average size. It possesses a strong identity which enhances its potential in the economic field. It should have 5 MEPs.

Th. Jigourel and A. Heusaff



# Thousands in Support of Charter



For ratification of Language Charter Rennes 4/4/98 (photo Th. Jigourel)

Six member States of the Council of Europe, among those which have signed the European Charter for Minority Languages, have to date ratified it: Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Switzerland, Croatia. However, France, the self-proclaimed land of the Rights of Man, continues to refuse to sign it with the usual contempt and contrived pretexts.

Having got the minimum requirement of 5 ratifications the Charter is now applicable but the French government takes refuge behind the negative advice given a year ago by the Council of State which said that the Charter would contravene the Constitution: its article 2 (introduced undoubtedly as a preventive clause in 1992) states that French is **THE** languages of the Republic. The way is thus blocked to a legal status being given to the "regional" languages. (So try now to get the sacred constitution re-amended! This cat and mouse game could go on until... the mouse falls dead! It is the desired effect).

A demonstration by four or five thousand people took place in Rennes on April 4 to press the French government to adopt the Charter and enable the Breton language to have its due place in the media, in education and in public life. They were responding to the call of some fifteen cultural and political organisations. They marched through the streets behind a huge black and white flag and a pipe band playing the music of the ARB hymn (words by Glenmor). Among them were elected representatives such the outgoing Regional Councillor Gérard Gautier and the new

Regional Councillor Jean-Yves Cozan now vice-president for cultural matters at regional level.

On the same day similar demonstrations were staged by 2,500-3,000 Basques in Bayonne and by a much smaller number of Alsacians in Strassburg. In the evening a Committee of the peoples of France for the signing of the Charter was set up in Rennes.

Thierry Jigourel

## Kembraeg evit ar Vrezhoned

by Yvan Guehennec, 160 pages, with an introduction by Goulven Pennaod. Publ. by PREDER, 19 Park Maen Meur, 29700 Plovelh/Plomelin. 80 F + post.

This book of Welsh grammar is written from the point of view of those who know Breton, not as has usually been the case as a translation or an adaptation of textbooks with explanations in English. Given the numerous similarities between Welsh and Breton, the explanations could thus be cut down considerably. The lay-out of the various lessons (33 in all) is clear. In illustrating the rules, the author has used as much as possible terms which are common, but for the spelling, to the two languages. His grammatical terms, coined by the Preder 'school', differ partly from those in use for many decades now and adopted in the monolingual Breton dictionary of An Here. He has thus 'pennanv', 'adanv', 'gwanadur', instead of 'anv-kadam', 'anv-gwan', 'blotadur' for 'substantive',

bimonthly literary magazine in Breton, sub. 180 F/outside State 200 F to P. ar Bihan, 16 r. des Fours à Chaux, 35400 Sant-Malo.

The March-April issue (Nr 307, 120 pp.) brings several poems, one of which, *Mab an Intañvez*, by H. Seubil gKernaoudour, is in richly alliterated as well as rhyming verses about the Peredur the British-Welsh hero who became Parcival in the Arthurian tales. There is also a number of rather short stories, four of them translated from Dutch, German and French; a tale from the F. an Uhel collection with a translation into Cornish by S. Amos; a detailed study of how to use the preposition **da** (= to) by Roman ar Glev, the author of a ten volume French-Breton dictionary published in 1993 by **AL LIAMM** which gives numerous examples of contexts in which the words have been used by good writers (some 4,000 pages). Reun ar C'halan has a 7 page account of the poetry of Jorge Guillén, a Spaniard whom he got acquainted with in America and who wrote for him a five page poem, translated here into Breton under the title "Archantourezh ar Morganezh" (The Lure of the Sirens).

adjective', lenition', respectively. He presents the Welsh language in its standard modern form such as it is found in radio and television, in literature and journalism. His book will enable the Breton, but also the Welsh students to gain a good knowledge of the extent to which their languages are similar and thereby a deeper understanding of their structures. Two other volumes are planned.

A.H.

## RADIO IN BRETON

Two new community radio stations, Radio Kerne (Kemper) and Arvorig (Kommanna) have now been licensed and are due shortly to start broadcasting in Breton. This is an important step towards creating a federation of the stations broadcasting in our language, thus joining Radio Kreiz Breizh, Radio Gwened, Radio Glas and others. The Breton Cultural Council has just published a booklet giving an overview of the present position of the languages on radio.

A.H.



## Pigion Celtaidd

### Ynys Manaw

#### Y Perthynas Gyda'r Deyrnas Gyfunol

Dros y blynyddoedd trosglwyddwyd mwy a mwy o reolaeth fewnol yr Ynys o Lundain i lywodraeth yr Ynys - Tynwald. Mae'r cyfrifoldeb eithaf ar gyfer llywodraeth dda yn nwylo coron Lloegr, ar gyngor Gweinidogion y Deyrnas Gyfunol. O dan gyfraith ryngwladol mae'r Deyrnas Gyfunol yn gyfrifol am gysylltiadau allanol, ond iddynt ymgynghori gyda Tynwald cyn arwyddo unrhyw gytundeb a fyddai'n effeithio ar yr Ynys. Mae materion amddiffyn hefyd yn nwylo Llundain, a Tynwald yn talu cyfraniad blynyddol.

#### Y Perthynas Gyda'r Gymuned Ewropeaid

Mae'r Gymuned Ewropeaidd wedi cytuno statws cynorthwyol gyda'r Ynys sy'n sicrhau mynediad a symudiad rhydd ar gyfer nwyddau rhwng yr Ynys a'r Gymuned. Felly mae'r Ynys yn rhan o'r Gymuned ar gyfer masnach, heb gyfrannu at gyllideb y Gymuned na thynnu budd ohoni. Dyna paham mae'r Ynys wedi fflynnu fel canolfan Ewropeaidd y tu allan i'r Gymuned ond efo mynediad rhydd iddi.

Clive James

### Cernyw

#### Is-Etholiadau

Enillodd y Toriaid ddau is-etholiad yng Nghernyw yn ddiweddar. Enillwyd sedd oddi ar annibynnwr yn ward Gogledd Helles/Helston, dosbarth Kerrier, ac enillwyd sedd oddi ar y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ward Crinnis, dosbarth Restormel.

CJ

#### Gwyl Y Gernyweg

Cynhaliwyd wythnos o weithgareddau Cernyweg ym mis Ebrill - y "Goel an Yeth" (Gŵyl yr Iaith ) gyntaf gan Cowethas an Yeth Kernewek. Bwriedir cynnal yr ŵyl, sydd yn cynnwys y Penwythnos Gernyweg draddodiadol , bob blwyddyn o hyn ymlaen. Cynhaliwyd y Bennseythyn/ Benwythnos ei hun (a fynyichir gan ddefnyddwyr y sustem ffonemig "Kemmyrn" gan fwyaf) - gwersi, darlithiau, dawnio - wrth ymyl Lizard yn nehau eithaf Cernyw. Bwriedir cyhoeddi y geiriadur cyntaf o Saesneg i Gernyweg 'Kemmyrn' erbyn seremoni Gorseth Kernow ym mis Hydref eleni.

### Yr Alban

#### Gorsaf Reilffordd Caeredin

Sylwyd gan rai cenedlaetholwyr bod y cyhoeddiadau ar y corn siarad ynghylch plattfformau ac amseroedd y trenau ym mhrif orsaf reilffordd Caeredin, Gorsaf Waverley, yn cael eu cyfleu nid yn unig yn uniaith Saesneg (fel y disgwyliai rhywun wrth gwr!), ond gydag acen Seisnig, a rhai enwau lleoedd Albanaidd yn cael eu cam-ynganu. Mae'n debyg eu bod yn debyg i'r llais cyfogledd fydd yn cyfleu'r cyhoeddiadau yng ngorsaf Caerdydd Canolog. Cafwyd ymgyrch am gyhoeddiadau corn siarad gan Albanwr (heb ofyn am newid yr iaith) a llwyddodd yr ymgyrch yn o rwydd. Erbyn hyn mae'r cyhoeddiadau yn dal yn Saesneg ond llais Albanaidd sydd yn eu cyfleu. Mae hyn yn esiampl o agweddau gwahanol tuag at iaith yng Nghymru a'r Alban. Gwelir Saesneg ag acen Albanaidd yn sumbol o'u cenedligrwydd gan rai yn yr Alban. Ydi hi'n werth i ni ystyried mynnu nid yn unig statws i'r Gymraeg ond hefyd bod Saesneg swyddogol yn cael ei chyfleu mewn acen Gymreig?

Robat ap Tomos

### Yr angen am ddeddf iaith yn y sector preifat

Efallai mai 'gwell hanner na dim' yw'r dywediad mwyaf cyffredin i ni fel cenedl. Hynny yw, hanner sianel, hanner deddf iaith, hanner datganoli hyd yn oed. Rhaid bod yn ymarferol wrth gwrs a symud y frwydr ymlaen gam wrth gam fel petai. Wedi'r cwbl, gall briwsion ymddangos yn ddanteithion go ddeniadol i ddyn sy'n newynu. Cyhyd â'n bod yn derbyn mai camau yn unig ar hyd y daith ydynt, popeth yn iawn. Nid oedd Deddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 yn ddigon cynhwysfawr. 'Rydym yn rhy ddibynol o hyd ar 'ewyllys da' a defnyddir y geiriad enwog 'rhesymol ac yn ymarferol' yn rhy aml o lawer i esgusodi ymddygiad na all neb call ei ystyried yn driniaeth gyfartal.

Cred Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg bod angen symud yn awr i fanteisio ar agwedd y cyhoedd at y Gymraeg, sydd, yn ein profiad ni , yn fwy positif nag erioed o'r blaen. Nid sôn am ystadegau ydwyf ond sôn am brofiadau ein haelodau wrth siarad â'r cyhoedd ar strydoedd Cymru. Dyma'r 'prawf litmws' go iawn. O'r diwedd 'rydym yn ennill y frwydr dros galonnau a meddyliau pobl Cymru. Byddai derbyn y sefyllfa bresennol yn gyfystyr â derbyn ein bod yn fodlon ildio'r tir sydd yno i'w ennill. Yn dilyn ein cyfarfod hanesyddol gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru eleni gofynnodd e i ni baratoi adroddiad ar y cyfleustodau a breifateiddiwyd. Ar hyn o bryd ystyrir y cyfleustodau hyn yn rhan o'r sector preifat er bod dyfarniadau o Dŷ'r Arglwyddi a Llys Cyfiawnder Ewrop yn datgan yn gwbl glir mai rhan o'r sector cyhoeddus ydynt. Gwrthododd y Toriaid dderbyn y cynseiliau cyfreithiol yma , 'roedd dogma'r farchnad rydd yn bwysicach o lawer na rhywbeth mor bitw ag iaith gwlad eilradd fel Cymru. Croesawn agwedd bositif Ron Davies a'i frwdfrydedd at y Gymraeg. Ond beth fyddai'n digwydd pe bai Mr Blair yn penderfynu dewis Ysgrifennydd Gwladol mwy 'dof' yn ei le? Nid yw ewyllys da unigolyn neu unigolion,

pwy bynnag ydynt, yn ddigon i warchod buddiannau'r Gymraeg. Dylid cynnwys y cyfleustodau a breifateiddiwyd o dan Ddeddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993 ar unwaith. Mae'n ddiddorol nodi bod y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig yn paratoi adroddiad ar hyn o bryd ynglyn â dwyieithrwydd yn y cyfleustodau. Ni ellid gor-bwysleisio pa mor bwysig yw hyn oll wrth ystyried y bydd y sector yma'n cael ei ddadreoli'r flwyddyn nesaf. Daeth yr anghysondeb cyfreithiol yma i'r amlwg oherwydd gwaith Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg. O'r diwedd mae pobl yn dechrau gwrandio arnom. Fodd bynnag, swyddogaeth bwysicaf Cymdeithas yr Iaith yw gosod agenda a herio'r drefn sydd ohoni. Os yw pobl yn fodlon derbyn popeth yr ydym yn ei ddweud, dim ond dau bosibiliad sydd. Naill ai ein bod wedi ennill y frwydr yn gyfan gwbl neu nid ydym yn cyflawni prif swyddogaeth y mudiad.

Anwybyddwch yr hyn mae Arglwyddi a gweision suful yn ei ddweud. Mae'n bryd i ni ddechrau pwyso am Ddeddf Iaith gyflawn a fyddai'n cael ei weithredu yn y sector preifat yn ogystal â'r sector cyhoeddus. Pam fod rhaid i ni fel cenedl dderbyn hanner mesurau trwy'r amser? Gallaf fod yn rhyw fath o Gymro wrth ddelio â Chyngor ond ni allaf ddisgwyl derbyn yr un 'frait' wrth wneud busnes â chwmnïau mawrion sy'n gallu gwneud cannoedd o filiynau o bunnau bob blwyddyn. Nid oes unrhyw gyfiawnhad neu resymeg yn y peth o gwbl. A dweud y gwir, gellid dadlau bod y rhan fwyaf ohonom yn ymwneud â chwmnïau, siopau ac ati yn llawer mwy aml nag yr ydym yn ymwneud â chyrff cyhoeddus. Yn bersonol, rwy' am fod yn Gymro cyflawn, nid rhyw greadur bach llipa sy'n derbyn bod ganddo ffiniau i'w hawliau. Rhaid bod yn rhesymol, rhaid derbyn mai proses hir ydyw. Lol! Yr unig 'rhaid', yw bod yn rhaid i ni ddechrau sylweddoli mai llai na hanner y frwydr yr ydym wedi'i hennill. Wrth gwrs bydd rhai yn honni y byddai cyflwyno'r fath ddeddfwriaeth yn niweidiol i economi Cymru. Codi bwganod yn unig yw hyn. Pan ddaw cwmnïau o Siapan i fuddsoddi ym Mhrydain mae'n rhaid iddynt ymdopi ag un iaith estron yn barod, hynny yw, y Saesneg. Mae cwmnïau masnachol yn bodoli er mwyn gwneud arian, ac ni allent anwybyddu marchnad o faint y tair miliwn o bobl sydd yng Nghymru.

Dros y blynyddoedd rwy' wedi siarad â channoedd o gwmnïau gwahanol. Gallaf ddweud yn gwbl ddiffuant na allaf feddwl am yr un cwmni a fyddai'n gwrthod masnachu yng Nghymru pe baent yn

gorfod defnyddio'r Gymraeg. Ystyriwch ein hymgyrch cenedlaethol diweddar yn erbyn Tandy. Dywed y cwmni mewn llythrau atom eu bod yn defnyddio'r Ffrangeg yng Nghanada gan fod yn rhaid iddynt o dan gyfraith y wlad honno. Nid ydynt yn fodlon defnyddio'r Gymraeg yng Nghymru am nad oes deddfwriaeth i'w gorfodi nhw i wneud hynny. Ond pe bai rhaid ni fyddai dim problem o gwbl. Ydy hawliau'r siaradwyr Ffrangeg yng Nghanada yn bwysicach na hawliau'r siaradwyr Cymraeg yng Nghymru?

Ar ôl blynyddoedd o ymgyrchu yn erbyn banciau, cymdeithasau adeiladu, siopau mawr fel Marks and Spencer (diddorol oedd gweld Dafydd Êl yn ceisio dweud mai Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg oedd yn gyfrifol am y fuddugoliaeth honno!), Dixons ac yn y blaen, mae'n deg dweud bod y sefyllfa wedi gwella tipyn, yn arwynebol o leiaf. Ond enillion bregus iawn ydynt. Yn ddiweddar cefais sgwrs ddiddorol gyda phencadlys Boots. Wedi i'r Gymdeithas eu cynorthwyo dechreusant godi mwy o arwyddion Cymraeg nag erioed o'r blaen yn eu canghennau. Ond, mae'n debyg fod rhai o'r cwsmeriaid wedi cwyno eu bod wedi mynd ar goll yn siopau Boots wedi'u drysu'n llwyr gan fod y Gymraeg yr un maint â'r Saesneg ar yr arwyddion! Dadl a fu farw gyda'r helynt dros arwyddion ffyrdd flynyddoedd yn ôl! Ond yn awr, mae Boots yn ystyried lleihau'r nifer o arwyddion Cymraeg a maint eu llythrennau achos bod rhaid iddynt wrando ar farn eu 'cwsmeriaid'. Felly, gall sefyllfa'r Gymraeg waethgu ar ôl llond llaw o gwynion gan bobl sydd ar y gorau yn hollol anwybodus ac ar y gwaethaf yn hollol ragfarnllyd.

Un enghraifft yn unig yw hon. Gallwn restru sawl un arall ac oni bai ein bod yn mynnu deddfwriaeth yn y sector preifat bydd mudiadau fel y Gymdeithas yn gorfod plismona'r sefyllfa ac ymateb yn ffyrnig er mwyn diogelu hawliau siaradwyr Cymraeg.

Ar ddiwedd y dydd nid yw ewyllys da mor effeithiol â fframwaith cyfreithiol, nid yw dwyn perswâd mor effeithiol â gorfodaeth deddf. Deallaf fod gorfodaeth yn air anffasiynol mewn rhai cylchoedd, yr un mor anffasiynol â chenedlaetholdeb mewn cylchoedd eraill. 'Does neb yn parchu cenedl o bobl wngalon. Mae'r neges yn syml iawn: Os yw arian Cymru'n ddigon da mae pobl Cymru'n ddigon da hefyd!

**GARETH KIFF**

**Cadeirydd Cenedlaethol,  
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg**



## Defection to Plaid Cymru

Cllr. Llew Davies, representing a ward in Bangor, has defected from the Labour group on Gwynedd Council and joined Plaid Cymru.

## Bye-Elections

There have been two bye-elections in the Penybont-ar-Ogwr/Bridgend County Borough Council area. Plaid Cymru gained Cefn Cribwr ward from Labour with a majority of 34.8% and a Liberal Democrat gained Trelales/Laleston from Labour.

## European Aid

To be eligible for European Community Objective One status (the most generous aid), an area has to have less than 75% of the EU average GDP. With the European average being 100, the English state stands at 96; Wales is 80, England being 98, Scotland 96 and Northern Ireland 78. The state's wealthiest area, London, stands at 139. The statistics for smaller areas are notoriously misleading. Those officially above the 75% threshold are Caerdydd/Cardiff (123), Casnewydd/Newport (100), Torfaen (100), Wrecsam (96), Bro Morgannwg/Vale of Glamorgan (95), Sir Fflint/Flintshire (92), Gwynedd (81) and Abertawe /Swansea (78). However is Gwynedd really so much wealthier than neighbouring Ynys Môn (53), Conwy (55), Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire (69) and Ceredigion (59)?

The GDP figures for other Celtic areas of the state are Kernow 69, Highland 77, Fife 77, Borders 82, Scottish Islands 84, Strathclyde 88, Dumfries & Galloway 89, Tayside 91, Lothian 126 and Grampian 129.

## Welsh Given Parliamentary Status

The Procedure Committee of the House of Commons has agreed that the Welsh Language can be used at meetings of the Welsh Grand committee when it meets in Wales.

**Clive James**

# Assembly Referendum Result Analysed

A survey of voters after last September's historic referendum in Wales on whether the people living in Wales wanted their own elected assembly has revealed some interesting patterns. The result of the referendum was 50.3% in favour of an assembly with 49.7% against, a 'Yes' majority of some 7,000. The result by supporters of each party was:-

Party	Turnout	Yes	No
Plaid Cymru	76%	93%	7%
Labour	58%	59%	41%
Liberal Democrats	63%	29%	71%
Conservatives	70%	10%	90%

It is significant that the highest turnout was from supporters of the two parties with the strongest views on the national question - Plaid Cymru, the national party, and the Conservative & Unionist party,

traditionally the party of the English in Wales. The relatively indecisive vote of Labour party supporters shows that many of them put unionism before party and class loyalty. The Liberal Democrats are the most pro-devolution of the unionist parties and the negative vote of their supporters can be explained that their power-base is in anglicised Powys where they win support on issues other than the national question.

Voters born in Wales voted 55% to 45% in favour and voters born in England (i.e. mostly immigrants) voted 2-1 against. Fluent Welsh speakers were 7-2 in favour while English-only speakers were 3-2 against. The Yes-No difference according to language was much higher than that for any other non-political factor. It is notable too that the percentage turnout was

significantly higher among Welsh-speakers than non-Welsh-speakers suggesting that the issue meant more to them. Gwynedd, our most Welsh-speaking county, was the county with the highest turnout. Voters under 45 were more inclined to vote 'Yes' and the older voters more to vote 'No'.

This survey confirms the views of nationalist commentators that national identity (rather than geography, social class etc.) was the major factor in determining how people voted, with those considering themselves as Cymry or Welsh mostly voting 'Yes' and those feeling primarily British /English being against. It is significant that the Yes-No difference between Welsh and English speakers was much higher than any other non-political factor.

C. James/R. ap Tomos

## Language Rights in Pontypridd

The town council of Pontypridd, south east Wales, was targeted by Cymdeithas yr Iaith following the discovery of their draft language policy which was extremely negative towards Welsh. It included the statement "Bilingual forms are considered to be *confusing* and there are none currently in use by the Town Council. The provision of forms printed in the Welsh language for issue on demand... will be *considered* in the longer term. *Target date: April 2001*" (our italics). Correspondence from Cymdeithas was answered in English. A Cymdeithas spokesman said "It is incredible that five years after the Welsh Language Act they are coming out with statements like this." The Pontypridd area in some ways symbolises the fate of our language over the last century. In the heart of the southern coal field, it was solidly Welsh-speaking up to the mid-19th century. It was anglicised by a heavy influx of English and Irish immigrants seeking work in the mines coinciding with the introduction of English-only education and the "Welsh Not" which ensured the immigrants were not linguistically assimilated. While there are still native speakers in the older generations, there is great demand from younger non-Welsh speaking parents for bilingual education.

Robat ap Tomos

## Clifford Ifan Bere

I would like to add to the obituary of Cliff Bere (1915-1997) which appeared in *Carn* 101 as it did not mention Cliff's major contribution to Pan Celtic movement and his total commitment to achieving cooperation between the Celtic nations.

It was my privilege to know and also correspond with Cliff Bere since the late 1960s. For anyone interested in Pan-Celticism, his theoretical work *Toward the Political Confederation of Celtia*, published by Y Lolfa, Wales, 1989, was one of the most important discussions of the principle aims of the Celtic League. It remains a work which every Pan-Celticist should have on their shelves.

Cliff was a law graduate from Carmarthen who was an unremitting socialist, Welsh republican as well as Pan-Celticist. He fought Fascism in 1939-1945, serving in the British Army, but refused military recall during the Korean War. He volunteered to work in the Welsh mines during this time to make his point. He subsequently worked in the National Museum of Wales.

Cliff's major novel in Welsh was *Pennod yn Hanes Milawr* (Chapter in the Story of a Soldier), published by Y Lolfa, 1989. A 'future' novel about a war to regain Welsh independence. Significantly,

Cliff quoted A.E. Houseman as the opening quote to the novel:

In my heart it has not died,

The war that sleeps on Severnside

The copy that Cliff signed for me still has a pride of place on my shelves.

Cliff's involvement and activities in the cause of Pan Celticism went back to the 1940s. His articles in the magazine *The Welsh Republic* during the early 1950s prepared the way for the emergence of a more full blooded concept of Pan Celticism in the 1960s with the foundation of the Celtic League.

When he published his pamphlet, containing the manifesto of the Welsh Republican Movement, *The Welsh Republic* (1947) he was unambiguous as to the goal of Pan Celticism:

'Federalism in Britain under English patronage would certainly not give the vital substance of freedom to the Welsh nation only its ineffectual shadow. It is only a continental or Celtic federation of nations that Wales can rightly belong and perhaps owe the moral duty to surrender some part of her sovereignty.'

Those words written fifty years ago have a strong resonance today as we, as Cliff foresaw, move into federalism in Britain under English patronage.

Peter Berresford Ellis



## Comhairle agus Tacaíocht do Ghaeil na hAlban

**T**hug triúr ionadaí as Éireann cuairt ar Ghlaschú na hAlbain ar an 13 Meitheamh chun labhairt le grúpa tuismitheoirí faoi scoil lánGhàidhlighe neamhspleách a bhunú. Ba iad an triúr ionadaí ná Pádraic Ó Ciardha, TnaG, Ciarán Ó Feinneadha, tuismitheoir agus bunaitheoir gael scoile agus Jacqueline Ní Fhearghúsa ón eagraíocht *Gaelscoileanna*. Chuaigh an triúr go Glaschú ar chuireadh ó Donalda McKinnon, Ceannasaí na gClár Gàidhlighe i mBBC Alba, atá ina tuismitheoir sa sruth Gàidhlighe sa chathair sin. Tá an sruth sin ar an saol le 13 bliaina agus tá ag éirí go maith leis. Mar sin féin, tá go leor fadhbanna ag baint le tumoideachas a chur ar fáil i dtimpeallacht an chéad teanga. Tá 55 sruth Gàidhlighe ag feidhmiú in Albain faoi láthair, idir an bhunleibhéal agus an iarbhunleibhéal agus idir Ghaeltacht agus Gallacht. Tá na sruthanna sin ag feidhmiú taobh istigh de scoileanna Béarla, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil siad timpeallaithe ag teanga atá i suíomh i bhfad níos láidre ná an Ghàidhlig féin. Tá na tuismitheoirí a bhfuil páistí dá gcuid ag freastal ar an sruth i nGlaschú díograiseach agus fadradharcach. Feiceann siad na deacrachtaí a bhaineann leis an sruth, go príomhach maidir le labhairt na Gàidhlighe sa sruth féin. Deirtear linn go bhfuil sé thar a bheith deacair na páistí a spreagadh leis an nGàidhlig a labhairt eatarthu féin agus taobh amuigh den seomra ranga toisc go bhfuil tionchar an Bhéarla ró láidir sa scoil.

Sin ar ndóigh an taithí atá ag Gaeil na hÉireann chomh maith agus tá an eagraíocht *Gaelscoileanna* go mór i gcoinne bunú sruthanna ar an mbonn nach féidir tumoideachas sa dara theanga a chur i bhfeidhm go héifeachtach i dtimpeallacht an chéad teanga. Níl aon cheist faoi ach gurbé an rogha is fearr ar fad ná scoil neamhspleách le príomhoide, buíon múinteoirí atá dílis agus tugtha d'idéil an

tumoideachais agus tuismitheoirí agus páistí atá compordach le nóisean an dátheangachais.

Bhuail an toscaireacht as Éirinn le grúpa tuismitheoirí ar dtús agus labhradar leo faoin taithí atá acu ar ghaoideachas in Éirinn. Deineadh tagairt do na deacrachtaí



*Jacqueline Ní Fhearghúsa, one of the Irish delegation which visited Glasgow*

a bhaineann le scoil neamhspleách a bhunú, fadhbanna le cóiríocht, leis na húdaráis éagsúla, leis an Roinn Oideachais srl., ach luadh chomh maith an spiorad a bhaineann leis na scoileanna, díograis na dtuismitheoirí agus na múinteoirí agus an tairbhe a bhaineann na páistí as a bheith ag fáil oideachais sna scoileanna seo.

An teachtaireacht is láidre a tugadh do na tuismitheoirí an tráthnóna sin nár gurbh fhiú go mór tabhairt faoi agus nach stopfadh aon duine nó aon rud iad dá mbeidís láidir agus aontaithe faoina bhfuil le baint amach acu. Luaigh cuid de na tuismitheoirí a bhí i láthair go raibh fonn orthu muintir na hÉireann a bhí ag cur futhu i nGlaschú a mhealladh chuig na scoile. Mar is eol dúinn ar fad tá daonra mór Éireannaigh i nGlaschú, ach go háirithe ó Thír Chonaill agus ó na sé chontae. Tá súil ag Donalda agus a cairde

go mbeidh siad in ann roinnt de pháistí na ndaoine sin a mhealladh isteach sa scoil.

Bhuail an toscaire leis an Aire Stáit Brian Wilson, MP, a bhfuil cúram na Gàidhlighe agus Oideachais air ag cóisir speisialta an oíche chéanna ag a raibh tuismitheoirí agus ionadaithe ón gCoiste Bunaithe. Labhair an tAire faoina dhílseacht féin don oideachas trí mheán na Gàidhlighe agus faoin dóchas atá air go mbeidh ar a laghad scoil amháin neamhspleách lánGàidhlighe i nGlaschú taobh istigh de bhliain. Luaigh sé chomh maith go bhfuil airgead curtha ar leataobh anois chun oifigeach forbartha don oideachas lánGhàidhlighe a fhostú chun an réimse sin a leathnú agus a fhorbairt ar fud na hAlbain. Tá páiste an Aire féin ag freastal ar an sruth Gàidhlighe i nGlaschú.

Ach ní hamháin go bhfuil muintir Ghlaschú ag lorg bunscóil neamhspleách, tá sé i gceist acu *campas* Gàidhlighe a bhunú ina mbeidh bunscóil, iarbhunscóil agus cultúrlann ann. Tá sé i gceist chomh maith go ndireofar ar réamhscoilaíocht agus ar an oideachas tríú leibhéal. Déanfar iarracht ealaíontóirí agus ceoltóirí agus lucht drámaíochta a mhealladh chuig an Ionad Chultúrtha seo. Ach an pointe is tábhachtaí faoin ionad seo ná go mbeidh sé neamhspleách go huile is go hiomlán ó aon Institiúd Oideachais eile.

Bhain muintir na hÉireann an-taitneamh as an turas agus braitheadh gur éirigh leo cuid de thaithí na hÉireann agus cuid den fhuinneamh agus dílseacht a bhaineann leis an oideachas lánGhaeilge in Éirinn a léiriú do mhuintir na hAlbain. Táthar thar a bheith sásta go bhfuil an gaol nua seo cothaithe idir Gaeil agus go mbeimid in ann droichead níos láidre a thógaint idir an dá thír ionas gur féidir linn tacaíocht agus comhairle la tabhairt dá chéile. Ar scáth a chéile!

**Jacqueline Ní Fhearghúsa**  
**Gaelscoileanna**

### Summary

*Parents from the Gàidhlig unit in Glasgow are interested in founding an all Gàidhlig primary school. At the invitation of Donalda McKinnon, Head of Gàidhlig programmes in BBC Scotland, who is a parent in the Gàidhlig unit, a three person delegation from Ireland visited Glasgow in mid June to share the Irish experience in Irish medium education with those interested.*

*Gaelscoileanna does not favour units due to the difficulties of providing Irish medium education in an English environment. Independent Irish medium schools, with their own dedicated teaching staff and parents who understand and support the system, are much more preferable. This message was communicated strongly to the*



Tomás Mac Ruairi, new Uachtarán  
Conradh na Gaeilge.

At the Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis held in Limerick in early May a new president was returned. He is Tomás Mac Ruairi, a long time Conradh activist, whom many in the other Celtic countries may have come across through his involvement over the years in organising Irish participation in the *An Lorient* festival in Brittany. He has been a member of the Irish Branch of the League for many years. He stated that he hoped to put the emphasis during his term of office on encouraging youth involvement, setting up branches in third level colleges and organising a number of campaigns to pursue the action plan of An Conradh.

At the Ard-Fheis, the general secretary, Seán Mac Mathúna in presenting his annual report summarised issues which had risen in the last year and would influence the future status of Irish, positively or negatively.

- \* The need for an Irish Language Commissioner and Ombudsman as part of the promised Irish Language Bill of Rights.
- \* The constitutional status of Irish endangered as a result of recommendations of the review group on the Constitution.
- \* Positive references to Irish, although in



#### Comhairle...

*Scottish parents. The difficulties encountered in Ireland in setting up and running such schools were explained as well as the substantial benefits to be gained. The delegation met Minister Brian Wilson, MP, who has responsibility for Gàidhlig and Education. He expressed his own commitment to education through the medium of Gàidhlig. The visit is a welcome development in co-operation between Gaels and one which it is hoped can be expanded on.*

## Conradh Elects New President

vague contexts, in the Northern Agreement.

- \* The use of Irish in the publicity and information campaigns for the Amsterdam Treaty Referendum.
- \* A government promise to seek official and working status for Irish in the European Union.
- \* The continuing refusal of the Irish government to sign the European Council Charter on languages.
- \* Support structure promised for Irish language education. However there is a need to ensure that promises in the programme for government relating to the establishment of a special National Committee to improve the teaching of Irish and a Resources Centre for learners be implemented.
- \* The Irish National Teachers Organisation Congress motion calling for an end to the requirement for Irish for all primary school teachers.
- \* A common curriculum being demanded to end the Irish language requirements in



Seán Mac Mathúna, General Secretary,  
Conradh na Gaeilge.

the Republic.

- \* The concessions granted by the Minister for Education and Science to pressure groups leading to greatly weakened requirements for Irish qualifications for second level teachers in the vocational sector.
- \* 1996 Census with a new and more detailed system of questions leading perhaps to an increase in the number of declared fluent speakers of Irish.
- \* Fears and pessimism expressed in relation to the long term survival of the Irish language areas (Gaeltachtaí).

## Amsterdam – Another Treaty Too Far



Patricia McKenna, Green Party MEP, whose constitutional case led to the setting up of the Referendum Commission which operated for the first time disseminating pro and anti information in the May Referenda.

The referendum on the Amsterdam Treaty, which further extends the powers of the EU, was won by the Yes camp, not surprisingly as all the major political parties were in favour. However the Yes vote was the lowest yet in a referendum on EU powers (62%). The main opposition to the Treaty was led by the Green Party and the party's MEP, Ms Patricia McKenna, published a book *Amsterdam Treaty - the Road to an Undemocratic and Military Superstate*. As always it seems the major yes plank was that the Irish had to vote yes, or be left behind, see EU grants diminish etc. There was no consideration of the possibility of achieving improvements by voting no and forcing changes (as the Danes did in the case of the Maastricht Treaty). It is clear also that the treaty severely threatens Ireland's neutrality reinforcing Maastricht in committing countries to the progressive framing of a common defence policy! Economic observers in Ireland, it may be said are now lamenting the loss of controls of the Irish economy, with possible adverse affects for the booming economy, which will result when Ireland joins the Euro currency system.

# Northern Agreement Carried

The proposals agreed to on Good Friday of April 10th were put to referenda in the North and the Republic on the same day. In the North 71% voted in favour of the agreement. It is generally agreed that if this support is maintained and translated into seats in the Northern Assembly for the pro-agreement parties (the election campaign is underway at the time of writing with polling date being 25th June) that the Assembly and its political administration, with its various checks and balances can operate. In the Republic the vote in favour was even greater, about 90%

The referendum there involved substantial changes to the Constitution, principally in Articles 2 and 3, which previously read

**Article 2** *The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas.*

**Article 3** *Pending the re-integration of the national territory and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and Government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect.*

and were amended to

**Article 2** *It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland. Furthermore, the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage.*

**Article 3 - 3.1** *It is the firm will of the Irish nation, in harmony and friendship, to unite all the people who share the territory of the island of Ireland, in all the diversity of their identities and traditions, recognising that a united Ireland shall be brought about only by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions in the island. Until then, the laws enacted by the Parliament established by this Constitution shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws enacted by the Parliament that existed immediately before the coming into*



**David Trimble, Ulster Unionist Party leader, whose vote against the prisoner release Bill in Westminster does not bode well for the implementation of the Northern Agreement**

operation of this Constitution.

**3.2** *Institutions with executive powers and functions that are shared between those jurisdictions may be established by their respective responsible authorities for stated purposes and may exercise powers and functions in respect of all or any part of the island.*

Despite these substantial changes - introducing the principle of consent from a majority in the North (overlooking the totally non-democratic nature of the foundation of the Northern State by the British in 1920), and raising, with an undefined national territory, the possibility of effects on future claims to oil, fisheries and other natural resources - the proposals, as stated, achieved a huge majority. This was no doubt achieved by the consensus in the 'pan nationalist front' with a major factor being the acceptance of the Agreement by those most heavily engaged in the struggle in the North over the last 30 years.

Of course it has to be seen how the Northern Assembly and its Executive will function. Commitments given on prisoner release and reform of the RUC have to be honoured. Attempts by some Unionists to link the thorny decommissioning issue with prisoner releases don't bode well and certainly no element of 'clawback' on the Agreement can be tolerated.

From the interceltic viewpoint we have to examine the British-Irish Council. "It will be composed of representatives of the British and Irish Governments, devolved

institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales when established and, if appropriate, elsewhere in the United Kingdom together with representatives of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands." This is a far cry from the Celtic League aim of a confederation of free Celtic Nations (including Brittany of course and excluding England and France) and too close to the Britannic Federation Model firmly rejected by the League over two decades ago. The southern Unionist mentality has already expressed itself calling for the Republic to rejoin the Commonwealth in the context of the new arrangements. Nevertheless some welcome must be given to the contacts between Celtic assemblies but let it be clear that such an arrangement can only be regarded as some small advance (but with some inherent dangers) towards our long term aim.



## Dal Riata: From Erin to Alba

by Helen McSkimming

Dal Riata was the name of the ancient kingdom which stretched from the northern lands of Ulster and along the west coast of Scotland as far as Oban and the Inner Hebrides. This booklet explores the history of the emergence of Dal Riata - from its origins in Ireland to the inauguration of its greatest king, Aedán mac Gabráin, on Iona.

Drawing not only from classical and Roman accounts, but also from early Irish annals and the oral tradition of myth and legend, *Dal Riata: From Erin to Alba* offers fresh insights into the genealogies of these early people of Ireland and Scotland and their links with the other Celtic peoples of Britain.

£3.50 (UK), £3.75 (EU), £4.50 (Overseas). Prices include airmail postage and packing.

Please make sterling cheques/ eurocheques payable to **Dalriada**. Dalriada Celtic Heritage Trust, Dun na Beatha, 2 Brathwic Place, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BN Scotland.



# Demand to Probe Sea Dumps

An international commission is urgently required to enquire into the circumstances of the overall dumping policy by which the UK disposed of its own and captured chemical and conventional munitions in the Irish Sea and of western Ireland.

Speaking at the end of May on BBC Radio 4 news programme PM the Celtic League General Secretary reiterated warnings by the Celtic League that sea dumped munitions posed a continuing hazard to communities around the Irish Sea. The League also speculated that coastal contamination incidents were inevitable and would continue.



*Irish Marine Emergency Services searching the beaches south of Dublin for more phosphor devices.*

Within days this statement had been vindicated as munitions of a type which has to date seriously contaminated beaches in the North of Ireland, South West Scotland and the Isle of Man came ashore on the Co. Louth and Co. Dublin coasts (3/6/98). The description of the munitions matches phosphorous incendiary devices which as aircraft bombs were packed in a flimsy casing. It appears that with the passage of time these casings have deteriorated and the material is being carried by tidal pattern to the south central Irish Sea. The latest news is of concern in that it indicates the spread of munitions hitherto contained in the North Eastern Irish Sea area is likely to be more general.

Speaking in a feature on the Teilifis na Gaeilge main evening news on the 7th June on the washing up along the eastern coastline of Ireland of some thirty of these phosphorus devices Celtic League Convenor, Cathal Ó Luain, confirmed that these were similar to such devices previously brought ashore on coasts in the northern Irish Sea area. He called for a full investigation of the Beaufort Dyke dump and stressed the responsibility of the UK

government to take all necessary measures to secure or render the dump safe in order to protect the Irish Sea coastal communities from the ever increasing risk of further munitions being washed ashore on their beaches.

Beaufort Dyke contains an absolutely staggering and diverse collection of munitions. Several hundred thousand tonnes have been dumped in a period between the 1920s when it was used for the disposal of conventional and chemical material (such as mustard gas) and the early eighties when nuclear material was added to the cocktail. The British government have always misled the public

about the nature and extent of the problem. They originally contended that only conventional material had been disposed of and stuck to this story even after incidents such as that in 1969 when the crew of a Breton fishing vessel were seriously contaminated with mustard gas bombs trawled up at the dyke - two almost died. They eventually admitted disposal of all manner of ordnance but gave assurances dumping had ceased in 1973 - in fact dumping continued both at Beaufort and in dumps to the South West of Kerry until the early 1980s and included nuclear waste.

No coast around the Irish Sea is safe as this latest pollution as far south as Dublin proves. An international commission is urgently required to enquire into the circumstances of the overall dumping policy by the UK in the Irish sea and of western Ireland.

We may not be able to totally resolve the legacy this ill thought out policy has bequeathed but we would be better able to understand it. For now the danger remains lurking in the deep until time and tide brings it shoreward.

J B Moffatt

## Irish Sea Radiation Pollution-Target the Real Culprits!

Greenpeace brought an invaluable world focus on Sellafield's pollution record over the past two weeks but its attack on the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland is a meaningless sideshow and is unhelpful to the general process of combating the menace posed by Sellafield to communities around the Irish Sea - the main targets for campaigners are the British government and BNFL.

Both the Irish and Manx governments and their respective public monitoring organisations have been to the fore in alerting public opinion to the threat posed by Sellafield and the governments have reiterated, when appropriate, calls for the plants closure.

The high profile campaign by Greenpeace in the North Irish sea area has brought the attention of a wider world audience to the pollution caused by the plant and, in particular, the dangers posed by the rising levels of technetium-99 in both the Irish and north seas. However, one could be forgiven for believing that the technetium problem had been unmasked by Greenpeace and this is not the case. In fact both the RPII and the Isle of Man governments Laboratory had both identified the rise in technetium-99 during the mid nineties.

In March of this year the Manx Lab again published information confirming the rise in technetium between 1990 and 1997.

Similar information I understand was also available to those who required it from the Irish agency.

There has been a criticism of the RPII for failing to highlight the dangers posed by technetium-99 pollution more aggressively and one could address the same accusation to the Manx agency. However, we would observe that their role is not to match the governments and the environment monitoring groups in opposition to Sellafield but rather to produce impartial data to counteract the aggressive bias in material churned out by Sellafield's PR machine.

J B Moffatt



# kernow

## Pobell Thibarh: Deaw Enapp An Skute

Callich ew hethow tha adgan buz an leiha deffrans treeth poblow an ennisma atter thort ago laverans, en mar vere drigge tavossow Keltack stella en beaw en sertan degre, ha dres hedna ma speciall cowz uses herweth puna tewe an ennis igge teez a toaz notha; whathe, en leas ther a ny oll usia pecare geys, pecare booz, pecare musick, pecare gwariow, ha en leas pecare tawas, ha ther a ny wherhin thort pecare geaz!

Than, fâtel igge an Kernowian a tisqueethas an deffrans angy? Eze nekeves gongans drens, po dro angy kens, edn bobell thibarh? Nanty! Pothera ny kelly gon comenetha, en demigow, ha teez onketh perna gon treven ha gon teer, bis en comeras ker agon wheal, bith voye era ny wheelas tha desky than beaz dro ny Kernowian, ha der vee thene a dermen coath matearnath enwedgack ha heynes nodedgack.

Fraga igge an bobell Gernuack credgy stella drens teez dibblans, ha erria drew Kernow nevra pow enwedgack, deberhees thort remenat an ennis? Why ell dismiggia an rinwhethallma dreth madra en kensa lea pehane vee ny en termen eze passies, ha obma ther a ve referria tha ooz alebma buz hantercans blethan, namoye, pe nag o ny radnes a niel thort e gilla car dro ny hethow drevan an vankan a deez onketh eze devethes tha dreegas mesk ny ha treeth ny.

Dar, athewethas me geath tha Porthleven ha spenga an dohodgath barha bagas cuthmans Kernuack, gennes an cotha nothans en vlethan 1909, ha an youncka en 1930. Me a dale joynea dre vee ve a hunnen gennes en 1924. Ny reeg cowz dro than termen coath. Nena, ameth ma huthmans, tregorian kenever chy en Porthleven o cooth dothans, en mar vere drigans usia gweel gwary en compla henwyn an contravagian oll, edn strate ouga arall, herweth ago threven, en edn rew, pecarra lidden. Hethow ma an drea comeras gen mar leas sarazin drew an roath coath squatches tha veaz, ha na ore dean veth pewa eze treegas pelle.

Mor meno why gothas paseil o keef than Kernowian an effect han stent an prevatter

angy, Porthleven o radnes en parthow dreth lenga invisibill, ha hy a valsa dro rima urrhian powiow dibarh, mar vere honegath o pob a bar e hunnen. Mar teffa why ha treegas en tewe Eglosbreke tho why Teweglosbregar, henew *Breagsider*, ha gew why talveea thewh doaz trea neb noze en tremena tereath onketh! E vee pecare pereeg sertan vennen thor Unyredreth laull athewethas, "Nag era ve nevra moaz tha Gambern!", dyegres e leav. Ma pecare daralla a toaz them thor cuthman coath en Mehenett, dean hunt tha deeg ha pagerigans bluth coath periga merwall lebma dro tha whee blethan. Edn journa, termen e vee junkar, 'Reg' geath tha Pensilva en maroga war e bike rag tha dumarrha nebun moze younk, dro tha pemp moldeer athor e chy, buz pereeg polates an dreav e asspeas gy oya dewhans nag o e mawe an pleaw angy, ha rag hedna gy a thallathas tha e doustia a dabmow ha tubednow, "*tabs an' tubbans*" car driga laull.

En deethiowna teez pleaw o kelmes warbar per stroyt. Gy a welly e gilles kenever journa, oll gy reeg gweal wheal en kethe drea, ha ketep onen comeras gen pecare loander ha pecare whear. Nebas ke vee a gubber, e vee neb sort wheal tha pubonen. Porthleven vee nodedgack rag framia coockow, buyldia rima rag porthow erall, bis en rina en east a Pow an Sausen. E vee dro tha cans ha eath warn igans a sairy keel wheal en garth lisstry nena, ha an holl dreav o res than neges a framia coockow po pusgetsha, ha hedna re rowlia an bownas.

Puna matter broaz potho why dean an poss, avell cotha an cuthmans ve en Porthleven, rag termen e vee dean younk en radna an letherow edn jeeth e geath ogas than dreath pe reeg an poscadars saya tha tedna tewa teer put broaz puscas comeres en sean. "Ha, Jammes!" ameth angy, "Deez nese tha gon gweras ny a tedna war deer an sean!" En dalla Jammes na veng, buz gy an dinias war an dewa, ha e garas e bike en doar ha laggia en dowre bis et e greis, wos degy e lavrack pub journa!

Nebas sithednow ouga hedna onen an poscadars theath than Sothva Poss. "Yo!"

ametha, "Obma neppith theze." Ha e reeg gurra dorned muna treeth doola Jammes, mere e aneth. E vee e dewe shara thort an put.

Onen a ny, than, ha na Teweglosbregar, na dean Helles noniel metessen!

Buz rigo why attendia peath reeg deskidnia alerh termen an gwary rugby treeth Kernow ha Pow Cheshire? Dro tha nawe warn igans meel a deez geath athor Kernow tha Twickenham rag boaz present than finall. An gweale a vee avell moar a listow due hag aur, pecarra ruth vere quilkioedgow. An hub a vee lowre tha goz gweel bothar. An Kernowian reeg credgy dre veng angy cowas, ke vee an egary deraage bedn hanter termen. Per scoen Kernow a gollas moye poyntes, nena hy a thallathas tha vettia gons an deez Cheshire. Gorvan an gwary, ogasty, ha Kernow nevra toaz nese. Buz, suas! An barner a whethas e beeb rag dewa an gwary. Ha kelles o!

Kelles? Ero why credgy andelna? Ruth golyadgow lawenick, lowenhees devery hy a valsa, reeg lenall an gweale ha gweel para adro than bagas, garma, crya hurraw, stlapa an gwariars war an kein! Teez Cheshire alga per weer goofen pewa reeg cowas! Pereeg kittareen an bagas doaz tha Lesteevan an welcum rigans cowas vee ethick tra, ha arta eth alga credgy dro an gwary keves gen an Kernowian.

Deraage an camera onen an bagas reeg cowz. "Ea, ametha, tho ny tabm dysantyes, rag gwell hy vee thene cowas, per thehogall, buz tho ny bagas younk, ha nessa blethan, ha ny gwell deskes, ny vedn cowas!"

Otta Kernow ha e theez. Ma kelles goshy kebmes: matearnath, wheal, peath, teer, treven, frankath, bis et an gwary rugby, ha meno e areth deraage an beaz rag drewa pow bean ha nebas bohodgack, ha cothes war preze dyckles. En drea, e veath honegath a e prevatter, bis en ombla ort e hontrevagian. whathe pothow hy unyes gen commyn cawse, pewa ell e howas? Rag pe ra hy kelly, pothow hy fethes en lagagow ri erall, ma hy nevra cowas an gwelha, ha na ell hy nevra convethas pandrew fillall, na gwander colan. Per co an vlethan 1497; perigans kelly battall an Rose rue en have, an Kernowian reeg derevall aman arta en kidniasna ha moaz arta bedn lu an matearn Sowsnack!

Thera vee dalla tha gonvethas skeans an laverans Kernuack *Onen hag Oll*. Onen pothera ny trea, oll pothera ny ombla warbar bedn commyn eskar!

Mars eze lesson tha voaz deskes deveza lebma, ethewa dre gothe than Kernowian boaz unyes pub ere, ha na en ednack pe ra angy gwary rugby!

## *Mowth on un like Dolcoath Shaft - Ganow warnodho kepar ha Shafta dorkoth.* Gans Pol Hodge

**M**y re redyas bardhonegow yn Kernewek, bardhonegow yn Kernewek re redis, byttegyns lemmyn my re wrug redya bardhonegow yn Kernewek! *Mowth on un like Dolcoath Shaft* yw bywek ha hwarthus mes gans messaj down ha sad. Pol Hodge re sewenas fest yn ta dre leverel hwedhlow a'y vywnans yn fordh dhidhanus ha gul dhyn minhwerthin y'n kettermyn. Rag ensembl, pan, esen vy ow tyski Kernewek, onan an kynsa gwersyow a dhyskis vy o Pader Agan Arloedh.

"Agan Tas ni eus yn nev, bennigys re bo dha hanow..."

Mes lemmyn yma Pol Hodge ow treylia henna a-dro a-barth an yeth.

"Agan Yeth ni usi diworth nev, bennigys re bo dres Kernow..."

Sempel yw, didhanus yw... mes an tra moyha dhe-les yw an messaj res dhe'n redyer heb passya lies owr yn unn styrya an gestestenn ha'n parth a-dryv. Mes pyth yn kever an redyer gans own a vardhonegow fest hir? Yma ensemblow anedha yn sur, byttegyns Pol Hodge re dheuth ha bos pur ates gans lavarow skav nPb a sen y'gas brys rag termyn hir ha gasa dhe goedha an styr tamm ha tamm ynwedh. 'An Vilienn'

### *Pobell Thibarh...*

#### **Summary**

##### *A People Apart: Two Sides of the Coin*

*There is today so little apparent difference between the native peoples of this island who share a common culture that one wonders how the Cornish, who have lost king, independence, and much else, still manage to present themselves as a distinct people. An indication of the durability of the Cornish identity may be found on the one hand in the former exclusiveness of local communities, amounting to violent rivalry, and now spoiled by much foreign settlement, where local identity was all-important, and on the other by the ability of the Cornish to unite when faced by a tangible common threat, and so much so that, as at Twickenham recently, and on former occasions, the Cornish in losing always react as if they have won, to the extent that in effect they are unable to lose.*

**Richard Gendall**

yw ensembl da a henna.

"Yth yw hi poes avel sten,

Kepar ha'n oy mar leven, Merkys avel Planet Yow..."

Pol a dheriv dhyn bri ha tekter, merkow fin ha leven, ha fatell yllyn ni passya termyn yn unn omwovynn yn kever taklow pur dhown. Mes wosa leverel dhyn yn-kever an vilienn na, ev a's towl y'n avon yn unn leverel:

"Ow korfenna gans 'plonk' y'n Spey."

Bardhonegow a'n par ma yw splann rag dyskatoryon a'n taves ynwedh. Pyth y'n norvys yw . gweh es spena termyn euthek hir yn unn redya bardhoneg sygh ha skwithus? Ny vern dhe'n redyer mars yw skrifys gans rim poran ha meter perfeyth. Mar ny yll an skrifor trelouba an omglywansow down gans y voghes geryow, nyns eus poynt vydh. Y'n gwella prys, nyns eus folenn vydh na wra kabuli an enev. Pol a dhre oll y vaystri warbarth yn *Alf Garnet*. An bardhonek ma yw lavar gwir war an re a vynn assaya ankevi gonisogeth hag istori a Gernow ha gorra neppyth sowsnek yn y le.

Okay, ytho my re gewsis lowr yn kever an lyver... pyth yn kever an skrifor? Pol Hodge a dryg gans y wreg yn Fordh Ponsmeur yn chi neb a si gans an taves Kernewek. Ev ha'y wreg a gews an henyeth y'n chi ha spena brassa rann a'ga bywnans yn unn ughelhe bri hag aswonnvos a'n yeth. Pol a ober rag 'Artys War Anow Kernewek' mes a gemmer pub chons dhe lenna y wonis a-dro Kernow oll ha dres an Tamer keffrys. Kyns an lyver ma, aswonny's o awos ev dhe vos esel an bagas *Berdh Arnowydh Kernewek* (gans Bert Biscoe hag Alan gent). B.A.K a wrug meur a-barth bardhonieth yn Kernow, mes herwyth ow brys vyvy, y brofyans nowydh a gemmer henna pella. Hag a wrug vy kavoes folenn na wrug fyttya yn ta y'n lyver?

Na wrug! Ytho mar ny wrewgh hwi. prena lyver bardhonegow neffra y'n bys... prenewgh an onan ma ha ny wrewgh perthi edrek!

**M.S.C**

#### **Summary**

*M.S.C. discusses new poems by Pol Hodge and recommends readers to buy the book, which is lively and funny, but with a deep and serious message.*

## FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF CORNWALL

**C**ornwall would be better served by democratically elected institutions based in Cornwall than by an unelected Bristol based regional development agency, according to Dick Cole, chairman of Mebyon Kernow who spoke to a meeting of the organisation's members in the Camborne, Illogan and Redruth areas in June.

He said, "Labour's present proposals represent a missed opportunity to foster a wider more creative role for Cornish based institutions which if given the necessary funding and powers that they deserve, could develop and play a leading role in the economic regeneration of Cornwall."

Members of Mebyon Kernow in Redruth and Camborne area are angry that Labour promises to help build local communities and make local decision-making more accountable to local people are not being fulfilled.

Alan Sanders, their Camborne based spokesman said, "We continue to see the administration of Cornwall quickly being hived off to agencies based in nearly every large city from Plymouth to Bristol. As an example we see the Camborne based police control room being moved out of Cornwall, possibly to Exeter, no doubt as part of the move to create a super seven county south west regional police force!"

Mr Sanders pledged that MK would continue to campaign for the decentralisation of political powers to Cornwall, an accountable development agency, a European parliamentary constituency for Cornwall and European N.U.T.S. Level 2 status, and will not settle for anything less.

#### **Further Information:**

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## Farrysyn ny Çheeraghyn Celtiagh

**H**ie y Cohaghlym Eddyrashoonagh er cummal ayns Mannin ayns 1998. Ard-chooish y Chohaglym, va shen farrysyn (economics) ny çheeraghyn Celtiagh. She Lorne MacLeod loayr son Nalbin. Ta Lorne MacLeod yn Ard-Hecktyragh jeh Colught Dellal Ynnydagh yn Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey. Va'n colught shoh currit er bun dy scuirr as dy hyndaa mygeayrt y leodaghey sy farrys jeh'n Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey, yn ard er y çheer vooar ta faggys da'n Ellan Skianagh.

Hug Lorne MacLeod list dy ard-haleeyn. V'ad shoh Ollooscoill y Ghaeltaght as ny h-Ellanyn, çhaghnoaylleaght-fysseree, 'Tar erash', çheet dy ve dty chroiteyr, kiaull as ellynyn, ymskeaylley, as y Ghàidhlig. 'Thig air ais' - 'Tar erash' - shen shalee dy ghreinnaghey sleih voish yn Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey dy heet erash as (y *red share*) dy chur er bun colughtyn begghey. Ta stoyr-fysseree feer vooar goll er troggal dy roshtyn sleih feiy ny cruinneey. Yn çhalee ry-hoi Ollooscoill y Ghaeltaght as ny h-Ellanyn, ta shen feer hymoil, er y fa dy bee shoh myr ollooscoill soylagh. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, y cholleish Ghàidhlig er yn Ellan Skianagh, bee shen feer scanshoil sy chooish shoh. Cha nel yn earroo dy cummaltee ayns yn Ellan Skianagh as Lough Allshey tuitym nish - dy jarroo, t'eh goll seose nish. Ta sleih saa, breeoil garraghey stiagh, y chooid smoo jeu veih'n gheer vooar Albinagh.

Y loayrtagh son y Vritaan, va shen Bernez An Nail, y stiureyder jeh undyns cultooroil ayns Rennes. Ren eh goaill toshiaght lesh focklyn veih art sy phabyrnaight Frangagh Le Monde. Va'n art enmyssit 'Y Virril Vritaanagh'. Va'n art mychione yn aght ta sleih gobbraghey ry-cheilleey sy Vritaan, y chreeaght noa ta rygheddyn ayns shen as yn aght ta'n Vritaan 'goll rish Catalonia nish'. Ta'n Vritaan nane jeh ny ardjyn smoo scanshoil syn Oarpey bentyn rish y turrysids as gaase bee. Cha nel y Vritaan croghey er ardjyn elley, er aghyn dy liooar. Ta ny smoo pobbles cummal ayn na ayns ard elley sy steat Frangagh.

Lurg y Nah Chaggey Mooar, va'n Vritaan ayns stayd agglagh. Va ny purtyn currit mow as yn fo-strughtoor stroiet. Va'n farrys croghey er eiryns va shenn-emshyragh. Va daa cheead as daeed thousane gowaltys ayn, y chooid smoo jeu feer veg - ny sloo na queig acyr as feed.

Ny smoo na lieh-cheead blein lurg shen, cha nel eh myr shen er chor erbee. Ga nagh vel agh shey sy cheead jeh cummaltee y steat Frangagh ec y Vritaan, ta'n Vritaan cur queig as feed sy cheead jeh'n vainney as hoght as daeed sy cheead jeh ny ein. Ta'n Vritaan sy tree ynnyd syn Oarpey bentyn rish oohyn. Ta shiaght millioon muc eck. Shoh paart jeh ny earrooyen hug Bernez magh.

Ta ny caglaaghyn er nyannoo foays da'n farrys ooilley cooidjagh. Agh ta sleih er hurranse dy mooar. Ta'n shenn seihll ersooyl. Ta biljyn ass towse er nyn stroie dy yannoo magherny mooarey as caghlaa'n çheer dy bollagh. Ta ram stoo er ny hollaghey, erskyn ooilley yn ushtey.

Red va beggan quaagh bentyn rish leaght Vernez, va shen y red nagh dooyrt eh veg mychione y Vritaanish as y cultoor Britaanagh. Freggyrt feysht ec jerrey y leaght, dooyrt eh dy row yn çhengey er ngoll sheese dy mooar, ga dy row reddyn mie ayn, goll rish Diwan, ta cur er bun se oillyn raad t'ad gynsaghey trooid Britaanish. Va obbyr erskyn towse ry-yannoo dy chur cooney da'n çhengey.

Loayr Adam Price son Bretin. Ta eshyn stiureyder ronsaghey as lhasaghey (*research and development*) ec Menter a Busnes (Ventyr as Dellal) ayns Aberystwyth, ayns pairk-sheanse (*science park*) ry-hoi cur colughtyn begghey er bun. Paart dy vleeantyn er dy henney, v'eh baghtal nagh row Bretnisheyrn (adsyn as Bretnish oc) çheet rish dy chur colughtyn er bun. Ta Adam smooingaghtyn dy vel ram Bretnisheyrn foast smooingaghtyn nagh vel eh cooie dauesyn dy yannoo y lheid - shen red ta Baarleyryn jannoo. 'She ny Baarleyryn ta croo kiartaghyn as she ny Bretnisheyrn ta gobbraghey da ny Baarleyryn'. Er y fa nagh vel creeaght dy liooa ocsyn as Bretnish oc, cha nod

cooishyn goll er bishaghey. Er e hon shen, ta Adam Price dellal rish Bretnisheyrn, cooney lhiu dy chur colughtyn er bun as dellal trooid Bretnish. Peiagh ny ghaa va geaishtagh rish Adam ec y Chohaglym Celtiagh, cha dod ad credjal dy row ny Bretnisheyrn cho faitagh as shen. Agh reesht as reesht ec y Chohaglym shoh va shen yn çhaghteraght: genney creeaght lhiittal lhasaghey.

Loayr Conall Ó Móráin son Nerin. Eshyn y stiureyder jeh gien mie theayagh (*public relations*) son Slattery PR. Loayr eh feer niartal ayns foayr jeh margaghyn seyr. V'eh gra reddyn lunagh mychione reiltyssyn Yernagh v'ayn kuse dy vleeantyn er henney as ad 'croe' kiartaghyn foalsey lesh argid nagh row ayn. Va shoh fardailagh dy bollagh as ren ny Yernee gynsaghey lessoonyn piandagh. Kyndagh rish shen, t'ad ny smoo creeney lesh argid nish. Bwooise da'n chreenaght shen as da'n Unnaneys Oarpagh, ta'n Tiger Celtiagh jannoo dy mie as abyldy chur er bun reddyn casley rish *Teilifis na Gaeilge*.

Loayr Alastair Quinnell son y Chorn. She coonseilagh-countee eshyn as anaase echey er cooishyn Oarpagh. She skeal trimshagh v'echey. Va ny Cornee leedeil ayns ram cooishyn çhynskylagh (*industrial*), agh nish ta ny çhynskylagh tradishoonagh er nyn stroie. Cha nel y Chorn geddyn monney cooney noadyr er y fa dy vel ee kinjagh goll er kiangleey lesh Devon, ard ta foddey ny s'berçhee. Dy jarroo, ta'n Chorn ayns stayd agglagh.



Charles Cain

Ren Charles Cain loayrt son Mannin. Loayr eh mychione farrys myr cooishynsee as yn aght dy vel yn earroo dy chummaltee ayns çheer feer scanshoil. My va sleih laccal dy ve berchagh as tarroogh, begin geddyn tooilley cummaltee. Agh veagh shen stroie shee as taityns y çheer. Myr shen, va doilleeid ayn. Loayr Charles Cain mychione Mannin - eiryns, çhynskyl, turrysids as y kerroo-argidys. Dooyrt eh dy

row ynsagh scanshoil ass towse. Berchys Vannin, shen e pobble. As v'ee cur ersooyl pobble mie-ynsit da cheeraghyn elley rish ymmodee bleecantyn. Dooyrt eh nagh row politickeyryn Vannin ynsit dy liooar. Lhisagh Mannin ve foddey ny smoo daaney. Erskyn ooilley, lhisagh Mannin freayll rick er ny reddyn va goll er feiy ny cruinney as ginsh da'n teihll mychione Mannin.

Orree Crennell

#### Summary

*Speakers from the Celtic countries gave lectures on the economies of their countries at the 1998 International Celtic Congress in the Isle of Man.*

## L'Ile de Man

Enez Vanav, 1998, Published by Skol-Uhel ar Vro under the direction of Tadhg O'hfearnáin. ISBN: 2-86822-072-X, Institut Culturel de Bretagne, 1 rue Raoul Ponchon, 35069 Roazhon, Tel 0299875800, Fax 0299875808.

This volume is a comprehensive outline of the Isle of Man, concentrating on the Celtic dimension past and present, published in French.

The book is the third in a series and its intention is to make the Celtic countries better known in Brittany, and importantly to contribute towards reinforcing the ancient cultural links. This is an initiative of the interceltic and international section of the Breton Cultural Institute.

Seven authors contributed to the 119 pages which are illustrated with maps, tables and numerous black and white photographs. There are nine chapters covering topics such as Manx language and literature, national identity and the national movement, population and cultural life, geography, constitutional status, as well as a comprehensive outline of the Island's history.

Whilst it makes no pretence at being the last word on the subjects covered, considering its slimness and wide scope, it is very comprehensive. There is certainly nothing as useful that I know of published in English. This book would certainly answer many inquirers' questions that take up much of my time. Perhaps the publishers would consider translations of this splendid little book.

Cristl Jerry.

# The voice of Mann

**M**anx speakers are justifiably proud of their new playgroup, Mooiney Veggey (little people). But whilst we forge ahead, encouraging the children of English speaking parents to learn Manx, we must not forget that the quickest way to a child's vocabulary is through its parents and parents of pre-school children aren't learning Manx quickly enough.

Things are hard for many parents; often they have only recently grown up themselves, their parents spoke only English and they were taught very little, if any, Manx at school. With their education behind them their energy goes into making a life for themselves and other matters get delayed.

Time goes by and, despite the best of intentions, they have no Gaelic to teach their Children. This is not necessarily because there is no interest in learning the language, but once children have arrived only the very determined will learn Gaelic in time to teach their own children during the vital first years. Why?

Well, suppose the importance of Manx has seeped through the general ignorance and apathy and the parents are intrigued enough to want to learn. For obvious reasons very young children are not welcome at evening classes; they are far too disruptive, but arranging childcare can be a nightmare, not many parents find it easy to get free babysitting every week. Couples could take it in turn to stay at home but more often than not one of them would give up completely, and single parents of course don't have that option.

Parents are often harassed, frazzled creatures with a home, career and relationship to manage and uncertainties like this will lead to missed lessons and frustration, so one day they will just stop going. A rare few persevere of course, learning alongside their children and practising in the home that is what keeps a language alive. But surely, if it was easier for parents to learn more would. More parents, more children, a more secure language.

So what would attract parents to classes? A crèche is one idea, with children being looked after while parents learn, and the

timing of lessons is also important. Most lessons are held between 7 and 8 o'clock at night which is a time when children are tired and fractious and workers are just looking forward to an evening in; staying at home with a glass of wine and an open fire is an attractive option.

In an ideal world learning Manx would need little effort and be great fun. A class could work well on Saturday with occasional social events planned round it, a walk in the morning, a giense in the afternoon and a children's club to teach them whilst parents study.

Children can be used as an excuse for not learning but they should be the reason why you do and they need to be encouraged to take part too. Mew Manx speakers could be happier, younger and work closer together. A lesson does not have to be difficult to be worthwhile but at the moment it seems as if only the truly determined have a reasonable chance of success. At this rate, the time when Manx people will, as a matter of course, be brought up with knowledge of their language is several frustrating generations away.

Vince McCartney

Phil Gawne



## YN GREINNEYDER

Phil Gawne has been appointed Manx Language Development Officer by the Manx Heritage Foundation, with financial help for the first year coming from the Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust.

The official title is Yn Greinneyder - meaning facilitator. The post is part-time and has been created to promote the use of Manx within the community and to increase awareness of Manx off the Island. Part of his job will also be to develop the use of Manx at heritage sites and at the museum where the language has been sorely neglected.

One of the main goals is to help people and groups who are already working to preserve, promote and develop the Manx language. Mr. Gawne's work will complement and expand on the work already being done in Island schools by the Department of Education.



## Clanship, Commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603-1788

by Allan I Macinnes, 1996, Tuckwell Press, ISBN 1 898410 43 7, paperback price £16.99.

Allan I Macinnes is Burnett-Fletcher Professor in History at the University of Aberdeen. He has challenged many sloppy assumptions about the development of Highland society to the present day. His work is in the generation which includes Murray Pittock and Tom Devine who have illuminated the complex interplay of clan society with the early modern development of increasing government intervention alongside commercial and capitalist business ethics.

When clanship, with its feudally organised family ties met commerce only one result seemed possible, the transformation of the old order but whether as unwilling slave or equal partner in the new order is the nub of this excellent study.

Macinnes has dipped into family archives, Gaelic poetry and often applied sociological, poetic and accountancy skills to paint the picture. His masterly essay on the traditional basis of clanship opens the account. With copious MacKenzie references the book is a mine of contextual facts for all to ponder. The structure of the clan hierarchies and relationships of the *fine*, or lead family members and the *tacksmen* or clan gentry in their roles as protectors, leaders and leading businessmen is clearly explained.

Myths about perpetual Highland order are put to the sword. Careful analysis of hosting, ritual cattle raids and freelance rustling are set beside the growing trade in cattle with the wealthy South and the increasing use of money in economic life. Of course the intervention and rise of more intrusive central government had a chequered role in this process. While attempts to pacify the wild Hebrides, such as the Statue of Iona of 1609, have been mistaken by generations of historians, weaned on the Whig tradition, for an all-Highland policy from Edinburgh and latterly London, Macinnes has delved deeper and identified the intricate feudal relationships of all charter holding chiefs

with the full Scot's law process and those outwith the run of Edinburgh's writ.

The marriage patterns of chiefs and clan *fine* within and without Highland society is a useful new guide to intended family alliances, but clientism, manrent and other inter-clan relationships is shown to have built and sustained a remarkably strong regional and local stability in society through many troubled times. Not least through the strains of largely imposed polarisations due to Presbyterian versus Catholic and Parliamentary versus Royalist politics which dominate the centuries under scrutiny.

As so often in other societies the poets reflect an ancient warrior and propagandist role which bolsters morale and glosses over widely known reality, especially in the ebb and flow of warfare such as the Montrose/MacColla campaigns in the 1640s and later Jacobite period. As the old society succumbed to outside political and commercial pressures so the popular poets became detached from the patronage of great chiefs whom they had formerly eulogised. It is a fascinating period of which to make social and political as well as literary sense.

Macinnes's colleague Tom Devine has made clear the capacities of Highland families to adapt to new commercial ways. How the voluntary movements of tens of thousands of Highlanders in the later 18th century to Carolina and Georgia was well-organised, socially stable and well-financed. So Macinnes shows how the pitch of commercial farming and enclosure were well in train under the Campbell hegemony of the Duke of Argyll and through the agency of other leading families whose involvement with the legal and political establishment brought them to apply new methods e.g. the MacKenzie of Rosehaugh in the Black Isle were to the fore. Also families which straddled the Highland line pushed over a bridgehead for land improvements which led almost

inexorably to the landlord and surplus tenant crisis which the nineteenth century was to see played out as the age of the sheep and deer forest Clearance. The author convincingly traces roots of these changes to the period of his study.

Allan Macinnes has delivered a study which opens doors of understanding about the complicity of hierarchical clan and royalist society in an age of change which ushered in commercialism and state intervention. It is a basic work without which genuine students of real highland clanship will be immeasurably poorer.

Rob Gilson

## Les Royaumes Brittoniques au Très Haut Moyen Age

by Christian Y.M. Kerboul. 256 pp.  
Editions du Pontig, Les Tertreux, 44880  
Sautron, Brittany. 135 FF.

This book deals with the establishment of the Bretons in Armorica during the 200 years following the fall of the Roman Empire in Britain but also, though to a smaller extent, with the emergence and the destiny of the eight "Brittonic" kingdoms which strove to resist the Anglo-Saxon invasion in the same period. It gives evidence for the continuation of close links between the latter and the new Breton principalities of Kernev (Cornwall), Domnonea and Bro-Wereg. His thesis is that the Celtic Britons who had Roman citizenship and took part in the attempts to stop the advance of the Germanic peoples in Northern and Central Gaul had been entrusted with the task of ensuring the safety of seafaring between Britain and the continent. Their possession of a considerable fleet played a major role in enabling them to colonize Brittany. In the original stages, the rulers of Demetia (Dyfed) and British Domnonea (later Devor) acted as protectors of the Breton settlements. The title of the book is thus justified by the strong sense of community which persisted between the two sides of the Channel.

A great deal of research in the past 50 years has made it possible to fill in many of the gaps in our knowledge of the history of the birth of the Breton nation. Leon Fleuriot made the most outstanding contribution to it with his "Origines de la Bretagne" (1980) but his early death prevented the realisation of his project of a



history of "the Breton kingdoms of Armorica".

Ch. Kerboul who has already published books about the crisis of the Western civilisation has decided to turn his attention to Early Brittany. He has done his own investigations, e.g. to identify in the field the possible locations of the Breton rulers' residences and fortifications. But he refers extensively to other historians, above all to L. Fleuriot, and to John Morris, (whose 550-page book, "The Age of Arthur", we intend to review soon), where the British kingdoms are concerned. His presentation is not strictly academic: he is addressing a wide public, this is reflected in his style. For some of his assertions one would have liked to have the sources but on the whole he is cautious. It is a delight to find more or less mythical figures like Ambrosius Aurelianus, Arthur, Conan Meriadec acquiring real features and Marc Conomor (the king Marc of the tale of Tristan and Isolde) being rehabilitated as the man (ruthless though he may have been) who was about to achieve the unity of Brittany, 300 years before Nomenoe, but was thwarted as it appears through the schemings of Saint Samson which led to his excommunication on false charges and his defeat by the anything but devout Franks (558-560). Kerboul reveals the existence of a rivalry between the lay rulers who had reverted to the aristocratic Celtic way of life and the monks who brought with them thousands of colonists, acquired vast domains and sought to create a system based on Christian principles – a kingdom of God on Earth. "De Excidio Britanniae" (reviewed in *Carn* 97 and recently given its second edition) can be considered as a manifesto for that project in which the best of the British youth, repelled by the excesses denounced by St. Gildas, took part in the 6th century. Their flight must of course have greatly weakened the power of the the British rulers to withstand the second great Anglo-Saxon onslaught. In Brittany too a congenital lay-religious duality of power was to adversely affect the country's ability to defend itself against its enemies.

It would be desirable to see this book, concerned as it is with events which lay at the origin of at least three of the Celtic nations, translated and published in English and Welsh.

A. Heusaff

## How to Draw Celtic Key Patterns. A Practical Handbook

Andy Sloss, Blandford. ISBN 0-7137-2652-0, £10.99.

This is a thorough book with many applications. Its great virtue is, that because it shows, by gradual steps, a method for creating the key patterns; it allows plenty of individual choice. By applying the principles, a designer could create patterns personal to him or herself alone.

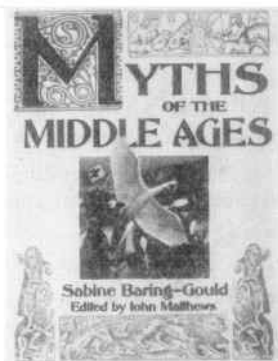
The section showing how the Celtic designers achieved balance pleasing to the eye, in the corners and edges of rectangular designs is very revealing. We are still needing to appreciate the genius of the original creators, and to emulate them and not just to slavishly copy.

Other sections cover key patterns in rings and circles, irregular shapes and curved key patterns. Also variations within panels such as flagging and spiralling the ends are described, and transitions from one pattern to another are touched upon.

Almost half the book is devoted to giving examples of elements of patterns in their simplest form, allowing the user to work out patterns to whatever size is required. These are supplied as a full page example followed by the elements themselves, including charted versions.

I have to admit that I could not follow all of the mathematical steps but I feel that I should be able to by applying them in practice by designing some patterns of my own.

Colin Jerry



## Myths of the Middle Ages

by Sabine Baring-Gould, edited by John Matthews, pp153, Blandford, 1998  
ISBN 0 7137 2735 7 PB price £10.99.

Twelve stories originating from the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould's classic 1869 collection, *Curios Myths*. Chosen by John Matthews for their merit and worth to the modern reader and brought up to date with his extensive knowledge of the subject.

The foreword by Cyril Tawney gives a brief introduction into the life and works of Baring-Gould: and incredibly prolific writer and preserver of songs and folklore. Introductory essays provide background, context and relevant historical or mythological origins, whilst Baring-Gould's comments within each tale provide a perceptive insight into a truly remarkable preserver of a rich heritage.

The book is a visual delight, with a good number of colour plates and some ornamental designs throughout.

A *Further Reading* section, divided by chapters, is most useful for those who find they would like to read more about a particular area.

John Matthews, in his introductory essays, shows how the themes of each story can be seen in many different traditions from both the West and East. This is the key to Sabine Baring-Gould's work, who used the widest possible range of sources, treating them with objectivity and it is this objectivity which gives Baring-Gould's work its real power.

## The Unknown Arthur Forgotten Tales of the Round Table

by John Matthews, Blandford, 1998,  
Price £10.99, PB, ISBN 0 7137 2734 9

Arthurian expert John Matthews retells a dozen stories from the world of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Using totally original sources, a whole new

perspective on the Arthurian myths and legends is uncovered. With specially created colour plates from artist Mark Robertson.

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For further information contact: Victoria Mizen, Cassell Publicity, Wellington House, 125 Strand, London WC2R 0BB, England.



**The Irish Ringfort** by Mathew Stout, Four Courts  
ISBN 1-85182-300-X, Hb.  
Stg.£19.95.

The ringforts – known variously by the names, rath, lios, caisel and dun – are not only the commonest Irish field monument but the commonest in western Europe. They probably outnumber all the other field monuments of the early period in western Europe put together – yet this is the first modern text devoted purely to them. Stout is a geographer so his approach to the subject reflects this, around half of the text being an analysis of their distribution. He points out that large tracts of early Ireland were either upland (19%), raised bog (21%) or part of the drumlin belt (15%), which, allowing for an overlap between these categories, rendered perhaps a third of the country ‘unusable’ – a regrettable phrase perhaps. We learn that ringforts tend to occupy sloping terrain, avoiding the lowland clays in preference for the lighter sands and gravels (p. 106). The relative scarcity of ringforts in Leinster becomes apparent from a distributional analysis. There is also a complementary distribution of ringforts and ecclesiastical sites – with the latter tending to occupy lowland sites. It would appear from this that advanced tillage agriculture of the clay lowlands and the mouldboard plough that made it possible, were a feature developed by the monasteries (pp. 108 and 132).

Stout looks closely at the chronology of the ringforts commenting that the ‘firm conclusion is that the majority of ringforts were constructed during a three hundred year period’ from around AD 600 to AD 900. This opens up important implications with regards to Irish population figures for this period – especially when we bear it in mind that the ringfort economy was based on dairying, with all that implies in terms of the carrying capacity of the country (p. 132).

An interesting aspect of the work is Stout’s efforts to relate the field evidence to what is known of early Irish society as revealed by its legal texts such as *Crith Gablach*. He also makes the intriguing suggestion that the modern day townland boundaries represent the landowning units of the *bo-aíres* ‘the cow-freemen’ of early Ireland.

On a worrying level Stout informs us that 37% of these monuments have been destroyed since they were first mapped in the 1840s, ranging from 3% in Longford to 80% in Derry. Most of this has been as a result of modern farm improvements.

Fortunately, new legislation gives legal status to all archaeological features, ‘including all upstanding ringforts and the known sites of destroyed enclosures.’ The book comes with 33 figures, mostly maps, 16 plates, mostly aerial photographs, and five tables. The author and publishers are to be congratulated.

Kevin Collins

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**Breton Ballads** by Mary-Ann Constantine, X + 269pp. CMCS Publications, ISBN 0 9527478 0 4, price £18 – available post free from the Dept. of Welsh, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AX.

This is a wonderful book, a study of the orally transmitted Breton *Gwerziou*. The first chapter is an overview of the work of earlier collectors – Villamarque, Luzel, Penguern, Kerambrun, de Saint Prix and Le Braz. It is all too easy to criticise these earlier explorers but this is something which Constantine scrupulously avoids; she comments: ‘many of the questions they raised and some of the answers they found are still very pertinent. There is also a discussion of language and identity, the influence of the written word and of The Church on the *Gwerziou*. One learns that Brittany’s archives are relatively well preserved compared to those of France. An interesting list, derived from Francis Gouvil, of the range of topics covered by the *Gwerz* is given on p. 59, although it is, as Constantine comments, far from satisfactory. The supernatural category of Gouvil, for example, amounting to around a quarter of the total, is in fact largely religious in content: ‘the elves, fairies, trolls or silkies of Anglo-Scandinavian ballads are conspicuous by the rarity.’ (p. 60)

There is an intriguing discussion of *Skolvan/Skolan* (pp. 66-70). Versions of this ballad collected by Donation Laurent in the 1960s were found to be similar to Villamarque’s mid 19th century version; this had hitherto been regarded as little more than a forgery, a deliberate attempt by him to link Breton story with medieval Welsh literature. The new evidence indicates that there is indeed a relationship between the Breton story collected in the 19th and 20th centuries and a Welsh story of the 13th (or even 10th) century.

The greater part of the book is devoted

to an in-depth analysis of two *Gwerz*: *Iannik Kokard* and *Mari Kelenn*. *Iannik Kokard* revolves around the relationship between the hero of that name and a certain *Mari Tilly* who comes from a *kakous* family, i.e. an outcast leper one. The hero becomes infected with leprosy. Place names in the various versions of *Iannik Kokard* anchor the events to a tightly defined area around Ploumilliau, east of Morlaix. Constantine investigates the parish registers of this area in an effort to track down the identities of the characters in the ballad. The name *Kokard* is comparatively rare in this area, coming originally from the south of Brittany, but can be shown to be present around Ploumilliau from at least the mid-sixteenth century until the beginning of the eighteenth. So too can the name *Tilly* – borne by the other leading protagonist in the ballad. This is important evidence, helping Constantine to conclude that ‘it would be extremely unusual for anyone to compose a *gwerz* of this degree of specificity and detail without some foundation in fact.’ (p. 127) The ballad tradition can thus be shown to have passed on a record of real events for over five hundred years. As with *Mari Kelenn*, the ballad of *Iannik Kokard*’s had a moral message and as Constantine points out much earlier ‘it was the moral drawn from the event rather than the detailed description of the event itself, that represented truth.’ (p. 34) This would explain the remaining historical obscurities and uncertainties in the ballad.

Kevin Collins

## *Pan-Celtic Conference*

The 150th anniversary of the Irish uprising of 1848 and the 200th anniversary of the Irish Rebellion of 1798 were the themes of this year’s Pan-Celtic Conference at Hunter College, New York

Drawing the links between these crucial historic events and today, the speakers included Professor Ed O’Donnell on the Young Ireland Revolt of 1848, Stephen Paul DeVillo on the United Irishmen’s Rising of 1798, and Greg Douglas on ‘Alasdair McColla: A Gael Between Two Worlds.’ In addition there were workshops in some of the Celtic languages by Liam McNellis and others, plus a brief musical presentation by sean-nós singer Sandra Reid.

Stephen DeVillo

## Celtic Literature and Culture in the Twentieth Century

Pub. The International Celtic

Congress, 1997.

ISBN 0 9530793 0 9.

The International Celtic Congress meeting in Dublin in 1997 saw the launch of a collection of articles entitled '*Celtic Literature and Culture in the Twentieth Century*'. The contents consist of the lectures delivered in the 1996 Congress meeting in Bangor.

Cornwall is represented by two articles, one by Richard Jenkin, member of the Gorsedd of Bards of Cornwall, who gives an account of twentieth-century writing in the Cornish language. Alan Kent, of the Institute of Cornish Studies, gives a historicised account of Cornish writing in the three languages of Cornwall, Cornish, English and English dialect.

From Brittany, Ninnog Latimier - Kervella reviews the development of modern Breton literature, beginning with the seminal collection, *Barzaz Breizh*, at the end of the last century, and tracing its various stages in the twentieth century.

Wales is represented by the distinguished novelist, Marion Eames. Referring to writers in the two languages of Wales, she highlights the extraordinary achievements in Welsh writing in this century.

Stylish humour characterises the contribution of Tadhg Ó Dushlane, a lecture at Maynooth College. His title, 'The Hippieization of the Gael and vice versa', reveals that he chose to focus on the liberating effect of the revolutionary sixties on Irish writing in Gaelic.

Brian Stowell outlines the history of the decline and revival of Manx.

In view of some of the statistics he quotes, his account is witness to the tenacity of the Celtic tongues of Britain in their struggle to survive.

Joan MacDonald's article focuses on Scottish Gaelic publishing. She refers to two strands of Gaelic poetry, that written in the traditional modes, and what she calls the "high profile publications" of the modern school.

Price £5.00, overseas £6.50 (incl. p. and p.) from: Eurwen Price, Y Garn, Swansea Rd., Llewitha, Fforestfach, Swansea SA5 4RN. Tel: 01792/421315.

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### Alba?

#### What do you Mean?

We regret that in the article about the *Meaning of Alba* (Carn No 101, pp22/23) odd errors occurred in the transcription into Roman type of Greek words which could not be printed in Greek type. We wish to make the following corrections with apologies to the author:

Page 22, col. 2, parag. 3: Z!8\$'T< (in 2 places should be Albiōn

AgDÂ 5'F:@L: Peri Kósmou

parag. 4. The sentence from Pseudo-Aristoteles is given in translation in brackets P.22, col. 3 parag.2 (middle)

?Ū>4V:O : Ouzisámē

FJDL: <H : Oistrymnis

ÇFJD@4: Oistroi

ZSFJ'4@4: Ōstimioi

ZSFJ'T<gH: Ōstiōnes

## Greatest Cornish Publisher dies

Cornish Bard and publisher Leonard Truran died on January 23, after a long illness, at the age of 70. A publisher to whom Cornwall owes an immeasurable debt. Len, a former school teacher founded his publishing house, Dyllansow Truran, in 1979 and by the time of his death was reputed to have published some 270 books. Certainly the figure was well in excess of 200, his own estimation in 1994, a time when he was already courageously battling against ill health.

Len was totally committed to the Cornish Nation – at home and worldwide – and it was this commitment that drove his publishing endeavours. Many of his books were in, or about Kernewek (the Cornish language). He was the first honorary life member of Agan Tavas the society for the promotion of Kernewek. A former chairman and secretary of the Cornish Party, Mebyon Kernow, Len was as true a son of Kernow. On one occasion he was the party's parliamentary candidate for the Falmouth/Camborne constituency.

Among his authors he could list such eminent figures as the historian Dr. A.L. Rowse while closer to home he published books for the late Mrs. Beryl James and St. Ives historian Cyril Noall. Among the Beryl James' books he published was 'The Life and Times of John Knill' and her 'Saints' and 'Tinner's Way' books.

Together with many early members of Mebyon Kernow, Len moderated a strong nationalist stance taken in the 1960s to one which saw the political party as the representative of Cornish interests. He saw the way forward as through the promotion of the Cornish language and culture and in this respect declared his single minded intention to get as many Cornish books into print as possible. In this he was spectacularly successful; although he still never made any secret of the fact that he did not like to see the Union Jack on Cornish soil!

Probably the first Cornish man to realise the importance of taking a cultural direction rather than a political one, Len proved to be an inspiration for a younger generation of Cornish publishers while his staggering output must surely rank him the greatest of all Cornish publishers.

Toni Carver



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Registration materials are now available by mail, the Internet or fax; write to CQI at Box 1384, Milwaukee WI 53201 for a registration packet, or visit our Web-site at [www.cwilt.org](http://www.cwilt.org). The fax number is: 414-257-3705.

## Membership and Subscriptions

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

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Original photographs must be forwarded.

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