

# comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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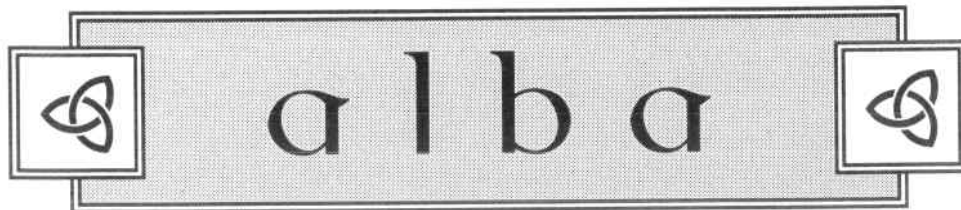


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CELTIC LEAGUE





# Alba Taingeil Don Chuimrigh A-Risd

**S**e a' chiad òran a chuala mi riamh. "Chan eil mo leannan ann a seo" gu h-àraidh an sèisd aige:-

'S i o a l o a l o a l a m  
'S i o a l o a l o a l a m  
'S i o a l o a l o a l a m  
'S i o a l a m 's i h-aurum.

"B'abhaist do m'athair ga sheinn agus mise air a ghlùinean... Abair gun robh mi nam ghiullan òg òg sna làithean ud. Sheinneadh e dhomh air a' chuid as lugha trì òrain a h-uile latha.

Uaireannan bhiodh sinn a' dol air chuairt agus chuireadh e ceistean orm a thaobh a h-uile cail san dol seachad. Latha agus bha sinn a' dol seachad air eòin.

"Seall dhomh a' bhuidheag," arsa esan.

Cha robh sin doirbh bhon a bha ach aon eun buidhe ri fhacinn!

Latha bha sinn a' coiseachd tre choille agus thoisich m'athair a' buaileadh craobh agus theirear litir mar Dar airson Darach a' ciallachadh D, no Beith airson B dìreach mar a tha craobhan na h-aibidil Ghàidhlig ri fhacinn an diugh aig Aros faisg air Port-rìgh.

Dh'aithriseadh e sgeul dhomh nuair a bha mi dol nam laigh a h-uile oidhche bhon a bha mi sia bliadhna a dh'aois gus an do chaochail e nuair a bha mi dusan bliadhna a dh'aois. Bha mòran dhiubh air eachdraidhean nam fineachan Gàidhleach no mu Iain Lom no Caisteal Inbhir Lochaidh agus mar sin air adhart.

Gach latha fèille am baile Pheairt no Blar Gabhra bhiodh ceilidh anns an taigh againn le òran is sgeulachdan is fealla-dhà; is dannsadh ri puirt-a-beul agus a h-uile cail sa Ghàidhlig. Bhoineadh m'athair do Ardnamarachan.

Gu nadarra, bha mi cinnteach gum biodh an saoghal seo maireannach 's a bhiodh e a' seasamh gu latha-luain agus gu brath. Gun teagamh tha an fheadhainn òg daonnan a' smaoineachadh sin.

Thuir mi rudeigin mar sin ri Gàidheal air choireigan aig ceilidh an taigh mo pharantan agus dh'fhas e gu fìor bronach. Bha deòirean sna sùilean aige.

"A bhròinein, seo far a bheil thu fada ceàrr bhon a tha ar cànan a' dol a dholaidh," arsa esan, "bha na diùcan Athall daonnan dèidheil air ar cànan ach an deidh Chùil-lodair chaill iad an cumhachd aca agus sa bhliadhna 1872 bha Achd Pàrlamaid ann a dh'òrdaich teagasg tro Bheurla a-mhàin, feadh Alba. Le sin, is

sinne an ginealach Gàidhlig mu deireadh an Athall agus feadh iomadh àitean eile feadh Alba!"

Abair gun deachaidh na facail oillteil seo tre mo chridhe coltach ri biodag.

Fad làithean mo bheatha bha eagal orm gun robh ar cànan agus ar dualchas a' dol à bith oir chunnaic mi gun robh an fheadhainn òg a' fàs suas gun fhacail Gàidhlig nan ceann, eadhon nuair a bha i aig na parantan aca.

Ach chaidh na bliadhnachan seachad agus leis a sin chaidh an Impireachd Bhreatannach leis an t-sruth coltach ris a h-uile impireachd Eorpach eile agus bha am Margadh Coitcheann na h-Eorpa an làthair. Bhon a bha i ioma cànanach cha robh cail ceàrr a thaobh dà-chànanachas.

Mata, latha de na làithean, thachair mi ri Fionnlagh nan Croileagan (Fionnlagh MacLeòid). Fad bliadhnachan bha e ag obair air na beairt-ola agus a' caomhnadh a h-uile sgillin ruadh oir bha fios aige gu fàgadh e an obair seo agus a dh'fhaighinn a-mach na bha feumail mu Ghàidhlig a shabhaladh.

Mu dheireadh thall thuig Fionnlagh coir gun robh an fhreagairt sa Chuimris bhon is i ann an aon dùthaich Cheilteach far an robh a' chànan dualchasach làidir beothail.

Chaidh Fionnlagh coir gu ruige Cuimrigh agus an sin dh'ionnsaich e gun robh e feumail naoidhein eadar dà bhliadhna gu leth agus cóig bliadhna a bhith cluich sa Ghàidhlig còmhla, roimh dhol don sgoil aig aois cóig bliadhna. Le sin thàinig na croilleagan agus CNSA air an stéidheachadh.

Rud eile, dh'ionnsaich Fionnlagh nach biodh aiseirigh na Gàidhlig fhileanta mur eil i air a teagasg tre na Gàidhlig agus leis a sin thàinig sin tre mheadhan na Gàidhlig ge b'oil leis an Achd 1872.

Mata, bliadhnachan an deidh sin, rinn Albannaich eile an turas gus a' Chuimrigh air lorg fiosrachadh a thaobh teagasg na Gàidhlig.

Có iad ach deichnear a dh'fhoillsich aithisg, "Teagasg ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig: Molaidhean Leasachaidh", airson GTC (General Teaching Council for Scotland) am bliadhna.

Chaidh iad gu Colaisde na Trianaid, Carmarthen, sa Chuimrigh bhon a tha i cho ainneil a thaobh an dà-chànanachas. Tairgidh a' Cholaisde cùrsa BA

(Education). Bhiodh sin BED (Foghlam) ann an Alba. Tha trì sruthan sa chùrsa. Seo agaibh iadsan:-

- (1) Tro mheadhan na Beurla le beagan dhe Chuimris. Ach cha ceadaidh e do teagasg ach a-mhàin tro mheadhan na Beurla, cha do ghabh Albannach sam bith ùidh ann.
- (2) Sruth tro mheadhan na Cuimris, le gach teagasg, obair sgrìobhte agus greis-sgoile sa Chuimris. Dé thuirt Sir Iain Noble air BBC2 "Cunntas" ach, "San Fhraing teagaisidh iad a h-uile cuspair tro mheadhan na Fraingis agus is urrainn daibh Beurla ionnsachadh." Chan e Sir Iain fear de na daoine a sgrìobh an aithisg. Cha do bhean e rithe idir, ach seo barail eile.
- (3) B'fheàrr le luchd na h-aithisg an treas sruth far a bheil 50% sa Chuimris (bhiodh sin sa Gàidhlig ann an Alba) agus 50% ann am Beurla. Bhiodh na h-oileanaich soirbheachail ceadaidhe a theagaisg tre na Cuimris agus tre Beurla cuideachd. Tadhaillidh na h-oileanaich Oilthigh Limerick ann an Eirinn fad cola-deug airson eòlas a thoirt air àrainneachd dhà-chànanach. Paighidh a' Cholaisde a' chosgais! Chuireadh cùrsa mar sin tre na Gàidhlig agus Beurla air bhonn bun-tomhas no standard ann, airson teagaisg a' chùrsa agus sgil nan oileanach.

Abair gum bheil na sgoilearan Cuimreach fialaidh a thaobh aiseirigh na Gàidhlig, taing don eòlas a fhuair iad a' sabhaladh na Cuimris. Feumaidh sinn a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bi na h-Albannaich feadh Alba le chéile fileanta sa Gàidhlig agus ann am Beurla.

Gu cinnteach, tha mòran againn ri dhèanamh ach tha fios againn a-nis na tha feumail ri dhèanamh taing do na Colaisdean Chuimreach.

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich**  
**Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Ileasbuig**

## Summary

*This tells of the immense debt owed by Scottish language enthusiasts to Welsh educationalists over the years for their help and advice as to how language can be successfully revived. But it will take a vast effort on our part to have Gaelic as strong in Scotland as Welsh is in Wales and a lot more exertion before every person in Scotland is as fluent in Gaelic as they are in English.*

## Gaelic spoken in parliament

For the first time in more than 600 years the Gaelic language was heard in a Scottish Parliament recently.

The packed public galleries at the Edinburgh Parliament applauded as the Gaelic Minister, Mr Alasdair Morrison, got to his feet to open the debate and to welcome the opportunity for the first discussion in the language in the new parliament since devolution a year ago.

## Language Debate

Following the publication in Carn 107 of the articles *The Missing Link* and *A Parent's Perspective* along with the publication of a letter in Carn 108 (pg. 10) I have received a number of responses from members of the Alba branch, and one from Cymru with a Welsh perspective.

It is clear that all correspondents are very sincere activists working for the Gaelic language and that the differences appear to me to be reconcilable. It is not possible to deal with this matter in such detail in Carn, as it would take up three pages. These issues would be perhaps better discussed in Celtic League national newsletters.

The Celtic League's position in regard to the promotion of Celtic medium language schools, Celtic units and the teaching of the Celtic languages has been shown in AGM motions and in support of various campaigns. Nevertheless, we feel that the destiny of each Celtic language is the responsibility of each Celtic nation, although important lessons can be learned from each other's experience.

In consequence of all the above I do not feel that the publication of the correspondence received would further anybody's cause, but of course opinions and debate are always welcome at the AGM.

Editor.

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## Scots Language Question On Census

SNP Deputy Shadow Minister for Culture Irene McGugan, MSP has welcomed the decision of the Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee to recommend a question in the 2001 census on the Scots language.

Today's decision came only a day after SNP Shadow Minister for Culture Michael Russell MSP received a reply to a Parliamentary question which showed that the Scottish Executive is receiving less state funding than practically any other minority language in Europe. Mr. Russell commented:

*"Today I received a parliamentary reply which showed that the Executive could only identify £112,500 annual spending on the Scots language, which is way behind the funding received by any of the other minority languages recognised by the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages..."*

*I am glad that the Scottish Parliament's committees are showing their teeth in this way."*

## Gaelic Television Developments

At the annual Gaelic broadcasting seminar held in Inverness in February, Scotland Office Minister Brian Wilson hinted that a Gaelic television channel might become a reality within five years. While this news was warmly welcomed, less welcome was the Minister's suggestion that responsibility for funding Gaelic broadcasting should be moved from the Scottish Parliament to Westminster. Mr Wilson stated that "we have to ask realistically, whether the required levels of funding are ever likely to come from the resources of the Scottish Executive, with all the competing claims on it."

At present the funding of Gaelic broadcasting through the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee is the only power over broadcasting enjoyed by the Scottish Parliament. It can therefore be expected that nationalists will strongly oppose any moves towards London control over Gaelic television. As all other areas of language policy are devolved, Westminster control of Gaelic broadcasting would reduce the potential for coordination between the

broadcast media and other areas of language planning. This would be a great loss.

Loss of control over the one area of broadcasting under Scottish control would remove what could be otherwise be used as a wedge to lever further devolution of broadcasting power from the UK Government to the Scottish Executive. Continued Holyrood control of Gaelic broadcasting would leave open the possibility of the use of a future Gaelic television channel as a Scottish national broadcasting service to rival the Scottish content of BBC Scotland and the ITV companies. Adequately funded, subtitled, high quality Gaelic television programmes would be accessible to all Scots and would be able to rival the meagre and often parochial Scottish programmes on the existing English language channels. A Gaelic "Scottish Six" would be one such example. This is a chance that must not be lost! Gaelic broadcasting must stay under Scottish control.

Brude Mac Maelcon

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## Gaelic Group Merger?

Alasdair Morrison, MSP, Minister for Gaelic, has announced a widespread review of the Gaelic development organisations. This is based on the view of the Minister and of his predecessor Brian Wilson that there are too many Gaelic groups in existence with too much overlap and too much duplication of efforts. The review of the groups is being carried out by a Gaelic Development Task Force appointed by the Minister. A key option to be investigated by the Task Force is the possibility of creating a single Gaelic group.

Much concern has been expressed about the review by Gaelic activists. Many feel the review to be unnecessary. While there is a lack of co-ordination between the Gaelic groups, this situation has been improving of late and further proposals have already been put forward for improved co-ordination. There is also very little overlap or duplication between the Gaelic groups. For these reasons, many in the Gaelic movement suspect that there is a hidden agenda behind the review, namely a desire to take the public's attention away from the much more important campaign for Secure Status for Gaelic or to achieve greater government control over Gaelic organisations.

Another worry expressed by Gaelic activists is that the Task Force does not represent all of the Gaelic community as no learners are represented amongst its

numbers. The concern has been expressed that such a group might take a mainly "Gaidhealtachd" based view of the language question, advocating the centralisation of Gaelic development groups in the Western Isles and ignoring the efforts of learners, Gaelic medium education pupils and of Gaelic speakers living outwith the Western Isles. Most activists would favour an inclusive solution, which would include increased representation for Gaelic in Edinburgh – Scotland's capital – and the central belt whilst also increasing the representation in the Western Isles and retaining representation in Inverness.

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## ROADSIGNS UPDATE

The Scottish Executive has at last made its policy on bilingual road signage clear. The hated "10% rule" is to be abolished. This was the rule stating that Gaelic signs could only be erected in parishes where upwards of 10% of the population were Gaelic speakers. Following the waiving of this rule for the Highland Council area after massive public pressure, the Scottish Executive has now made its position clear for the rest of Scotland. The abolition of the 10% rule has been welcomed by Gaelic activists. With the removal of the main central government obstacle to Gaelic signage, the task for Gaelic activists now is to convince local authorities of the benefits of Gaelic signage.

Brude Mac Maelcon



# Call for Help for Manx on Solway Harvester

**S**hadow Rural Affairs Minister Mr. Alasdair Morgan, MSP, has written to the Scottish Finance Minister, Jack McConnell MSP and to the UK Minister with responsibility for maritime matters. Mr. Morgan has asked that as a gesture of goodwill both Parliaments make a contribution to the Isle of Man Government towards the costs incurred in the recovery of the *Solway Harvester*.

In his letter to Jack McConnell Mr. Morgan wrote: "The speedy, efficient and generous action of the Manx Government since the tragic loss of the *Solway Harvester*, off the north east coast of the Isle of Man in January, has been of great support to the next of kin of the crew and to the fishing communities of the Solway."

"The generosity of a small island nation funding the expense involved in raising the *Solway Harvester* has meant that my constituents have not had to endure the long drawn-out wait the constituents of my colleague, Alex Salmond MSP, had to go through after the loss of the *Sapphire*. In that case the refusal of the government to fund the recovery meant that whilst having to cope with their grief the next of kin had to become involved in a fund-raising campaign to raise the vessel."

"At this time I believe it would be most appropriate for the Scottish Parliament to give more than verbal thanks to the Manx authorities but to also assist them in meeting the costs involved."



*Solway Harvester, Photographed off Douglas by Michael Craine*

## A Career Dilemma

**I**t is my assumption that all politicians would wish to remain in politics. As a nationalist politician the goal is **independence** and preparation for our independent country. If we do not achieve it then we strive towards it. When we achieve our independent country there is the future of our country to be involved in. In other words a politician who has a career in nationalist politics will have a future.

Now on the other hand, Scottish unionists have kept the momentum of ensuring their message is spread that Scotland is not viable outside the UK. Of course, us Scots like the other Celtic countries need looking after and assistance in the world of international diplomacy. Evidently there is a career dilemma for all Scottish Unionist politicians. If the UK continues then they carry on playing their part in public life. However, if Scotland did become independent their Scottish political careers would surely cease to exist. If you spend all your energies telling Scottish people that an independent country would not work you could not possibly have the audacity to stand for public office after independence and expect to be trusted and then take part in making an independent country work!

It is unimaginable to think that Labour politician, Brian Wilson, could be Home Secretary for England? Surely, the English public would not be enthralled with Scottish, Welsh and Cornish Unionists taking high profile political roles within an independent England!

What then does this indicate? Well, it may mean that unionists would have a lot to fight for and the hard-core opposition is in a corner. We can surely expect them to battle strongly to maintain the status quo.

Also, the above could discount many politicians from having any moral right to become involved in post-independent political life. In order for these politicians to play their part in an independent Scotland

they must distance themselves from their anti-independence stance. Of course no one could expect them to become nationalists overnight and it may be impossible to imagine any Labour or Conservative party leaders being ecstatic over their party members moving away from the dark side. It would be difficult to gauge just how the Liberals would behave. However, I guess they may go with the majority.

When independence becomes more likely I wonder which unionist party members will rebel first from their strictly party line to save their careers? This therefore would also be exactly the same for the other unionist politicians in the other Celtic countries as they clamour to save their careers with an imminent independent country about to ruin them.

It is interesting to consider who may sit in our own independent parliament. I also wonder if there will be such a thing as a re-unification party lamenting about the "good old days of empire".

Louise NicLeoid

son luchd ionnsachaidh is luchd Gàidhlig  
for Gaelic learners and supporters

ag adhartachadh na Gàidhlig  
promoting the Gaelic language



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## An Okitaneg Anavezet Gant Ar Stad Italian

Abae mui a 10 bloaz e tremene ul lezenn diwar-benn ar yezhoù bihan etre daouarn ar c'hannaded ha daouarn ar senedourien, ha war ar marc'hat e veze rakwelet al lezenn-se gant mellad 6 ar Vonreizh italian abaoe 50 vloaz ! Al lezenn diwar-benn ar yezhoù bihan he deus bet votet a-benn ar fin e diwezh ar bloavezh 1999 gant ar c'hannaded hag ar senedourien italian met n'he deus ket bet sinet gant Prezidant ar Republik c'hoazh!

Daouzek yezh bihan a vez anavezet bremañ gant Italia. Etre ar yezhoù bihan-se e kaver ivez yezhoù anavezet dija gant ar stad italian a-drugarez d'ar statud a emrenerezh roet d'ur rannvro bennak evel ar Sloveneg er Friul, an Alamaneg er Süd-Tyrol pe ar Galleg e Val d'Aoste. met ne veze ket anavezet yezhoù bihan all evel an Okitaneg (ur yezh komzet ivez e kreisteiz Bro-C'hall ha hanternoz Bro-Spagn), ar Piemonteg, ar C'halabreseg, ar Veneteg da skouer ha yezhoù nebeutoc'h implijet c'hoazh evel ar Gresianeg (etre 5 000 ha 10 000 den) e Calabria, an Albaneseg (war-dro 80 000 den) e Kreisteiz Italia hag ar C'hatalaneg (18 000 den) e Sardinia ! E-touesk ar yezhoù-se, bez'e oa yezhoù, Piemonteg, Calabreseg ha Veneteg da skouer tremenet evel rannyezhoù italianek gant meur a zen met ivez evel yezhoù o-unan gant tud all.

Kudenn an Okitaneg a oa ur gudenn all. Bez'ez eus e Italia war-dro 200 000 Okitaneger met n'eus ket a rannvro Okitania. Ur bihanniver eo an Okitaned er rannvro Piemonte hag e kaver un okitan bennak e Liguria ha war-dro 600 anezho e Calabria. Hervez Dario Anghilante, Prezidant ar C'hevredigezh *Occitania Viva* (Okitania Bev) : "n'eo ket ul lezenn o lavarout traoù pouezus-tre, met evit ar wech gentañ ur votadeg a anavez ac'hanomp evel Okitaned. Setu disoc'h hon emgann a 30 bloaz". Bro-Spagn he deus anavezet ivez an Okitaneg e Val d'Aran er Pireneoù ; n'eus nemet Bro-C'hall nag he deus anavezet an Okitaneg nag he yezhoù bihan all!

### ENDALC'H AL LEZENN

Ret e vo da 15 % eus poblañs ur c'humun goulenn da lakaat da dalvezout an destenn

war dachennad o c'humun. Met talvoudek e vezo ivez al lezenn mar c'houlenn an drederenn eus ar c'huzulierien-kêr anezhi.

War dachenn an deskadurezh e veze rakwelet gant al lezenn deskiñ ar yezh er skolioù elfennel hag en deskadurezh eil derez. An dibab a vezo graet gant an dud da vare an distro-skol. Er skolioù-veur e vezo desket ar yezhoù bihan ivez.

Er buhez foran e c'hellor implijout ar yezhoù bihan er c'huzulioù-kêr hag er melestradurezhioù lec'hel met un droidigezh italianek a vezo da gaout. Bez'e c'hellor gwelet ar yezhoù bihan en anvioù-lec'h hag an dud a venno adkemer stumm o anv-tiegezh hag anv-bihan en o stumm a orin goude bezañ italianekaet a c'hello goulenn anezhañ.

Er skinwel hag er skingomz e kavor programmoù skignet er yezhoù bihan gant skoazelloù-arc'hant eus ar stad hag ar rannvroioù. An dra-se a vezo ur gudenn all evit an Okitaneg peogwir n'o deus ket an Okitaned o rannvro o-unan.

A-benn ar fin ar rannvroioù gant ur statud a emrenerezh pe splotusoc'h eget al lezenn nevez a gendalc'ho gant ar statud splotusoc'h evel an Alamaneg e Süd-Tyrol pe ar Galleg er Val d'Aoste, da skouer.

José Calvete.

Tennet eus ar sizhuniek okitanek "*La Setmana*" Niv. 234 d'an 09.12.99-15.12.99.

### Summary

*After waiting for more than 10 years and being provided by the Article 6 of the Italian Constitution for 50 years, a new law on minority languages has been adopted by the deputies and senators of Italy. Now the President has to sign it! Now Italy has recognised 12 lesser-used languages within its borders among them Occitan. Occitan is a Romance language spreading from Central Pyrenees in Northern Spain through Southern France and Northern Italy (Piedmont) but without an administrative region of its own. For Dario Anghilante President of Occitania Viva, a society promoting the Occitan language and culture, it is a great achievement since this legal recognition is the fruit of 30 years of campaigning.*

## Festoù Nevez Ha Jakobined Nevez...

Kreskiñ ar ra mat ar gouelioù keltiek e Breizh. Daou ouel nevez dreist-holl o deus ur c'hresk bras ar bloaz tremenet : Gouel Erwan ha Gouel an Erer Kozh e Karaez. An eil zo bet taget war dachenn ar relijion hag egile war zu an deskadurezh. Setu penaos ha perak emañ ar jakobined o klask pemp troad d'ar maout e Breizh.

GOUEL PATRICK...ha bremañ Gouel ERWAN...

Evit an trede gwech Gouel ERWAN en deus graet ur c'hresk bras gant skoazell an Agence Culturelle Bretonne ( A.C.B.) e Naoned. An Tour Tan e Kemper en deus graet kalz evit brudañ ar gouel dre ur cyberfest-noz e Beijing. Zhong-Breizh ur gevredigezh anavezet e Bro Leon peogwir he doa bet tro Marie Roudaut eus Eskell an Elorn da stummañ an izili eus Zhong-Breizh da zañsal e-pad ar goanv. Laoen tre an Ao. kannadour da lakaat liv an demokratelezh e kêr Beijing da vare an Nevez-Amzer. D'ar memes mare jakobined eus Bro Dreger o deus taget Gouel ERWAN war dachenn ar relijion. Egiz kustum an dud-se tost da "la libre pensée", a zo tost eus ar jakobined. Ar gelaouenn Combat Breton a plij dezhañ en emgannañ ouzh ar Gatoliked, zo aet da heul... A benn ar fin ar bobl o deus lakaet urzh e-barzh an ti. Ez eus bet tud evit Gouelioù ERWAN. Setu chañs vat da zevezh- arouez Breizh.

Kerampuilh-Karaez : 150000 den evit al lise DIWAN...

E-Karaez ur skipailh tud digor war ar bed ha war ar vro o deus soñjet ober kenkoulz Gouel ar Bigi-Kozh (Douarnenez-Brest). Setu penaoz eo bet savet Gouel an Erer Kozh gant labour ha startijenn. E 1999 gant 150000 den e teue da vezañ unan bihan e-touez ar re vras, en... Europa. Ur gwir plijadur da wellet war al leurenn arzourien eus pep korn eus ar Bed e Penn ar Bed. Ben Harper gant ar Gwenn ha Du en deus graet lañs (rise!) d'an demokratelezh. Ar paotr Per Perret, Faudel hag all, ivez. Ouzhpenn-se, ez eus bet techn eo evit ar vro gant Denez PRIGENT, e brezhoneg, mar plij. Memestra pebez Gouel EtreVroadel bras ha brav. Pebezhañ chañs evit ar re yaouank hag evit Kreiz-Breizh. Setu perak an diaoul, jakobined ar Strollad sokialour, da skouer Ferrant ha Auger o deus taget ar Gouel-se, dre nac'h ar yalc'hadoù. Ar pezh a zo sklaer, ar million profet evit skoazellañ lise Diwan-Karaez en deus displejet d'ar re a zifenn skol ar "Republik". Tamm pe damm eo ar memes re a zifenn ar galleg yezh ofisiel ar stad. Eus tu ar sokialour, an Ao Maille neo ket tomm e galon ouzh ar yezh. (cf.: Brest e Breizh : "ar brezhoneg ne dalv ket muioc'h

# biskoaz kemend all : per-jakez helias...

Ganet ma oa Per Jakez Helias ha Per Trepoz war ar maez, daou-ugent vloaz 'zo bremañ, gwelloc'h egeto, petra a c'hellje diduiñ o c'henvroidi goude ur sizhunvezhiad labour, ha gant peseurt brezhoneg ober : komz ouzh an dud evel pa vijed en o zouez o kontañ kaoz ganto. Pezhioù ar bloavezhioù 47/57 a zo beo kaer e memor an dud o deus oc'hleuet. Nag a c'hoarzh en amzer-se! Pebezh ebat en dro da Jakez Kroc'henn ha da Wilhoù Vihan. Sur o devo kement a blijadur ar re, kalz yaouankoc'h, a lenno bremañ ar pezhioù-se. Ha marteze o devo ar chañs da welet anezho c'hoariet c'hoazh e lec'h pe lec'h."

Bet aze penaos e kinnig Brud Nevez (Andreo ar Merser) an embannadur eus pezhioù berr farsus Per-Jakez Helias. Dek levrenn a ya d'hen ober. Da lavaret eo ur pevar ugent pezh-c'hoari bennak hag a zo bet displeget war Radio-Kimerc'h er bloavezhioù hanter-kant. "Selaouet e veze e abadennoù bep sul ouzh taol gant al lodenn vrasañ eus brezhonegerien departamant Penn ar Bed, evel un eil oferenn pe dost.

En e vod dezhañ en-eus troet brezhoneg ar gador en ul langaj "dizoue" eme an aotrouien Ar Berr hag an Du, daou vignon bras d'ar brezhoneg.

Mistri en doa bet Per-Jakez Helias war ar c'hoariva brezhoneg poblek evel Youenn Drezen, ar bigouter pe Jarl Priel, an tregeriad, ha ne oant ket eus tu ar veleien "Feiz ha Breiz" nag eus tu Paotred Breiz Atao - daoust d'ar pezh a lavar an daou gelenner Skol-Veur. Per-Jakez avat en deus kavet un doare hag a glote mat kenañ gant arz ar skingomz da lavaret traoù aes da gompren hep ma vefe ezhomm da vezañ

gwelet. Eno e pouezhe kalz war ar yezh. Ur yezh poblek, pinvidik hag aes war un dro, leun a c'herioù saourus hag a droioù-lavar c'hwek. Hag ur yezh aes a-walc'h da gompren, d'ar nebeutañ e Leon, Kerne ha Treger. An danevelloù ivez a oa diouzh sevenadur an dud a selaoue an abadennoù : ar vuhez war ar maez pe war an aod, hag an traoù nevez o tont er vro, ar c'hirri tan, an tredan, an dilhad a-c'hiz-nevez, ar foot-ball hag all...

N'oa ket barn misionerien Feiz ha Breiz diwar-benn "pec'hejoù ar bed modern" met demdost memestra, da lavaret eo disfiziañs ha goaperezh evit ar bed nevez o tont. Evit plijout d'ar selaouerien ne c'helle ket mont a-enep o mennozh hag a oa tamm pe damm stummet gant an iliz katolik. Setu perak eo diamzeret evit ul lodenn danvez pezhioù farsus Per-Jakez Helias. Forzh pegen plijus e vent da selaou, da lenn, pe da c'hoari. Diouzh o amzer int, komz a reont ouzh ar bobl en he yezh.

Na pegen pell diouzh pezhioù c'hoari Roparz Hemon ha strollad Gwalarn, kalz modernoc'h, kalz donoc'h ha pegen pell diouzh pezhioù c'hoari an eil Per-Jakez Helias, paotr ar reuz-c'hoarioù, evel *Mevel ar Gzoker* pe an *Izild a heul*. Eno ec'h en em ziskouez Per-Jakez Helias evel m'emañ eñ e-unan, hep klask plijout d'ar selaouerien, met o tispakañ donder e ene hag e spered. Kemm a laka -evel ar c'hoarivaourien glasel gall- etre ar pezhioù farsus hag ar reuz c'hoarioù. Ral eo kavout traoù skrijus en e bezhioù farsus, pe traoù fentus en e bezhioù skrijus.

Hag evit an amzer a-vremañ hag an amzer da zont? Petra oa talvoudegezh pezhioù c'hoari Biskoaz Kemend All? r yezh da gentañ, n'eus ket da dartañ. Ar spered d'an eil, da c'houzout petra oa mennozh ar Vretonned ur mare zo bet. Ar stumm da drede. Dreist-holl er pezhioù berrañ, el lec'h ma ne vez nemet Jakez Kroc'henn ha gwilloù Vihan. Eno en deus ijinet daou zen, diou dudenn hag a c'heller lakaat e-kemm gant Laurel hag Hardy da skouer, hag ijinet un doare c'hoari tost kenañ ouzh an doare "furlukin", da lavaret "entrée clownesque". Evit bezañ kempennet ar pezhioù-berr-se da vezañ displeget war al leurenn e ouezan o deus kalz a nerzh c'hoazh en o dilhad kozh. Ma vefe gwisket dilhad nevez dezho- da lavaret eo ma kontfent deomp doareoù ar bed a-vremañ, kudennoù an dud a hirio, o defe kalz muioc'h a startijenn c'hoazh. Un hent nevez da bleustriñ evit c'hoariva brezhonek an amzer a-vremañ hag an amzer da-zont e vefe ober hor mat eus tudennoù P.J. HELIAS hag ouzh e zoare c'hoariva.

Strollad Ar Vro Bagan goude bezañ displeget Avañturio ar sitoian Jan Konan ha Meurlarjez Roparz Hemon e zispleg er goañv-mañ Biskoaz Kemend all, un dibab pezhioù c'hoari berr eus Per Jakez HELIAS. Unan anezho a zo ur pezh c'hoari farsus diwar ur gontadenn eus ar grennamzer "un dilhad marc'had mat", an tri all o vezañ pennadoù furlukinerezh, an Alc'hovez, Bec'h d'ar brilli hag Un den divemor. Un testeni eus c'hoariva Per-Jakez HELIAS an doare farsus da c'hortoz ma vefe savet er bloavezh-mañ... Mevel ar Gosker.

Goulc'han Kervella

## Summary

*The work of well-known Breton writer, Jakez Helias, who wrote more than 80 short plays for Radio-Kimerc'h is discussed in this article. Helias used everyday language, which was easier for the native speakers in the far west of Brittany to understand. He also created Jakez Kroc'han and Gwilhoù Vihan, not unlike Laurel and Hardy.*

*Ar Vro Bagan, the popular Breton theatre group will stage a number of his plays in their Biskoaz Kemend-All show this year.*



Lena Louarn

(Courtesy: Armor magazine)

## Lena Louarn: Woman of the Year 1999

Lena Louarn has been awarded the title of "woman of the year" by Armor Magazine. For the second time in 20 years the readers and journalists have elected a woman. In terms of Breton culture and identity Lena learnt a lot from her father Alan and she has become a specialist. Since May 99, she has been the President of the brand new "Ofis ar Brezhoneg" (= office for the Breton language). She is "Skeudenn Bro Roazhon's" secretary (a federation of cultural associations), in the Rennes area. She is also in charge of the administration of the "Kuzul Sevenadurel". In addition, she is the manager of the Breton newspaper *Bremañ* as well as "Skol an Amsav": evening classes for adults... what a woman!

## Festou nevez (contd)

eget un iliz"...). Sklaer eo, an den a zo penn eus porzh ar brezel e Brest, zo prest da zifenn yezh ofisiel ar stad hag ouzhpenn-se ar Bigi-Kozh...

## GI KELTIK

### Summary

*This article looks at the success of 'an Erer-Kozh' (The Plough), a musical show which is run in conjunction with 'les vieux gréements' a traditional boat exhibition run on the Breton Saint's Day Gouel St. Erwan. Last year the event attracted 150,000 people and the organisers were able to give 1million FF to the new secondary school in Karaez. However, opposition from the Jacobin lobby means that the show, in its fourth year, will not be funded by public money this year.*



# Erika's Oilspill — French State Responsible

Erika's oilspill demonstrated that France was not technically ready to cope with such a situation. Even worse, on the front line of the oilspill, Breton politicians did not take into account the AMOCO (1978) lesson. One month, after the events (12th Dec) some Breton scientists accused state organisations (COM + Cedre + Polmar +) because they did not take account of their own experience. 400 km from Penmarc'h to La Rochelle, were more or less polluted by 12,000 tons of heavy oil.

In order to understand the situation let's outline the sequence of events:

Dec 11th: The tanker Erika, from Malta, left the French port of Dunkerque. It was heading for the Mediterranean. The ship was freighted by the French company Total-Fina with 30,888 tons of oil No 2 on board.

Dec 11 (2 p.m.): In a rough sea, south of Ouessant Island, the captain Mathur sent, through the Cross-Corsen, the first Mayday. The ship was not in balance anymore. After, various exchanges, in the ballasts, the tanker was able to cope with the sea again. Half an hour later, the Mayday became a PAN (= security message). At this point, the captain decided to try and reach the port of Naoned (Nantes).

Dec 12th (5 a.m.): The steering gear broke.

Dec 12th (6 a.m.): The captain sent a second SOS.

Dec 12th (8.30 a.m.): The tanker Erika split in two parts, spilling 12,000 tons of oil, 30 miles, south of Penmarc'h (29/BZH).

Dec 12th (7.30 a.m.): One hour before the accident, in the military fortress of Brest (COM), the admiral for the Atlantic Coasts made the decision to send marines on board with an helicopter. Within two hours, they managed to rescue the 26 members of the crew...

Dec 12th (6 a.m.): The rescue boat Abeille-Flandres left Brest headed for Erika. By 10.00 a.m., a new challenge arose for the rescue boat: to stop the course of the drifting stern of the tanker on the way to Belle-Ile. Captain Carlos did his very best to keep the stern next to the front part.

Dec 13th (a.m.): Suddenly, the stern moved up in the air and sank 120 meters down on the seabed.

## Government Bodies Slow to React

At this stage, we can notice that the state organisation COM and the Cross-



*Demonstration against Total in Naoned (Nantes) on 8th February (courtesy Louis Blonce)*

Corsen did not react, on Saturday the 11th, in the evening, when the captain sent his first SOS. Then the rescue vessel Abeille-Flandres would have been able to help Erika to reach the bay of Douarnenez. Otherwise, scientists who worked on the Amoco oilspill told us that Captain Carlos made a mistake when he tried to pull the stern far from the coast. The best solution was to pull the upper deck, on the coast off south Brittany...

Had that been done, the pollution would not have spread on 400 km.

Dec 15th and in the days before Christmas airplanes from the French navy flew over the wreck and polluted areas. At the same time the anti-pollution organisation, Cedre, worked hard to try to determine how the oil (No 2) would behave in the sea under bad weather conditions. On television, people had the opportunity to see, many times, the different engines the Cedre used to fight oilspills. Meanwhile, the navy sent submarines to the wreck to make sure that the two parts were not leaking. They also used petrol pumps (Foilex) to suck the oil from the sea. The Cedre and COM told us that the oil was on the way to La Rochelle. Therefore they sent, from Brest (BZH), most of the equipment to that area. Waiting for Christmas and the big BUG the media were mainly optimistic...

First of all, the navy lost a submarine in the main wreck. Secondly the French Foilex's petrol pumps were totally inefficient and ridiculously tiny on this rough sea. Fortunately, the German's engines did quite well and grabbed 700 and then 1,000 tons, altogether. Not much in comparison to the 12,000 tons gone into the sea. The 23rd and 24th of December, the oil came on the coasts. Not only, next to La Rochelle but also mainly in south Brittany

from Naoned (Nantes) to Penmarc'h.

On the 25th of December, the Minister of Environment D. Voynet, briefed by the Cedre organisation, told us that this pollution was not at huge a catastrophe as the Amoco one. Obviously she was wrong. Especially as regards the number of dead birds (over 35,000). A lot of them coming from different areas of the British Isles.

By Christmas everywhere along the Atlantic coast, elected representatives worked hard to obtain some equipment from the Polmar-Plan, Total-Fina or elsewhere. The lack of equipment was obvious. During the holidays a lot of people helped as much as they could. Afterwards mainly army and professionals remained on the spot...

Politicians from Paris came down to the coast, to express their concern about the hurricane and the oilspill. We had the opportunity to see the President of the state as well as five ministers in charge of different problems we had to cope with. On the regional level, we had the opportunity to see, President J. de Rohan (Conservative) and the social leader J-Y Le Drian (Lorient). Almost no one else appeared in the media.

## Regional Politicians show little Concern

The leaders of the right wing lobby in south Brittany had been afraid to give a negative image of our region. A lot of people here live off the tourist trade. Therefore different demonstrations, last year, did not get much support. Once the beaches were cleaned the oil came back with the tide and people became very despondent. On the 8th of February, in Naoned (Nantes), the economic centre of the Atlantic coast, 30,000 demonstrators showed their anger against Total. In my view, the numbers demonstrating were

large because local politicians did not show enough concern and opposition to this oilspill. In particular, they did not take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to ask for more power for Brittany in the field of a real sea policy... so the next time, we will be, once again excluded from the decisions made by government bodies.

A TMO-Poll revealed that the French consider the people they have elected as guilty with regard to the lack of sea traffic regulations. In terms of catastrophes the French in general and the conservatives in particular tend to expect help from the state... The government promised 400 million FF for professional purposes (fishing & tourism) on the coast. Unfortunately, two months later the funds are still in Paris. Even worse, local politicians are annoyed to hear that Total-Fina might be allowed to ask for money from the Fipol. At present the lawyers are on the starting blocks. Wait and see. After a meeting on the 8th of February, with the Prime Minister L. Jospin, the Presidents of the three Atlantic regions involved were optimistic. At the end of February, a meeting in Naoned must confirm governmental help. Meanwhile the Breton socialist leader J.Y. Le Drian pushed forward proposals for Euro Coast Guards.

On the 8th of February, two months after the disaster, the Prime Minister confirmed two important facts. First of all the oil (No 2) is not carcinogenic even if scientists ask volunteers to wear gloves. Secondly, shellfish, oysters etc. are not polluted in open sea areas.

#### Breton Scientists Accuse the State

One month after the first events 15 Breton scientists from Brest university (IUEM) accused the state of excluding them from the diagnosis. This situation is very surprising because they had a unique experience with the Amoco oilspill. As a consequence, no environmental diagnosis existed in January. The recommendations that had been made after the Amoco disaster did not reach the coastal councils. Therefore, a lot of mayors allowed heavy tractors on beaches as well as hot water on the rocks. So nature will take much more time to recover from the oilspill. At the end of the day this oilspill shows us clearly that we were expecting too much from the government bodies (COM + Cedre + Polmar-Plan...). We did not take Amoco's experience into account sufficiently. For scientific analysis French people are not willing to ask for a private independent lab. to take on the task. It seems clear that the prevention of sea pollution needs a non-governmental organisation in Europe. You know, short money K.O. environmental goals... Euro Coast Guards are the main hope for the future.

Gi Keltik

## Continued Expansion of Breton Medium Education 1999-2000

The tabulations have come in from the departments of Brittany for the beginning of the new school year 1999-2000 and although only provisional estimates can be given the picture emerging is one of continuing expansion in enrolment and of an expansion of the infrastructure of new schools to serve more and more communities. *Kannadig* the publication of *Unvaniezh ar Gellenerien Brezhoneg*, the Union of Breton Language Teachers indicates in it's November issue that both the number of children enrolled in Breton medium schools whether in *Diwan* (private), *Div Yezh* (public) or *Dihun* (Catholic) and those primary and secondary students taking Breton as a subject has risen sharply again this year. In Brittany several schools also opened for the first time but the outright obstruction by the French Government in the case of the new *Diwan* secondary school at Carhaix/Karaez which still does not have proper facilities for students leaves no room for illusion about the attitude of the French Government. Encouragingly however total Breton medium enrolment expanded from 4,832 in September 1998 to 5,662 in September 1999. The final figure after all tabulations have come in is expected to be closer to 5,800. The new figures indicate that 1.51% of all primary students and 0.3% of all secondary students are being educated through the medium of Breton. The existing figures also indicate an increase of 23% over the 1998/1999 school year. There is now little doubt that Breton medium education will soon be in the range of 5% to 10% of all students in Brittany representing a dramatic breakthrough in teaching the language to the young. Breizh-Izel continues to show the strongest rate of growth climbing from 1.9% to 2.43% of primary students in Finistère/Penn ar Bed but Breton medium education is also making inroads in Upper Brittany as well with enrolment climbing by 30% in the two eastern departments of Il ha Gwilen/Ille et Vilaine and Liger Atlantel/Loire Atlantique.

Despite the initial setbacks it is now clear that Breton medium education has taken root and is expanding despite the uncooperative and obstructive attitude of the French Government. It is not wildly optimistic or unrealistic to predict a time in the next twenty years or so where over a quarter or a third of the children in the Breton departments are being educated through the medium of Breton. It may even be that Brittany is following in the direction of the Basques and Catalans in regards to education. In both Catalonia and

Euzkadi over 75% of schoolchildren are now being educated in Basque or Catalan. It was illegal to speak these languages in public as recently as 1975 under the Fascist Franco régime. In the case of Basque the turn around is proving so successful that the number of Basque-speakers has risen from about 700,000 in 1979 to about 1.1 million in 1999, (out of a population of 2.8 million), and because of the very real successes being scored not only in schools and in the civil service but in the expanded use of Basque in the home and in the community, some people are of the opinion that the Basque Revival Efforts are the most successful since those of Hebrew in Palestine between 1890 and 1920. (It appears that Basque is even advancing southwards at the expense of Spanish in Alava province).

Elsewhere in Western Europe of course minority language education remains far in advance of Brittany. There is no comparison between the tolerant and progressive minded behaviour of Switzerland toward education in Raetian or of Germany towards Sorbian language education or of the cooperative attitude of the Dutch Government towards Frisian medium schools and the medieval and small-minded behaviour of the French Government towards her minority language schools. We can with reason hope the progress of recent years continues and it appears that the Breton people are creating a fait accompli and have learned that they must rely on their own initiative to continue making the revolutionary changes which they are in fact making.

Diarmuid Ó Néill



APPEAL  
Erica's Oilspill

Following the Erika Oilspill disaster *Bretagne Vivante* have set up an organisation to help save the birds and to protect the environment in the affected area. Many members of the group work hard to rescue the birds, take care of them and let them go free.

The group is appealing for financial aid to help the birds to survive.

Please send your contributions to:  
**Bretagne Vivante - SEPNEB**, 180, rue Anatole. France, BP 32, 29276, BREST Cedex, Breizh/Brittany, France, Europe.





## Mae'r Frwydr Yn Dal I Fynd – Peidiwch Â Llaesu Dwylo Eto!

**D**eng mlynedd yn ôl a mwy 'roedd digon o gyfnodolion cenedlaetholgar yng Nghymru yn ymddangos yn rheolaidd ac yn fynych. Byddai Plaid Cymru yn cyhoeddi 'Y Ddraig Goch' bob mis yn Gymraeg, a'r Welsh Nation yn Saesneg a byddai 'Tafod y Ddraig' yn ymddangos yn fisol hefyd. Byddai cyhoeddiadau mwy radical byth, fel eiddo'r Gweriniaethwyr, yn ymddangos yn achlysurol. Ond pa mor aml y bydd papur gan Plaid Cymru yn dod allan y dyddiau yma? Pa mor aml y gwelwn 'Y Tafod' erbyn hyn? Mae'n ymddangos fel petasai'r ewyllys i ysgrifennu a chyhoeddi neges y mudiad cenedlaethol wedi mynd yn wannach. Achos nid diffyg arian ydyw'r broblem, hyd y gwelaf i, ond diffyg ysgrifenyddwyr a diffyg diddordeb. Yr ydym ni sydd yn cyhoeddi Carn yn cael yr un anawsterau. Mae digon yn digwydd y dyddiau yma sydd yn berthnasol i'n brwydr ni'r cenedlaetholwyr am Gymru Rydd Gymraeg (neu o leiaf am yr amgylchiadau a fydd yn galluogi'r Cymry i barhau yn genedl) - yr ymateb i ddigwyddiadau yn ein Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, cyfeiriad y frwydr am statws i'n hiaith, ac, wrth gwrs, cwmwl du'r Mewnlifiad. Ond nid ydyw ein hapeliadau am erthyglau gan ein haelodau am yr agweddau o'r frwydr genedlaethol y maent yn weithgar ynddynt neu â diddordeb ynddynt yn dwyn ffrwyth.

Mae'r hinsawdd wleidyddol yng Nghymru wedi newid yn sgil datblygiadau'r blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae gennym lywodraeth yng Nghymru 'rôan. Mae'r egwyddor o roi statws i'r Gymraeg wedi dod yn fwy parchus; mae dwyieithrwydd (arwynebol) yn fwy cyffredin a bodolaeth y cwango iaith ariannog yn dangos hynny. Mae gwrth-Gymreigrwydd agored wedi cael ei ymylu mwy a'i gyfyngu i rai elfennau yn y Blaid Lafur a'r Blaid Doriaidd a llythyrau yn y Wasg.

Ond mae'r angen am unigolion a mudiadau i gynnal y frwydr am Gymru rydd Gymraeg mor daer ag erioed. Nid ydyw'r Cynulliad yn ddigon pŵer i ddiwallu'r angen am ymreolaeth a all sicrhau dyfodol i Gymru fel cenedl, dim mwy nag mae'r cwango iaith yn ddigon i sicrhau dyfodol i'n hiaith na gwarchod hawliau ei siaradwyr. Ac mae'r Mewnlifiad

didrugaredd yn parhau dan fygwth torri goruchafiaeth y Gymraeg yn yr ychydig ardaloedd sydd ar ôl lle mae hi'n dal yn brif iaith, ac yn glastweiddio'r Cymry ymhellach yn yr ardaloedd, oedd tan yn ddiweddar yn Gymraeg lle mae wedi gafael yn barod. Ac mae gofyn bob dydd gwrthsefyll gormes y coloneiddwyr sydd yn ein bröydd yn barod.

Ar ben gwynebu gelyniaeth y rhai y disgwyliem iddynt ein gwrthwynebu, mae enghreifftiau o fradychu egwyddorion i'w cael o fewn y mudiad cenedlaethol hefyd. Mae'n debyg bod nifer o aelodau Plaid Cymru wedi cefnogi'r colon Roynon yn Sir Gaerfyrddin - dyna Helen Mary Jones, AC Llanelli, yn ymosod ar Gymdeithas yr Iaith am alw am ymddiswyddiad Roynon. Yr un Helen Mary Jones sydd ddim yn defnyddio dim Cymraeg yn y Cynulliad. Dim ond Saesneg ddefnyddiodd wrth areithio ar ôl ei buddugoliaeth ym mis Mai, ac wrth dyngu llw'r Cynulliad, er bod rhai aelodau heb fod yn rhugl eu Cymraeg wedi gwneud ymdrech i'w siarad. A dyna Ieuan 'Party of Wales' Jones yn cyfiawnhau siarad Saesneg ym mhrif siambr y Cynulliad drwy ddweud, mewn geiriau eraill, ei fod eisiau i'r colons ym Môn ei ddeall! (A ydynt yn rhy ddwl i ddefnyddio'r offer cyfieithu?) Mae gwleidyddiaeth yn gofyn bod yn realistig ac yn ymarferol, ond mae'r rhain yn egwyddorion sylfaenol. Pan fydd mudiad gwleidyddol yn cefnu ar ei hegwyddorion sylfaenol, bydd rhai o'u cefnogwyr selocaf yn peidio â gweld rheswm i'w chefnogi bellach. Hyd yma, lleiafrif bach ydyw'r garfan wrth-genedlaetholgar ym Mhlaid Cymru (ac esiampl oedd sôn am y Blaid yma). Ond mae'n werth cofio bod mudiadau cenedlaetholgar yn gallu gwynebu gelyniaeth oddi mewn yn ogystal ag oddi allan.

Mae'r frwydr yn dal i fynd. Peidiwch â llaesu dwylo eto!

**Robat ap Tomos**

### Summary

*Recent political changes, such as the setting up of the National Assembly, seem to have given to some a false sense of security - that everything is going our way and that we can relax. But the need to work for more self-government and the rightful place for our language is as great as ever.*

## Campaigner faces prison

A member of Cylch yr Iaith, Geraint Jones from Trefor west of Caernarfon, appearing before Caernarfon magistrates, stated that he would not pay fines imposed on him for refusing to buy a television licence as part of Cylch yr Iaith's campaign against the Anglicisation of S4C and Radio Cymru, and was prepared to go to prison. Increasingly, untranslated English interviews and non-Welsh speaking guests are being used in the Welsh broadcast media. Mr Jones challenged the magistrates to give an unconditional discharge, as has been given to other activists in this campaign.

## Will MICROSOFT use Cymraeg?

The Microsoft Corporation has refused to translate their software into Welsh. This is a degradation of the status of the language as the use of computers increases in the increasing number of Welsh-medium schools in Wales. Microsoft have translated software into some other minoritised languages such as those of the Basque Country and Catalonia, whose governments exerted pressure and paid grants to Microsoft. Cymdeithas yr Iaith are urging Microsoft to recognise Welsh and urging our Assembly to be ready to give financial assistance. Anyone willing to help persuade Microsoft that there is demand for their products in Welsh should visit [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) and leave a message in the appropriate place.

## BBC fear Dragon

The BBC in London have asked BBC Wales to remove the dragon logo which appears at the start of BBC Wales's television news. London believe that it is too nationalistic. Reacting with surprise, BBC Wales have said that they would give no commitment to remove the dragon logo, though such designs are periodically changed.

This request is part of a xenophobic response in England towards what are seen as over-enthusiastic displays of Welsh or Scottish nationality. Such reactions have become more common since the granting of devolution to Cymru and Alba which seems to have caused something of an identity problem among some of the English.

# Plaid Hold Ceredigion Without Difficulty

Three of Plaid Cymru's four Westminster MP's stood for and won seats in the National Assembly last year. They all stated that they would step down from Westminster in order to be able to concentrate on Assembly work.. While Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon) and Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn) represent the same seats in Cardiff and London, Cynog Dafis had the more complex task of being MP for Ceredigion, and a list member for the Mid & West region in the Assembly which involves concentrating on representing those constituencies in the region which do not have a Plaid constituency member. (Ceredigion, though in Mid & West region, is represented by Plaid's Elin Jones). For this reason Cynog Dafis became the first 'dual mandate' member to resign his seat in London and cause a by-election, which was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ceredigion, an ancient Welsh kingdom, is on the west coast of Mid Wales and is a rural area where the natives are mainly Welsh-speaking but they are becoming more and more diluted by the *Mewnllifiad* or in-flow of English into rural Wales which has been going on in earnest since the late seventies. Attracted by the pleasant scenery and low house prices, the immigrants and their children now make up nearly half the population of Ceredigion. Some of them learn Welsh and make a valuable contribution to Welsh life, but most do not see themselves as having moved to another country ("it is all Britain") and do not assimilate, and the *Mewnllifiad* is having a profound linguistic, cultural and, to some extent, political effect on Welsh Wales.

Plaid had first won Ceredigion in the 1992 state General Election, the one before the last, when Cynog Dafis improved Plaid's position from fourth the previous time to gain the seat from the established Liberal Democrat Geraint Howells in what was one of Plaid's most spectacular victories ever. Had it not been for Howells's personal popularity, it is thought that Ceredigion would have followed the similar rural seats further north into Plaid hands earlier. In the first defence of the seat in the 1997 General Election Plaid consolidated their majority, taking over 40% of votes, and Ceredigion began to resemble Plaid's more established seats where most of the Welsh population are Plaid voters. This trend was confirmed in last year's Assembly elections when Elin Jones increased the vote even further.

There was some concern that precipitating a by-election voluntarily might make some voters react negatively to Plaid. However, Simon Thomas won the seat comfortably with a small increase on



Simon Thomas, MP

the 1997 percentage of the vote and nearly twice the number of votes of the Liberal Democrat who came second. The Labour candidate, who was English, did particularly badly – a reflection of attitudes to Tony Blair's government and the way Labour are running the Assembly.

The question now arises of Plaid's other dual mandated members. This result shows that Plaid can voluntarily precipitate a by-election without angering their voters, and a by-election in Caernarfon could be expected to produce a similar result to Ceredigion. Hywel Williams is the prospective Plaid candidate to succeed Dafydd Wigley. Marginal Ynys Môn, where the immigrant population is higher again than in Ceredigion, is a trickier matter for Plaid to decide. Eilian Williams is the prospective Plaid candidate here.

There are also four Labour AC's/MP's who hold seats in Cardiff and London and who have all said that they will give up their London seats to concentrate on the Assembly. There is pressure on them to stand down before the next Westminster general election too. They are Alun Michael, the former Prif Ysgrifennydd, who represents Cardiff South & Penarth in London and is a list member for Mid & West in Cardiff (since his fall from office there is some speculation as to whether Michael will reverse his earlier decision and stay in London rather than Cardiff), and representing the same seats in the two parliaments are Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West), John Marrek (Wreccsam) and Ron Davies (Caerffili). The first three of these seats are Anglicised unionist areas where a Westminster by-election would be dominated by the struggle between the English parties, but from a nationalist point of view Caerffili is more interesting since Plaid have substantial support in the area and came a close second in the Assembly elections.

Robat ap Tomos

## Note

A reminder of where we stand was given as soon as Simon Thomas entered Westminster. While he was reciting his oath of allegiance in Welsh, as was his right, some English Tory MP's heckled and mocked.

## Labour Bring National Assembly Into Disrepute

Since last year's election Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru /the National Assembly of Wales has been run by a minority Labour administration (Labour being the largest party but with less than half of the seats) under Alun Michael, a leader imposed by Labour's headquarters in London against the wishes of the Labour party in Wales and Welsh people in general. As we moved into the second half-year of the first National Assembly, the question has been asked in the Press, what has the Assembly achieved so far? And the answer many have to this is 'very little'. The Labour administration has lacked any sort of vision or idealism as to its role in running Wales. Their sole inclination has been to carry out the wishes of the Labour government in London. They have been very fortunate in that the three opposition parties, Plaid Cymru (left-wing, pro-self-government), the Conservatives (right-wing, hard unionist) and the Liberal Democrats (centre, but the Assembly group is more unionist than their party is generally), are so ideologically far apart that they have rarely been able to unite on any issue and out-vote Labour. Plaid Cymru, the main opposition party, have tried to discuss policies with Labour, but when Labour have looked like being out-voted they have shied away from taking action, rather than compromise on the orders they have been given from Millbank (English Labour's HQ). Plaid's 'constructive opposition' approach could have worked with a minority administration keen to operate their own policies and willing to compromise and co-operate, but with Labour only interested in copying and obeying the will of London, there is no room for compromise. In fact the approach of Alun Michael and his New Labour group defeats the whole object of being a devolved administration. They might as well be civil servants.

Matters came to a climax in February when, after repeatedly being unable to obtain co-operation from Labour, Plaid Cymru proposed a vote of no confidence in Alun Michael as Prif Ysgrifennydd of Wales, nominally because of his failure to

challenge London about the amount of funding being given to Wales, but really because of Michael's whole attitude to governing Wales and the disrepute which he had brought on the National Assembly. The Tories, the third party, would have liked a vote of this type much earlier, but they do not believe in constructive opposition or government by negotiation, they just attack their opponents at any opportunity. With the three opposition parties united for the vote, it was a foregone conclusion. Alun Michael resigned as Prif Ysgrifennydd before the vote, rather than be effectively sacked, but the vote of no confidence in his leadership was still passed. Michael could have fought on and stood for re-election, but the Labour group quickly abandoned him and chose Rhodri Morgan, the member who was defeated by Alun Michael, despite the support of most of Labour in Wales, in the leadership contest rigged by Millbank in 1996. Mr Morgan, AC for Cardiff West, was subsequently confirmed as Prif Ysgrifennydd.

So with Rhodri Morgan AC as Prif Ysgrifennydd, the new Welsh government enters its second chapter. The new Prif Ysgrifennydd is further to the left than Alun Michael, has been a more enthusiastic supporter of devolution and is a more articulate Welsh speaker. It is hoped that he will be less inclined to bow to the dictates of New Labour in London.

## "Price of Blairite Control Freakery"

Commenting on the resignation of Alun Michael as the Labour First Secretary of Wales – in advance of a no confidence motion about the Government's refusal to match-fund Objective One assistance for Wales – the leader of the Scottish National Party Mr. Alex Salmond MSP said: *"This is further evidence that London Labour are in total disarray – in Scotland, in Wales, in London, and increasingly throughout the whole UK."*

*"Labour's shambles in Wales is the price of Tony Blair's control freakery, and clumsy attempts to control everything from London."*

*"London Labour's control freakery led to their slump into fourth place in the recent Welsh by-election, and they show every sign of suffering a similar fate in Ayr..."*

## Colonials hit County Council

Controversy has broken out regarding the employment policy of the county council of Sir Gaerfyrddin /Carmarthenshire. This county, in the South West, has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales, though the percentage is second highest, slightly lower than Gwynedd. It has been noticed that a number of key posts in the county administration, for which a knowledge of Welsh is required, have been given to people from England on condition that they learn Welsh (though the monitoring of this is dubious). Major protests erupted when the administration decided that the Director of Education should be replaced, and the post, with responsibility for the county's schools, was handed over temporarily to a recruit from London who had no knowledge of Welsh or experience of Wales, while recruitment for the permanent post was in progress. A leading expert on education in Wales has expressed the view that the former Director of Education was quite competent, and certainly better suited to filling in over the temporary period than a stranger from England. Behind these dealings is believed to be the authority's Chief Executive, Brad Roynon, himself English, who was appointed a few years ago (not without controversy) on condition that he learn Welsh. He has studied the language, and acquired the basics, but it is reported that he is far from having a working ability. (This became startlingly apparent in the spluttering mess he made of reading out the crucial Carmarthenshire result in the devolution referendum in 1997.) In the recruitment of high level staff, it seems that Roynon uses an English recruitment company whose candidates come from South East England, and advertisement of posts locally, indeed in Wales, is minimal. Arriving in Wales to further their careers, without intending to move to another country or considering themselves to have done so, and having to undergo the "ignominy" of Welsh lessons with the nominal danger of losing their posts if progress is insufficient, it is natural for these colonisers to see more of their own type fill senior posts rather than watch enthusiastic Welsh speakers, who would be more likely to draw attention to the colons' linguistic inadequacies, climb the ladder. In this way the colons, like cuckoos in nests, gradually take over the main reins of influence in a local authority.

Colonialism has not yet hit the administration of Gwynedd, our most Welsh county in more than one way, to this extent. It would be unthinkable, for example, for a monoglot English speaker to be put in charge of Gwynedd schools. However, here too, the problem exists. A shortage of Welsh speakers with certain



*"Roynon – the Carmarthenshire cuckoo!"*

qualifications means that English are sometimes appointed in Gwynedd, though it is made clear that Welsh is the language of the authority and the appointment is conditional on learning the language. In practice, certain appointees have acquired only limited Welsh and some are actively anti-Welsh.

The perceived anti-Welsh recruitment prejudice had prompted some to consult the Commission for Racial Equality. The protest against this latest appointment has been driven by numerous organisations, including UCAC (the Welsh teachers' union), the local aelod cynulliad (Rhodri Glyn Thomas of Plaid Cymru) and Cymdeithas yr Iaith who organised a rally in Caerfyrddin /Carmarthen and painted the words 'Dim hyder' (No confidence i.e. in the administrators' understanding of the needs of Wales) on the walls of the county hall.

**Robat ap Tomos**

## Cymraeg in the National Assembly

Following their influential document on the use of Welsh in the National Assembly, 'Dwyieithrwydd Gweithredol', Cymdeithas yr Iaith have published a set of guidelines for using the language in committees because it seems that the use of Welsh here is made more difficult by committee chairmen being unaware of how to hold a meeting bilingually. Entitled *Arwain o'r gadair* ('Leading from the chair'), the document is based on similar guidelines operated by the government of Canada which is seen as an excellent example of a thoroughly bilingual government ensuring full status for French and English.

In addition, Cymdeithas have called on broadcasting companies in Wales to ensure that there is no discrimination on their English-language news coverage against AC's who use Welsh in the Assembly. There has been a tendency for contributions to debates made in Welsh (which always have simultaneous translation) to be ignored.



## Air-Miss Over Anglesey

**I**t is scandalous that the British Ministry of Defence have kept quiet about an air-miss involving two RAF Hawk trainers over the airfield's complex on Anglesey in March last year.

The Celtic League recently expressed concerns about RAF operations involving the Hawk trainer. We specifically cited air activity in and around the Valley complex, which abuts Irish sea air routes, and the Wylfa nuclear power station. The aircraft also use the civil airfield at Ronaldsway in the Isle of Man and the base was the subject of controversy over the training of Indonesian personnel as part of a contract by Britain which supplied Hawks used for repression in East Timor.

The MOD, in correspondence, responded to our concerns and confirmed several accidents in recent years but were tight lipped about the Anglesey air-miss in which it appears that an RAF Hawk from

the satellite airfield at Mona drifted off course and came within 100' of collision with another trainer from Valley.

It speaks volumes for the air traffic control system covering Anglesey that controllers did not wake up to the incident and only the action of the pilots averted disaster.

In November, following an air accident near a nuclear power station in Scotland, we wrote to both the MOD and Irish and Manx governments about the possible dangers posed by air activity near nuclear plants. Amongst others we cited the North Wales training complex at Valley.

Both the Irish and Manx governments have echoed the League's concerns over this issue. Anglesey resident and member of the Stop the Hawks campaign, Rev. Emyln Richards, has called for an end to the RAF pilot training in the area.

**J B Moffatt**

## MYSTERY SHUTDOWN AT WYLFA

**T**he elderly nuclear plant at Wylfa on Anglesey has shut down both reactors. Although spokespersons at the plant are playing things down it is clearly an unusual incident for both reactors to be taken off line.

Wylfa, one of the old Magnox power stations, is now almost forty years old and there has been debate about the wisdom of continuing the operation of this type of power station.

In 1993 Wylfa was the site of a serious nuclear incident, when a parasol grab fell into one of the reactor fuel channels. This resulted in the company that operated it being fined £250,000 (£400,000 with costs) for safety breaches.

In 1987 the British nuclear consultant, Dr. John Large, who has produced many reports on nuclear industry safety, told a seminar at Bray (Co. Dublin) that a serious accident at Wylfa would lead to high levels of contamination in Ireland. He was comparing the situation with the incident at Chernobyl.

There have been a number of serious nuclear incidents/events at many of the stations around the Irish Sea over the past decade. The Celtic League has sought information from the British Minister for the Environment about the latest Wylfa problem.

**Bernard Moffatt**



## 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Owain Glyndŵr uprising

**T**he 16<sup>th</sup> September 2000 will be the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of Owain Glyndŵr as Prince of Wales in 1400, which was the first act in the largest and most successful rising against English rule in Wales since the conquest completed in 1283, and which resulted in the establishment of a sovereign Welsh state for a number of years. A number of events to commemorate the beginning of this rising are taking place. In a speech made in January in Machynlleth at the site of Glyndŵr's parliament, the then Prif Ysgrifennydd, Alun Michael AC, said that Owain Glyndŵr led Wales in the direction in which he believed her best interests lay, and the present Labour administration was doing the same today – an interesting attempt to reconcile nationalism with unionism. The Prif Ysgrifennydd was presented with a copy of a plate commemorating the anniversary, one of several commemorative goods which will be appearing this year. It is significant that last year, 1999, not only saw the beginning of the first Welsh parliament since that held by Glyndŵr in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, but that the family on whose lands Owain Glyndŵr was buried finally revealed his resting place after keeping it a secret for nearly 600 years.

## Independent Wales Party

**A** new political party was formed at a rally in Machynlleth in January with the name Cymru Annibynnol /Independent Wales Party. The party was formed to continue the struggle of Owain Glyndŵr 600 years after the start of his (for a time) successful campaign to free Wales from English rule. Dissatisfaction with the National Assembly, and also with the direction of Plaid Cymru, were also cited as reasons for the need of the new party, in which Gwynedd county councillor Owain Williams is a prominent member. (Cllr. Williams was an independent nationalist councillor). It is intended to give further coverage and a more detailed account of this development in Carn. The party may be visited on:

[www.independentwales.com](http://www.independentwales.com).

## WELSH GOVERNMENT IS BUGGED

**I**t has emerged that e-mail passed within the Welsh Assembly's intranet system is being monitored by the English secret service. During the winter civil servants of the English government in London have been found to possess confidential material passed within the Assembly. Welsh authorities have condemned this intrusion. While there ought not to be much suspicion between the current English and Welsh governments, both run by the same party, this breaching of Assembly internal security, which Assembly authorities have not yet managed to stem, would appear to have been set up in anticipation of a time when the politics of the governments in Cardiff and London are of different colours.

## Post Office treachery

**C**oncerns are growing in the Cymru branch about an element in the Post Office who, contrary to Post Office official policy, are running a vendetta against nationalists and those who use Welsh on post. A minor incident involved a postman refusing to accept items of post (addressed to a previous resident) to be returned to the sender at the house of a branch member because the directions to do this were written only in Welsh. But much more sinister occurrences have happened involving the Cymru branch and other organisations, an investigation into which is still in progress.



# é i r e



## An Turasóireacht – deis chun ár gcultúr a léiriú

**L**eis an Eoraip mar aonad mór anois, agus na cultúir agus na teangacha go léir ag meascadh lena cheile, d'fhéadfaí a áiteamh go bhfuil dearmad á dhéanamh ag an mórfhobal ar a gcultúr féin agus ar chultúr na náisiún eile trí aon chultúr amháin, cultúr nach bhfuil ceangailte leis an am atá caite, a chruthú. Ar an láimh eile, an é go bhfuil na cúrsaí seo go léir ag spreagadh daoine chun fillleadh ar a ndúchas féin?

Tá an fhianaise ann chun an fillleadh seo ar an dúchas a léiriú. Tá daoine nach raibh ró-bhuartha faoina gcultúr dúchais féin go dtí seo ag aithint go bhfuil na struchtúir nua riaracháin, atá míle uair níos mó ná na struchtúir stáit a bhí ann go dtí seo, ag tarraingt mhuintir na hEorpa i dtreo lárchultúir nua, cultúr atá bunaithe ar luachanna nua-aimseartha geilleagair seachas ar luachanna traidisiúnta pobail. Níl fonn ar na daoine seo ligint do chultúr a bhfuil siad bródúil astu imeacht ar fad san aonad mór seo, An Eoraip.

Bíonn náisiúin i gcónaí bródúil as a dtír agus a gcultúr féin. Is minic go n-éiríonn leo gnéithe dá gcultúr a chur i bhfoirm earra a mbeidh suim ag daoine eile ann agus an t-earra sin a dhiol thar lear chun gnó agus airgead a shaothrú don tír – sampla maith de sin is ea an turasóireacht chultúir. Ach cén fáth go dtiocfadh daoine ó Mheiriceá agus ó tíortha na Meánmhara go dtí na Tíortha Ceilteacha, mar shampla? Is cinnte nach le haghaidh na gréine é!

An fáth go dtagann siad ná go bhfuil suim acu i gcultúr agus stair na gCeilteach agus sa tsli go bhfuil an cultúr sin ag dul i ngleic le riachtanais agus dúshláin an lae inniu. Ach cad is fiú dóibh teacht go dtí na tíortha seo mura bhfuil treoir éigin cheart ann dóibh. An fiú daoine a thabhairt go dtí na tíortha Ceilteacha mura mbeidh ann rompu ach iomhá shaorga éigin den bhfíorchultúr? Ní mór an turasóireacht chultúir a dhíriú ar ghnéithe beo bríomhara den chultúr ársa atá againn. Mura ndéantar san, is rud bréige é.

Sampla den iarracht nua atá á déanamh sa treo seo is ea an tséirbhís a sholáthraíonn Les Mac an Ultaigh in Albain. Bhunaigh Les *Albannach Tours* sa bhliain 1990. Is duine é a chonaic an bhearna a bhí sa mhargadh i ndiaidh dó suim a chur ina ainm féin. Dhein sé taighde ar an mbrí a

bhí lena shloinne féin agus fuair sé amach go raibh ceangal aige le hÉirinn. Deir Les gur dóigh leis gurbh as Contae an Chláir dá shinsir. Deir sé gurbh í an tuiscint a bhí aige ina chuid fréamhacha Albanacha/Éireannacha a spreag a shuim sa Chultúr Ceilteach i gcoitinne. Bhí sé ag obair ar bhonn amaitéarach le buíon siúlóide agus rothaíochta ó 1974 ar aghaidh agus fuair sé an cháiliocht *Suaithéantas Gorm* nó Treoraí



Edinburgh Castle

Turasóireachta Albanach. Chun an cháiliocht sin a bhaint amach, bhí ar scrúduithe teoriciúla agus praiticiúla a dhéanamh, chomh maith le 'mórtheanga' eachtrannach a bheith aige.

Sna scrúduithe praiticiúla, bhí air buíon a thabhairt timpeall ar áiteanna stairiúla – Caisleán Sruighlea, mar shampla. Tar éis na scrúduithe, thuig sé an bhearna mhór a bhí ina chuid foghlama óna laethanta scoile maidir le stair a thír féin. Mar sin, theastaigh uaidh féin tuilleadh a fhoghlaim agus ansin an stair cheart a léiriú do dhaoine eile.

Ach tá sé deacair maireachtáil san saghas seo gnó mura bhfuil tú lonnaithe i nGlaschú nó i nDún Éideann agus tú ag díriú ar an margadh traidisiúnta – is í Leodhas atá *Albannach Tours*. An aidhm atá acu agus ag comhlachtaí turasóireachta mar iad ná go ndéanann siad an turas go léir a eagrú ó thús deireadh, taisteal agus lóistín san áireamh. Mar sin, ní amháin go dtreoraíonn siad an bhuíon timpeall na dtíortha Ceilteacha ach go n-eagraíonn siad na cúrsaí taistil freisin. Maireann na

turasanna idir leathlá go 3 seachtaine agus bíonn taisteal ann idir na tíortha Ceilteacha, rud a dhaingníonn an nasc atá idir na tíortha seo agus a leagann béim in aigne an turasóra ar an gcultúr atá i gcoiteann eadrainn – an cultúr Ceilteach.

Nuair atá buíon ann a bhfuil suim acu sa chultúr Ceilteach, is féidir leo eachtraí speisialta a sholáthar ar nós Céilí, Fest Noz nó Noson Llawen, siamsaíocht, rince agus ceol. An rud is tábhachtaí faoi seo go léir ná gur turas Ceilteach atá ar siúl ag an gcuairteoir mar go dtugann sé é nó í gar do na fíorCheiltigh. Rud tábhachtach é seo, go háirithe do dhaoine ó Mheiriceá agus a leithéid atá ag lorg a sinsear. Tá leabharlann ollmhór ag *Albannach Tours* faoi stair agus faoi chultúr na gCeilteach, chomh maith le ceol taifeadta ó na tíortha Ceilteacha.

Tagann gach saghas duine ar na turasanna seo. Má tá fadhb ag daoine an teanga a

thuiscint, soláthrófar séirbhís aistriúcháin dóibh. Tagann an-chuid de na turasóirí chun an radharcra stairiúil a fheiscint nó chun an t-amaiseáir sna tíortha Ceilteacha a bhlaiseadh, bíodh sléibhte, gleannata, bailte nó fiú an chraic Cheilteach i gceist.

Bíonn dhá phríomhshaghas turais ann – *Area Tour* nó an *Celtic Highlight Tour*, ceann a dtéann an-chuid Meiriceánach atá ar lorg a sinsear Ceilteach air. An ceann eile ná ceann bunaithe ar ábhar áirithe – an Reiligiún Ceilteach, mar shampla. Mar sin, coimeádann siad an cultúr Ceilteach beo ní amháin trí thurasóirí a thabhairt timpeall ar na tíortha Ceilteacha ach iad a chur ar an eolas faoin gcultúr ársa atá againn, cultúr atá fós beo, mar is eol do léitheoirí *CARN*, sa chuid seo d'iarthuaisceart na hEorpa.

**Fionn Uíbh Eachach**

### Summary

*With a growing standardisation across Europe there is evidence of an increased interest in cultural heritage. Many visitors to the Celtic countries from America and*

Europe are attracted by the culture and history of the Celts.

An example of a new enterprise in this area is 'Albannach Tours', the agency run by Les Mac an Ultaigh, from Stornaway on the Isle of Lewis since 1990. Having achieved qualification as an official Scottish tour guide he developed 'Albannach Tours' as a comprehensive service which would not only direct groups around the Celtic countries but make all travel arrangements also. Tours vary from half a day to three weeks and involve travel between the Celtic countries, a feature that emphasises the links and common Celtic culture. Specific interests can be specially catered for, such as Fest Noz, Céillis or Noson Llawn or indeed assistance in searching for ancestors. A wide variety of people come along. Tours are Area Tours, Celtic Highlight tours or can be ones covering special topics, such as Celtic Religion for example. All information can be obtained from Les at: Albannach Tours, 1 Tomair, Balallan, Eilean Leodhas, HS2 9PT, Alba. Tel/Fax 01 851 830433

## Language Discrimination in Listowel Writers Week

Irish language writers will be discriminated against severely by the decision of the committee of Listowel Writers Week to limit Irish language entries to the category sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge. The prize here is only £500 while writers in English can submit entries in categories with prize funds of £12,000. Previous prize winners in the then open section on poetry, Pádraig Ó Fearghail and Pádraig Ó Snodaigh denounced the ruling, stating that the ostensible reason given, difficulty in getting Irish language adjudicators was nonsense, as Irish quality adjudicators were available for the Oireachtas. They only had to be sought to be found.

Objections to: Listowel Writers Week, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

### Irish Language Book Service on Internet

A new Irish language bookshop has been operating on the Internet since Nov. last. It is located in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht in Kerry and the address is: [www.litríocht.com](http://www.litríocht.com).

There is a list of 3,000 Irish language books on the site, with divisions into Language, Children, Education, Music, Poetry, History etc. It is hoped eventually to have reviews in English and Irish for all titles alongside the cover design. The Mac Gearailt family who run the enterprise expressed satisfaction with progress to date. Most sales have gone to the US but they were disappointed with sales in Ireland.

### Learn Irish on the Phone!

Muintir Chrónáin, the Irish language promotion group centred on Clondalkin in southwest Dublin, has launched a CD that can be used on a phone system to learn Irish. The system, *Gaelfón*, can be used as supplied or adapted to a particular business or message. Sponsorship came from a number of banks and businesses.

### Second Irish Language Café for Dublin

The end of last year saw the opening of Dublin's first Irish language medium restaurant/café in Dublin at the bottom of Kildare St, *Dáil Bia*. They serve full meals along with a range of high quality sandwiches and salads, all through the medium of Irish (menus bilingual) and appear to be doing well. Now they will be joined by another café, run by Gael Linn – not that far away in Dawson St – 3D. They will concentrate on the ever-growing specialised sandwich market only and will be open seven days a week. Again all Irish speaking staff with Irish on the menu. They opened in early March.

### Irish Drama in London staged

Having had a successful presentation at Christmas (with an attendance of 100), the Irish language drama group, Cumann Chaitlín Maude, staged a repeat performance for St Patrick's Day in the Irish Centre in Harringey and in Tottenham later in March. The play was 'Margadh an Diabhail' translated from French by Mairéad Holte. The attendance included Manx, Cornish, Welsh and Scots as well as Irish and a summary in English was provided to aid those with little Irish. Mairéad runs a series of Irish classes in London, information from (0171) 2638155.

## Call for Adequate TG4 Funding

The past President of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (The Coordinating Body for Irish Language Organisations), Pádraig Mac Donncha, has strongly criticised the Government for their handling of TG4 (the renamed TnaG). He said, "Unfortunately, we have previous experience of this. When something is founded, inadequate funding and resources are provided, thereby ensuring that excellence can never be achieved. This cannot be allowed to happen to TG4. The Irish speaking community is entitled to a service in as high a standard as that provided in any other language. While the station had shown it had the capacity to produce good quality programmes the proposed Broadcasting Bill does nothing to ensure that. There is no provision in the Bill for adequate continuous resourcing nor will the station be put on an independent footing."

TG4 only obtains a direct subvention of £14m a year for programmes in Irish and obtains in the order of a further £6m of programmes from RTÉ. Unless funding is increased there will be no increase in the present number of hours broadcast in Irish. The station has increasingly padded out its schedule at the extremities and around teatime with English language films or old English language programmes. However its yearly £20m may be compared with more than four times that amount of a budget for S4C in Wales.



Pádraig  
Mac  
Donncha

### GAELIGE IN TOURISM

One of the principal Dublin attractions, centred on the mediaeval period, Dublinia, has introduced a talking guide service in the Irish language. This was brought in with the assistance of Gael-Linn, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Bord na Gaeilge. The facility was provided as a result of the demand from schools and visitors. Launching the service the Minister for State in the Department of Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Éamon Ó Cuív, said the provision of the service indicated a growth in the demand for Irish.



## THE NORTH — PETER AND THE WOLVES

The decision of the English Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Mandelson, to play the Orange card in suspending the institutions set up under the Good Friday Agreement is indicative both of a deep streak of opportunism Blairism and the *gauleiter* approach of the English establishment to Ireland and the other Celtic countries within its sphere of power.

We got a glimpse of this in the petulance of Prime Minister Blair when faced with the downfall of First Minister Alun Michael. His colleague, Mr Mandelson, managed to antagonise the Irish government, the SDLP, the Women's Coalition and the Alliance Party as well as Sinn Féin by his giving in to the UUP First Minister's threat to resign if the institutions were not suspended.

Mr Mandelson ignored a favourable report by Canadian general, John de Chastaleine, on the intentions of the IRA regarding decommissioning in the context of demilitarisation of the Six County area. What is more he lied, first about the report's existence and then about its timing. In fact it was on his desk before the decision to suspend the institutions was announced and that was hours after Irish government officials had appraised him of

its contents.

The extreme unionists, whose idea of peace is the surrender of the IRA and the emasculation of the political struggle for a united Ireland, were delighted. The previous Secretary of State, Mo Mowlam, was removed from office at their prompting. Ms Mowlam's history in relation to Ireland is an interesting one. Originally she was pro-unionist and was brought on board the Blairite leadership as spokesperson on the Irish North before they came to power. Her brief was to replace the pro-Irish unity stance of the English Labour Party (more honoured in the breach, when in government) with a unionist agenda. This was in line with the modernist-conservative project spearheaded by Messrs Blair and Mandelson and was amenable, no doubt, to their rich backers.

On taking office as Secretary of State Ms Mowlam seems to have been alienated by the antics and sectarianism of Orangeism. Whether her shift from submission to accommodation with nationalists was a result of intellectual honesty, proletarian instinct or disgust at Orange shenanigans it ended with her removal from office and a nasty whispering campaign against her directed by the Millbank spin-doctors.

There is no sign of proletarian tendencies in Mr Mandelson. He may well have scuppered the peace process. Perhaps the two month old executive in Stormont was too successful. The Sinn Féin and SDLP ministers made quite an impact. Bairbre de Brún ran her department (of Health) with some élan and Martin McGuinness as Minister for Education went down like a bomb.

There are some in the unionist camp who see the writing on the wall in regards to the long-term prospects for the Union and they are prepared to compromise to assure themselves a place in the all-Ireland sun. Others want to turn the clock back and revive the United Kingdom in its classic pre-devolution form.

In February the findings were released of a survey conducted by Queen's University, Belfast, which showed that only 56% of voters in the Six County area support the Union with England. Indeed, some commentators have spoken of unionism as being in freefall.

In the meantime the London government should not be let get away with the line that they are acting as referee between two groups of antagonists. They are, in fact, party to the conflict and, historically, its major cause. The core issue is not one of community relations but the continued existence of the United Kingdom.

Colm de Faoite

### New Northern Irish Medium Education Body

In mid February a few days before the suspension of the Northern Executive, Martin McGuinness, the Minister for Education, announced a new promotional body for Irish-medium education (*Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta*) in the North.

The Minister said: "This results from the Good Friday Agreement and from a statutory duty on my Department to encourage and facilitate Irish-medium education. This is similar to the duty that the Department of Education has in relation to integrated education.

This decision marks an important milestone in the development of Irish-medium education here."

*Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta* will include representation from *Gaeilíúint* and *Altram* (support organisations for Irish-medium education) and principals from Irish-medium schools and units, as well as a teacher and parent members and representation from Education and Library Boards, CCMS, NISC/UCET and TACA.

The Minister also announced the creation of a trust fund for Irish-medium

education set at £0.5 million in each of the next two financial years.

In addition he initiated a review of the viability criteria for new Irish-medium and integrated schools and has asked his officials to conduct an urgent review of the viability criteria with the aim of reducing the required annual intake for secondary schools to 50 pupils and the required intake for primaries to 15 in urban areas and 12 in the rural areas.

Some Irish language activists in the North expressed disappointment that he had initiated a review instead of making an immediate decision himself.

### Indoor Hurling Series Launched

Niall Quinn, of Sunderland and Ireland soccer fame, launched the junior (9-12) indoor hurling series in Dublin at the end of February. About 2,000 children and 32 teams will take part. The series is being sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge for the first time. Niall Quinn played hurling on the Dublin minor county team.

Niall Quinn  
at the  
launch  
in Dublin



## Supreme Court Victory for Tony Coughlan

**T**rinity College lecturer in social policy, Anthony Coughlan, won a significant victory for democracy when he was ultimately successful in his challenge in the allocation of time by RTÉ on a political party basis during the 1995 (Divorce) Referendum. As RTÉ had allocated time on a political party basis it resulted in an imbalance of four to one in the time being allowed to the Yes and No sides.



Anthony Coughlan

The Supreme Court at the end of January, by a vote of 4 to 1 upheld an earlier High Court ruling that unequal allocation of uncontested broadcasting time to both sides in the referendum was constitutionally unfair.

Anthony Coughlan, welcomed the results as "an important victory for democracy".

"If I had lost this case and the Supreme Court had said that inequality in free broadcasts is OK because political parties have special privileges – the right to address their members, the right to articulate their opinion, and so on – it would have opened the legal path to inequality of public funding down the road, and it's quite clear from the Attorney General's submission that political parties had been hoping to get that result."

He said the Government should now enshrine in law the principle of equal funding in referenda by drawing up legislation.

The Green Party MEP, Ms Patricia McKenna, welcomed the judgement saying it copper-fastened the landmark 1995 case that she took against the Government which prevented it from using public money to advance one side of the divorce referendum campaign.

Tony Coughlan was closely associated with the Wolfe Tone Society for many years and was a leader of the Irish Sovereignty Movement. He is also incidentally a long-standing member of the Celtic League.

## SOLIDARITÉ IRLANDE

Quarterly Magazine, in French, aimed at informing European countries of the developments in Ireland.

15F – 100FB – 4FS. Available from:  
Association Solidarité Irlande, Centre  
Social de Pen-Ar-Creach, Rue du  
Professeur, Chretien, 29200 Brest, Brittany.  
E-mail: [dle@imaginet.fr](mailto:dle@imaginet.fr)  
Internet Site: [w.w.w.mygale.org/06/sirl/](http://w.w.w.mygale.org/06/sirl/)

## CALL TO GROUND DEFECTIVE HELICOPTER

**D**espite talks of decommissioning and disarmament British Forces in the border areas of the North of Ireland are reportedly continuing to construct and supply a string of Army bases and look out posts. Crucial to the supply and support operation are helicopters of the British Army Air Corps. However, we can reveal that one of the types operating into these bases and overflying rural villages and isolated farmsteads has a defect which make an accident (or accidents) inevitable.

In 1998 we queried the operation of what we termed "semi-obsolete" helicopter types such as the Lynx and Puma in the North and the safety implications involved. We based our assessment on revelations five years earlier that the MoD was scouring the second-hand helicopter market for replacements for the types. Headquarters N. Ireland rejected our assertions and said that far from being semi-obsolete the Lynx and Puma complied with relevant civil regulations and were used in the civil and military role world-wide.

However, an accident in Bosnia in December 1998, shortly after we received the assurance, has revealed that the Lynx helicopter is fitted with defective parts in the tail rotor shafts. All are to be repaired in a programme (now commenced), which will not be completed for two years. Meanwhile the helicopter will continue in operation because of the desperate shortages of suitable machines of this class. Failure of the tail shaft rotor drive would in all circumstances cause the aircraft to plunge into the ground. In the Bosnia incident 3 men died. It is not the first time the Lynx has been the subject of controversy, in 1989 a crash in Kenya killed nine men.

Overloaded obsolete Lynx helicopters frequently fly into congested landed sites such as that in the tiny S. Armagh village

## Cautious Welcome For Nuclear Dumping Report

**T**he Celtic League cautiously welcome the conclusions of an Irish government report, which provides detail on nuclear waste, dumped by the British in the Irish sea over four decades.

The Department of the Marine report compiled on the basis of available information concludes that the risk from the dumping in the Irish sea, which occurred over four decades, "does not constitute a health hazard".

However, the report acknowledged the continued discharges from Sellafield nuclear power plant. The Irish government with their Manx counterparts monitor the operations from the Sellafield plant.

Dr Woods, Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, established the task force following the discovery of UK official documents, which indicated that radioactive waste had been dumped from ships in Beaufort's Dyke in the North Irish Sea, in the Firth of Clyde, Morecambe Bay, Liverpool Bay and the Holyhead Deep.

However, the report also concludes that any seabed activities such as drilling or pipeline laying in the contaminated areas should not be undertaken.

While welcoming the report the League, who have campaigned for twenty-five years on this issue, will continue to press the Irish government to seek further disclosure from the British on its sea disposals.

J B Moffatt

of Bessbrook and the potential for disaster is obvious. The MoD decision to put aircrew and soldiers at risk is a matter for them although the morality of their action is questionable.

Their decision to pose the same risk to the civil population in these areas is indefensible.

### STOP PRESS

Just 10 days after the League challenged the MoD to suspend operations by Lynx helicopters in the North one crashed near the village of Mullaghbawn in S. Armagh. The South Armagh Farmers and Resident's Group, which is campaigning for demilitarisation of the Armagh/Louth border area, echoed our call for the flights to be halted.

# kernow

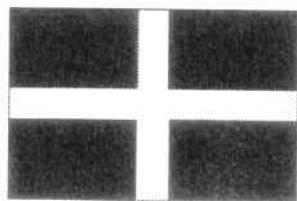
## pewa Tasek kernow?

Alerh ther a ve meras antarlik Scilla Black, *Shiner Dall*. Drizlebmäl, Anon an dymarrhurian a ve dean younk athor Kernow, hag oashus luck ova a e laze ha e bow. En gweer eta, tattoes war e scooth cleath ther a brith baner Perran. "Baner kenezlack Kernow!" ameth e.

Whathe, pewa an leall tasek Kernow? Rag nagew an matter dibblans.

Pereeg Helena Charles fowndia e cowethians noweth *Mibbian Kernow* en 1951, hye reeg cuntell Perran ha e vaner tha voaz arwothall an speres noweth reeg dälä tha derevall aman ugge an bressel, hag aheaz rima a ve comeres man en mar veah ha mar teffa why ha kerras dreth Kernow hethow, na wreew buz gwellas an leas baner gwidn ha du igge a neidga en top canzow a wernow, mesk rima plas derage Les an Contath, ha lowar turrow eglez, pokene disquethes war thelhar milliow a girry. Car dre hevol, ma Perran regards aleaz vel tasek Kernow. Buz thor peleha ew devethes oll hebma?

En 1838 Davies Gilbert a screffas dro tha Perran: *Ethewa senges en mear worrians hag estymes vel tasek oll Kernow; hag arta, Crowz wen war gweal du o kenz baner St Perran ha standard Kernow*.



**Baner Perran**

Meneges en *The Sherborne Mercury*, Meez Kevarthu, 6as deeth, 1737, termen kesker anclethias an Matearnas Mareea, 5as Meez Merh (Goo 1 Perran), 1694, dro deges baner Kernow, buz heb e thescribia.

Tonkin (1678-1742) a screffas en kever Perran, *Ethewa regards vel tasek an stennorian, igge gwetha an gool eve war an Sas Merh*.

A screffa treeth 1610 ha 1620, Nichlaas Roscarrock a roze da Perran lardgy spas, wor e hanwall *Patritius Cheranus*, henev Perran pednzhiwik, rag nenna judges dro an hanow devethes thor *Kieran*, zans Gothallack athor breaz Jooan a Tynemouth, avar e en 14vas cansblethan. En termen

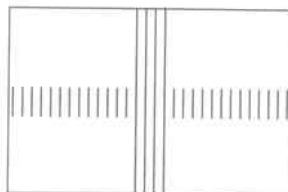
Roscarrock, remenadow Perran usia tha voaz deges en kesker. Spladn ew pezeal broaz o gear daa Perran nenna, whathe na reeg an screffar pretendia traveeth dro than baner, na tha thegre Perran vel tasek.

Ameth Jeffry Monmouth (12vas cansblethan) *Artor reeg poyntia e owne chaplen Piramus* (henew, Perran) *vel arthespack an see na*. Ke na ellen tristia Jeffry warbar, na ell boaz nehese drege e sengy Perran lowar euhall.

An kenza mencion a hanow Perran en hanow plas a ve *Carnperran*, en Perranzabuloe, en 960.

Mar bell drellen nye judgia, Perran a ve en 6as casblethan.

Na whathe, ke vea bith mar vroaz gear daa an zansma, mar tene ha goofen thor an Eglez pewa tasek Kernow, an gorruv a vetha *Mehall*. En gwariow mear Kernuack ma hanow Mehall uses en mollothow pecare drew Jory uses genz an Sausen, rag pe ra rima towla *By George!*, ma an



**Baner Mehall**

Kernowian laull *Mehall!* (pokene *Myhall*), *car drera nye redia en Wella Jordan, 1611: Sera, thewgh gramercy!*

Pelha ages hedna, ameth Robat Yerl Mortain, hanter brodar Wella Tryher, *habens in bello Sancti Michaelis vexillum* (ma deges genam en batall baner Seynt Mehall). Derage hedna, en 1050, arthdiagonow Kernow (rag nenna Kernow o gwreis arthdiagonath) a gomeras vel arwoth towl St Mehall a saval war dragun, wor e latha gen cletha po gew, ha en 14vas casblethan seal an arthdiagonath o pecare, en shoya an zans genz e voclar afynes a growz wen war gweal a dale boaz glaze herweth an scoll a heraldry, han dra reeg pydgia en usse pell udg'hemma.

Devezalena, ma bohez daunger dro Mehall senges vel tasek Kernow genz an Eglez thea 1050, ha than liha tereba dewath an Ooz Creas, ha drova senges pecare en lean Kernuack tereba 1611 (Jordan).

Ethlays! Ma an only lavarow ha tradicions dro tha Perran eze a tregas than journama a tuchia war methewnep! Rag ther a nye laull *Piran ew!* (ethew e metha), ha *Maga vetha vel Perraner!* An stennorian usia eva showre a thewas war Gool Perran. Whathe moye, ez ezis a taryvas drege Perran merwall der boaz bethes ugge cotha et e owne fentan termen ova metha! Nag igge hebma comparia scantlower eta gen emadge Mehall, an artheall spladn, gwethias Kernow.

Soo, pewa an leall tasek nye, thanna? Ma deaw pedn campier, ha ma cawse vase tha a niel ha tha e gila! Pewa bennag, an matter ma a dale boaz assoyles, rag daa ew thene gothas pewa an ledar nye; ha pehane ew e vaner, anan?

**Richard Gendall**

### Précis: *Who is Cornwall's patron saint?*

Today, popularly accepted as Cornwall's Patron Saint is Perran, with his flag, a white cross on a black field. The two were promoted by Helena Charles in setting up *Mebyon Kernow* in 1951. In 1050 the archdeaconry of Cornwall (there was, at that time, no see) had St Michael as its Patron, and during the Middle ages its seal showed Michael bearing a shield with a red cross on a dark, probably blue, field.

Both saints have strong claims to be regarded as our Patron Saint. It seems that the Church favours Michael, while popular opinion favours Perran. Alas! While Michael's background is one of light, and protector of Cornwall, Perran is usually associated with drunkenness, it even being the tradition that he died from drowning in his own well when drunk!

It is time we knew who should be our real leader, signalled by his true colours!

## Agan Yeth – Cornish Language Studies

50 pages/50 folenn. 29.5 X 21.  
Price/Pris : £ 3.00

Liver-termyn akademek nowydh dyllys gans Kesva an Taves Kernewek yw **Agan Yeth** gans an istitel "*Cornish Language Studies*". Y hanow yw treyllys heb meth dhiworth an lyver-termyn Bretonek a vri "Hor Yezh". Gans kemmys a hwithrans a-dro dhe Kernewek y'n dydhyow ma, yma edhom a lyver-termyn skiansek arbennik rag an taves. Yma an Omsav rag an yeth kernewek ow seweni!

Y'n kynsa dyllans ma (mis-Hedra 1999) y kevir erthyglow skrifys yn Sowsnek (3 anedha) hag unn yn Kernewek Kemmyn. An erthyglow skrifys yn Sowsnek yw "*Review of Gendall: A practical dictionary of*



*Modern Cornish* gans Julian Holmes, "Language death and revival: a sociolinguistic comparison between Cornish and Welsh" gans Ute Hirner ha "The Cornish Bible project: principles and problems" gans Keith Syed ha' erthygel skrifys yn Kernewek Kemmyn yw "Plenys an Gwari a Gernow" gans Rod Lyon.

Kesva an Taves Kernewek a waytya dylo Agan Yeth diwweyth y'n vlydhen. Tybyansow hag erthyglow rag dyllansow a dheu a dal bos dannvenys dhe'n pennskriker.

Pennskriker Agan Yeth yw Dr Ken George, tokyn da a nas ha seureth, dell grysav.

José Calvete

#### Summary

A new Cornish magazine. "Agan Yeth" which means "our language" in English is an academic journal solely devoted to the Cornish language. The name of this academic journal has been influenced by the Breton academic journal called "Hor yezh" which also means "our language" in Breton. Such is the level of interest and activity in Cornish that the Cornish Language Board has decided to launch an academic journal devoted solely to the language. The Cornish language movement is thriving!

Pella derivadow/further information: Jori Ansell, Kesva an Taves Kernewek, 65, Churchtown, Gwynnyer/Gwinear, Heyl/Hayle, Kernow/Cornwall TR27 5JL, BRETEN VEUR/GREAT BRITAIN E-Bost: [jori-ansell@talk21.com](mailto:jori-ansell@talk21.com)

## THE STONE CITY

by Anna Lowenstein, Citron Press,  
1999, ISBN 075 4400 980,  
pp 228 pgs., Stg 7.99

Anna Lowenstein's historical novel takes an innovative and fascinating look at the Roman Empire from a slave's point of view.

This extremely well researched book reconstructs the lives of the Celts, the Romans and the early Christians.

The story tells of the life of Bivana, who is snatched from her peaceful homestead in Celtic England and transported to a life of slavery in Rome. Struggling to come to terms with an unfamiliar culture, she forms a relationship with another slave, Philon, which brings her into contact with the Nazareens, activists in a young religious movement. Bivana is suspicious of the group, but when her own son becomes involved in the activities, she is forced to cope with the resulting tragedy.

The Stone City is available from bookshops, on-line from [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk), the Internet bookseller or by ordering direct from Citron Press, Connor's Corp. Ltd, Suite 155, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington Green, London N1 0QH, Great Britain.

## Jenner's handbook

A Handbook of the Cornish Language by Henry Jenner, which has been out of print for decades, is now available again in facsimile form. When Jenner published this first book for learning Kernuack in 1904, much of today's knowledge about the language was not at hand. Jenner wrote when some people still had a native knowledge of Cornish, but he had to make his own decisions regarding orthography etc. In view of the lack of standardisation at the time, and though the conventions he used were not followed in their entirety by later writers, his Cornish has not been subject to the same criticism levelled at some later versions of the language.

## A new Cornish course

Cornwall Council have awarded a grant of £1000 to Cussel an Tavas Kernuack, the Cornish Language Council, for the purpose of supporting publishing in and teaching Cornish (Kernuack Nowedga). Cornwall Council have also contributed towards the production of a new course in Modern Cornish by Richard Gendall, entitled 'Tavas a Ragdazow' (The tongue of the forefathers). This book, small enough to fit in a large pocket, 160pp, price £12, should be available from this spring.

## New Languages Website

In early February a new website, based in Brussels, giving information on the lesser-used languages in Europe opened. The address is:  
<http://www.eurolang.org>.

The service was established by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages with the support of the European Commission. It provides, in English, up to date news on a range of issues affecting minority language speakers. Head of the service is John Walsh, previously news editor with TG4 in Ireland. The service will be free for two years.

## prayer book Rising Video

Pellwolok Gernewek has produced a video showing the march to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the 1549 Prayer Book Rising, the defeat of which culminated in the Cornish Holocaust described in Carn 107. The 90-mile march from Bodmin to Exeter over five days in July 1999 is shown in diary form. The video, cost £10, is available from Sue Bowen, Pellwolok Gernewek, Fenten Lynnow, Trevalga, Kastell Boterel (Boscastle), Kernow.

## NERVE GAS PLANT MYSTERY

New revelations about the record of the Nancekuke chemical weapon's facility in Cornwall contradict earlier assurances about the operation and safety of the site.

In response to queries in 1991 on site safety and weapon material disposal, the Celtic League was told by the CBDE (MoD Chemical and Biological Weapons' Establishment) that the site was decommissioned in 1956 and thereafter carried out tasks not related to the UK chemical defence programme. However, the new information indicates that this was not the case and the site seems to have continued to function long after 1956.

Also in 1991 the CBDE indicated that there was no sea disposal of materials from the site. However in 1995 this position was contradicted and it was admitted that effluent was piped into the sea off the plant. The CBDE insist that the effluent was harmless and that there "extensive sampling".

This confirmation of effluent discharges must give credence to campaigners assertions about the deaths of large numbers of seals around the site.

It is clear that many questions about the operational life of the Nancekuke Chemical weapons programme remain unanswered. It is also clear, that as with other cold war secret projects, much has been covered up. The British maintain that none of Nancekuke's deadly nerve gas Sarin was disposed of at sea. Although paradoxically the MOD were using sea disposal for vast quantities of what has been referred to as captured German nerve gas in dumps to the west of Scotland and north west of Donegal. Again and ominously the disposals were overseen by officials from the CBDE.

In 1995 the Irish parliament were assured by the British that Sarin had not been disposed in dumps to the north west of Ulster, off Donegal. However this assurance is questionable given the paucity of records held by the UK. In a strange echo of the fate of the Nancekuke seal population there were claims that in 1986 large quantities of dead sea mammals and birds had been washed up as a result of leaks from the dumped chemical weapons off Donegal. These claims were rejected.

Bernard Moffatt

## Vel eh feeu dy ve coontit dy h-oikoil myr mynlught?

Ny Cornee ta gobbraghey son yn ashoon Cornagh, t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel y chooid smoo jeusyn coontey eh dy ve feeu dy ve coontit myr mynlught. Ta reiltys y Reeriaght Unnaneysit (RU) gobbal dy vel ny Cornee 'mynlught ashoonagh' ('a national minority'). Mastey ny Cornee ta jannoo caggey noi yn briwnys shen ta Ann Trevenen Jenkin, Alistair Quinell as Graham Sandercock.

Ayns 1995, marish steatyn elley jeh Cooncil yn Oarpey, dooyrt reiltys yn RU dy row eh ayns coardailys rish yn Co-chruinnaght Crauelagh (Framework Convention) ry hoi Coadey Mynlughtyn Ashoonagh. Kyndagh rish shen, lhisagh yn RU cur arrym da cairyn mynlughtyn ashoonagh, jannoo caggey noi lhietrymys, cur er e hoshiaght cormid, freayll as lhisaghey cultoor as chengaghyn mynlughtyn ashoonagh, cur raane dy jean yn ym-ysseraght (media) cur geill da mynlughtyn ashoonagh, as greinnaghey mynlughtyn ashoonagh dy ghoail ayns ayns cooishyn theayagh.

Kyndagh rish yn Co-chruinnaght Crauelagh, begin da'n RU cur imraa (report) da Cooncil yn Oarpey, screu sheese ny va reiltys yn RU janno bentyn rish ny curym listit heose. Haink yn imraa shoh rish ayns 1999. Ayns yn imraa, t'eh ry akin dy vel reiltys yn RU smooingaghtyn nagh vel eiraght ny Cornee ayns feme jeh coadey er l'eh. T'eh ceau magh y treealtys dy lhisagh ny Cornee ve coontit myr mynlught ashoonagh, ga dy vel ymmodde Cornee as lteynyn Cornagh jeh Kiare as Feed Hostyn laccal dy ve coontit myr shoh. Geiyrt er y vriwnys shoh jeant ec reiltys yn RU, ta Cornee scanshoil er jeet ry cheilley dy screu Imraa y Vynlught Ashoonagh Cornagh. Ta'n imraa shoh gra dy lhisagh ny Cornee ve coontit myr mynlught ashoonagh as ta stoo dy liooar screut sheese dy hoilshaghey dy vel shen kiart. Ta mish jannoo coontey giare jeh'n imraa syn art shoh.

Ta'n imraa gra nagh vel y fockle 'mynlught' arganagh - 't'eh bentyn da possan ta sloo as neu-chionysaght (non-dominant). Agh cha nel eh aashagh dy ghra c'ed ta 'mynlught ashoonagh'. Ayns y Cho-chruinnaght Crauelagh hene, cha nel

meenaghey cronnal (precise definition) jeh 'mynlught ashoonagh' ry gheddyn - cha dod ny steatyn ta goaill ayn cheet gys coardailys mychione shoh! Agh ny yei shen as ooilley, foddee meenaghey ennagh goll er tayrn magh ass y Co-chruinnaght Crauelagh. Ta stoo ayn mychione y jarroo-enney (identity) jeh mynlught ashoonagh cheet voish craueeaght, chengey, tradishoonyn as eiraght cultooril. As ayns stoo screut ec y Cho-chruinnaght, t'eh soilshaghey dy row sleih goaill ymmyd jeh'n cherrym (term) 'mynlught ashoonagh' roish my daink monney sleih neu-Oarpagh dy chummal syn Oarpey (ta reiltys yn RU cliaghtey smooingaghtyn mychione sleih lesh crackan doo, dhone as bwee tra t'ou gimraa 'mynlughtyn' - as, ec y tra cheddin, ta'n reiltys cheddin jarrood dy vel ny Celtiee ayn).

Red ta cur cree da ny Cornee, t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel y Co-chruinnaght coontey cummal er y thalloo cheddin rish tra feer foddey myr tro (characteristic) jeh 'mynlught ashoonagh'. Ny sodjey na shen, t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel y Co-chruinnaght (Convention) bunnys arryltagh dy ghra 'my t'ou uss smooingaghtyn dy vel uss ayns possan ennagh, t'ou uss ayns y phossan shen.' Ta shoh garraghey ersooyl veih'n chenn smooingaght - fer-oik ginsh dhyt 'T'ou uss dty oltey jeh possan X as cha nod oo jannoo arganeys mychione shen.'

Er y laue elley, ta reiltys yn RU foddey ny smoo coon na shoh. T'eh currit da daah dty chrackan er aght ennagh. Dy jarroo, ta'n Oik Sthie (Home Office) gra 'cha nel reiltys yn RU cur enney er 'mynlught ashoonagh' erbee er y fa nagh vel shoh ny herryrn leighoil kiart syn RU' ('not a legally recognised term within the UK'). Syn ynyd jeh shen, ta reiltys yn RU meenaghey mynlught ashoonagh myr 'possan kynneeagh' ('racial group'), geiyrt er Slattys Cooidjaght Chynneeagh (Race Relations Act) ayns 1976. Ny yei shen, cha nel y slattys shen meenaghey yn cherrym 'possan kynneeagh' as t'eh gimraa ny 'bunyn ashoonagh' ('national origins') jeh possanyn. Ayns y clattys shoh, ta possan kynneeagh goll er meenaghey myr 'possan dy 'leih er ny veenaghey (defined) liorish daah'n chrackan, kynney, ashoonagh

(goaill stiagh seyraanaght), ny bunyn kynneeagh, ny bunyn ashoonagh.' Ta reiltys yn RU goaill rish dy vel 'bunyn ashoonagh' ('national origins') ec ny h-Albinee, Bretnee as Yernee. Er e hon shen, ta reiltys yn RU arryltagh dy ghra 'possanyn kynneeagh' rish ny h-Albinee, Bretnee as Yernee kyndagh rish ny 'bunyn ashoonagh' oc.

Er e hon shen, er y fa nagh vel crackan doo/dhone/bwee ec y chooid smoo jeh ny Cornee, shegin daue croghey er ny h-eieyn jeh 'shenn jarroo-enney ashoonagh' ('historic national identity') ny 'boodeeys kynneeagh' ('ethnic community') dy chur er reiltys yn RU dy ghra 'mynlught ashoonagh' rish ny Cornee.

Ayns 1993, ren sleih kianlt lesh Cooncil yn Oarpey meenaghey 'mynlught ashoonagh' myr possan dy 'leih ayns steat ta cummal sy steat shen, freayll kianglaghyn beayn lesh y steat shen, as taishbyney troghyn (characteristics) kynneeagh, cultooril, crauee, ny troghyn-chengey. Bee sleih dy liooar sy vynlught ashoonagh, agh bee sloo jeh ayn na'n chooid elley jeh cummaltee y steat (er nonney, bee sloo jeh ayn na ny cummaltee elley ayns rheynn-cheerey jeh'n steat). Ec y tra cheddin, bee sleih y vynlught jeean dy 'reayll y jarroo-enney oc, y cultoor, ny tradishoonyn, y chraueeaght, ny'n chengey oc. Gyn ourys, ta'n meenaghey shoh ny smoo foaysaght da ny Cornee na'n fer t'ec reiltys yn RU. As ayns yn imraa ta screut ec ny Cornee, t'ad cur trimmid er ny h-anchaslyssyn eddyr ny Cornee as ny Sostnee. Cre mychione Mannin ayns ny cooishyn shoh? Nurree, hooar mee feyshtane (questionnaire) veih sheshaght ynsit syn Iddaal. Va'n feyshtane shirrey fys mychione mynlughtyn syn Oarpey. Gyn ourys, va'n sleih syn Iddaal coontey shynyn, ny Manninee, dy ve nyn mynlught. Agh tra ghow mee toshiaght dy chur freggyrtyn sy feyshtane, hoig mee nagh dod mee freggyrt monney jeh ny feyshtyn. Myr sampleyr, cre mysh y feysht: 'Vel sleih veih'n vynlught goaill ayns reiltys?' Fy yerrey, hug mee seose, ga dy row sleih va stiurey'n feyshtane guee orrym cur stiagh y stoo va mee abyll jannoo. Agh dy beagh shen jeant aym, veigns cur Mannin ayns kishtey beg nagh vel cooie jee. Shimmeys feysht t'ayn. Cre'n steat ta shin 'ayn', myr sampleyr? Agh hug eh creeaght dou dy ve lhaih imraa ny Cornee: veih'n stoo screut ec leighderyn eddyr-ashoonagh, ta Mannin ny h-ashoon kiart dy liooar!

**Brian Stowell**

*The Cornish National Minority Report makes an excellent case for the protection of the Cornish as a 'national minority'. Analysis of the issues raised is needed in Mannin.*

# William Dhone Commemoration



Pictured above: Cathal Ó Luain, Convenor of the Celtic League, laying the wreath at Hango Hill. Also pictured are Ivona Ni Luain, aged 9, Kerron Ó Luain, 12, Bernard Moffatt and Mark Kermode.

President of Mec Vannin, Bernard Moffatt, who introduced speakers and also addressed the ceremony, warned of the external threats faced by the Island from the Westminster government and Europe. He urged nationalists to present a united front when the Island faced these 'predators'. In his address to the gathering Cathal Ó Luain said that the ultimate objective for the Celtic nations should be the establishment of a confederation of free and independent states.

## Oration in Manx by Mark Kermode, Secretary of Mec Vannin, at Illiam Dhone Commemoration, 2nd January 2000. (English translation)

We have met today in order to remember a man who was judicially murdered. But what's the worth of remembering a dead man and his idea? What is the worth of his sacrifice? There is no worth if the people who follow give up, sell or lose that which he saved.

The 1900s have gone now. Years that saw our language almost lost. Years that saw our culture almost lost. Years that saw Manxness almost lost. They still exist in some way and it is not due to money but love.

The years 2000 are before us now. Will these years see all those things lost totally? They will, unless we are willing to fight for them. They will, unless the Manx government is willing to act as a national government.

The 1900s saw strife and damage in Mannin because of governments that thought more of strangers and their money than they thought of Manx people and their work and love of country. They saw Manx people leaving Mannin to get proper recognition for themselves. They saw Manx people without enough money for a small home in their own country.

Will the years before us see the same thing? They will, unless the Manx government defends the Manx community, the Manx economy and the independence of the Manx people. They will unless the

Manx government takes notice of the threat from the European Union. They will, unless the Manx government is willing to recognise the lesson of the Revestment Act of 1765.

Mec Vannin gave the government notice over seven years ago that this state of affairs would materialise. For doing that, for working for our country, the government defamed Mec Vannin, acted foolishly and, in doing so, committed a crime against the country itself.

Now the truth is directly before us yet the government pretends that we need not worry. This is extreme foolishness. This matter will not go away. Europe will not desist until it has control of the money in Mannin and it has many means by which to do that. The government will have a choice: Total independence or total subjugation.

This raises the question: What is the point of independence? Is it for tax purposes or for people? Look at Mannin now, at the start of the 2000s. There are more people in Mannin and more money but ordinary young people cannot afford to buy a house to establish Manx families.

Therefore, the government must seek independence now, independence for the Manx people and our future. If we don't achieve independence for ourselves in our own fashion, independence will simply be a word to protect the interests and money of outsiders. The future begins today. If the Manx government does not understand that and act accordingly, our future is lost today.

## More Growth But Who Gains From The Wealth Dividend?

The Manx government is patting itself on the back over its recent budget, which promised a fairer distribution of wealth generated during the current economic boom. However, as the leader of the Island's Trade Union movement asserts all is not as 'fair' as it seems.

One media commentator recorded the first Manx budget of the millennium as likely to be 'remembered as one of the most innovative for years'. However, the cold reality is that the budget is unlikely to be remembered in twelve months time let alone have any memorable longevity.

At the present time the Manx economy, along with its Irish counterpart, is performing admirably and despite periodic concerns about external threats it has remained remarkably stable. There is no doubt that the Island's government is to be applauded for its management of this economic growth, however its management of the wealth dividend created is less noteworthy.

Those in the engine room of the Manx economy, the workers on lower and middle incomes, will soon see any shortterm benefits gained from increased tax allowances and marginal NHI (National Health Insurance) adjustments swallowed up by increased living costs on the Island.

The budget is particularly disappointing for those on very low incomes not least because the Manx government has compounded their problems by its continued prevarication over the minimum wage.

Pensioners also could have expected to receive a better deal. True their incomes are appreciably higher than UK counterparts, but the UK is not a particularly good benchmark to adopt. Pensioners, like others on fixed incomes, continue to feel the downside of increased living costs in the economic boom conditions we currently enjoy.

Increasing child benefit substantially and then taxing it may disadvantage more than it assists. Are allowance increases of £50 for Registered Blind and Disabled a sign of a 'caring society'? Free TV licences for pensioners over 75 are a positive step but other pensioners will feel let down.

From the standpoint of economic management current fiscal policy also leaves a lot to be desired. The Trades Council is the first in the queue to demand improved health provision and education facilities and it may therefore seem churlish to criticise the government for attempting to respond to those demands. However, it certainly seems that most if not all Capital projects on the Island attract a 'Rolls Royce' budget and yet promise a comparatively modest return of facility. The government still seems to be somewhat awry in its scrutiny of Capital projects and there is a disturbing tendency to think that construction interests (particularly



those from outside the Island who have moved here in recent years to cash in on the boom). From design through to completion stage they are lining up to milk the Manx economic boom for all its worth. The government seems a little lost at managing such projects (e.g. The Hospital, etc).

What the budget clearly illustrates is that the government still sees satisfaction of the business community as its first priority. The business community with the acceptance of a few "hair-shirts" will welcome, Treasury Minister, Richard Corkhill's efforts. As with previous budgets this one is tailored to business.

Although the government are attempting to focus support towards lower and lower middle income groups they are failing to deliver because any benefits will be swiftly eroded in the current economic climate.

J B Moffatt

## European Rights Body Issues Prison/Police Report

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment has released its report.

The group visited the UK in September 1997 and also sent a delegation to the Isle of Man.

The Celtic League, which alerted the Committee to shortcomings in the Manx penal system, provided written and oral submission to the Committee members who visited the Isle of Man, and include recommendations about improved Prison conditions and new requirements to oversee some police procedures.

The recommendations and comments in the Isle of Man section of the report are extremely positive and it is hoped that the Isle of Man government will comply with all the suggestions.

The Celtic League will also be considering critical sections of the UK component of the report. The Celtic League AGM, held in Liskeard last year, adopted a resolution critical of police procedures in England following the suspicious deaths in custody of a number of Irish people.

## Affordable for Whom?

The Council of Minister's report on economic indicators claims that, 'Despite rising prices, increases in disposable incomes and low interest rates is much more affordable than ten years ago and not significantly more costly relative to earnings than for the last decade.' Those seeking affordable housing will be neither comforted nor fooled by this report. In the last 10 years house prices and rents in the private sector have doubled and since 1987, they have quadrupled. Developers and estate agents set prices as high as the market will stand, so that locals are unable to compete with prices which are comparable with the English stockbroker belt.

Treasury Minister, Richard Corkill's latest budget has reduced the lowest rate of income tax to 14% and increased personal allowances. The Minister says that this will help poorer families directly and that these

benefits have been possible because of '... our position as a most progressive off-shore jurisdiction.' Mr. Corkhill also states that this is 'intended to enhance the competitiveness of Island business to provide an even more stable platform from which they can grow and develop.' He hopes this will give us the resources for government's stated social and environmental objectives. This is a serious case of 'double-think'! Unfortunately there is no sign that growth is slowing down, in fact it seems likely to continue, even without the Minister's assistance.

Peel has been targeted for the next phased development of up to 800 new houses. There is a two-year waiting list for local authority housing in Peel. The Commissioners have neither land nor plans to build any houses. It is doubtful that Dandara (Heritage Homes) estates will reduce Peel's waiting list. They will be commuter estates to serve Douglas and the finance centre.

C.J.K.

## 'Cultural Theft' of Chronicles of Mann

The British government is to boycott a new United Nations convention on returning stolen artefacts. The move is being taken to side-step any renewed claim by countries such as Greece in its long running dispute with the UK over the theft of the Elgin Marbles.

Britain's snub to the UN is certain to provoke international criticism from a range of countries many of whose treasures were looted by the British over the centuries.

The Celtic League has campaigned for years for the return of the Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles, and this latest development led CL General Secretary, Bernard Moffatt, to accuse the Blair government of 'cultural theft'.

One of the least publicised claims is that of the Manx people and the continued retention by the British Library of the Chronicles. The Chronicles are no Elgin Marble; it is not a gloriously illuminated text and is not bound in gold. All in all, aesthetically, it is a pretty lack lustre document. Yet it is the oldest record of a period from which our current parliament, Tynwald, draws its historical validity.

Almost certainly compiled in the Island



Bernard Moffatt with poster of the Chronicles in the background

(probably at Rushen Abbey) the document remained here until the late sixteenth century at which time it was either loaned or stolen from the Island.

It now lies for the most part undisturbed, other than for academic scrutiny, in the British Library and with the exception of a brief loan to Manx National Heritage they refuse to return it.

In a sense there is a degree of sadness about the 'British' position. Are they so lacking in original cultural identity that they need to steal and hoard the heritage of others?

J B Moffatt

## Marine Accident Investigation Bureaucrats?

Following criticism of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) in the House of Commons (Westminster) in February, John Prescott, M.P., wisely declined a request to express his 'confidence' in the MAIB.

Prescott confined himself to confirming a new enquiry into the Marchioness tragedy and remarked that the reason for the enquiry was that "frankly the MAIB did not do the job properly".

Many fishing communities, far removed from Westminster, would echo Mr. Prescott's concern about the MAIB whose current portfolio will also include an enquiry into the recent and mysterious sudden sinking of the MFV (Motor Fishing Vessel) Solway Harvester.

The MAIB was established to replace the previous DOT enquiry system into the loss of vessels undertaken by Inspectors from the Marine Directorate of the Dept. of Transport. Throughout the seventies and eighties a continuous stream of accidents occurred many of them in the area (eastern Irish sea) where the MFV Solway Harvester was lost. Some vessels, such as the MFV South Stack, disappeared without trace. Others like the MFV Mhari L were located and investigated but only after considerable pressure from families, politicians and pressure groups. The result of enquiries, when they were published, often raised more questions than they answered and by the latter part of the 1980s it was recognised that a new system was needed. Thus was born the MAIB. The original intention was that it would acquire the same reputation for thoroughness and veracity that its aviation counterpart the (Air Accident Investigation Branch) AAIB had acquired over the years. However, any thoughts that the marine investigators would emulate their aviation colleagues were soon dashed. The public enquiry over the Marchioness is their ultimate ignominy but the writing was always on the wall. During the last decade there have been a string of incidents that have confirmed their true role as either Marine Accident Investigation 'Blunderers or Bureaucrats'. The bureaucratic epithet was certainly laid on them by relatives of the four men lost on the MFV Margaretha Marita, which foundered off Cornwall in November 1997.

The families had to initially pay for their own survey of the wreck after becoming frustrated at the delay of MAIB's slow moving enquiry. At the other end of Britain the families of the crew of the lost Scottish trawler Sapphire also lost patience with government and MAIB bureaucracy and mounted their own salvage effort.

MAIB enquiries seem unduly protracted, notwithstanding the complex nature of some of the investigations, and in the case of the loss of the North Irish MFV Amber Rose in October 1998 the report is still awaited. There also seems to be a disturbing habit of denying access to information once gathered and again this was particularly marked in the case of the MFV Margaretha Marita when relatives eventually met with Junior Transport Minister Glenda Jackson and demanded access to video evidence.

One thing is clear. Thirty years of investigations into sea tragedies by the DOT and the MAIB have not, in several significant cases, resulted in satisfactory explanation or substantive remedy.

J B Moffatt

## Utrecht Celtic Dept – A Victory of Sorts

Following proposals to completely close the Celtic Dept in Utrecht University in Holland in 2001 when the two existing professors will retire protests were made by many academic sources and students from Utrecht. The Celtic League wrote in support also. Many students from Utrecht spent time at University College, Galway (UCG) in Ireland and others have gone to Glasgow, Abersytwyth or Rennes to improve their knowledge of the Celtic Languages. The proposals were said to be a result of financial difficulties with the Arts Faculty introducing staff cuts of 20% but the Celtic Dept was the only one it was proposed to abolish entirely. In jeopardy also was the library with one of the most comprehensive Celtic collections in Europe.

The protest campaign (including signatures collected by a student, Thomas Dresscher, at present in UCG) had an effect. The University reconsidered its decision and while persisting in doing away with the professorships it will maintain an academic course, without any professor, operating on a smaller scale. It is also proposed to establish links with other universities to enable students to undertake some of their studies abroad and a committee will examine this.

While this is an improvement, the campaign should continue to try to maintain the prestigious professorship in a university with an excellent track record in Celtic Studies.

## Sellafield in the Dock on Safety

The unfolding scandal over the falsification of safety data connected to the operation of the new Mox plant indicates that the scale of deceit and falsification goes beyond data supplied to Japan with a recent fuel shipment.

The Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations revealed that falsification of safety data connected to Mox goes back to at least four years. His report revealed a management culture at Sellafield that allowed falsification of safety records. If this is the case it must call into question assurances given both to the media and concerned governments by BNFL over leaks and accidents at the troubled plant.

Despite the NII report and the attempt to scapegoat a number of employees at the plant it is clear that the UK safety regulatory bodies, such as NII who have a presence at the Sellafield plant, have failed to carry out their functions adequately.

John Taylor, Chief Executive of BNFL, has been forced to resign amid the

continuing controversy. Norman Askew succeeds him. The Celtic League has called for the dismissal of senior management. In a parallel move we have suggested that the head of NII, Laurence Williams should do the honourable thing and follow Taylor's example.

The League has also attacked Lloyds Quality Assurance Register (LRQA) for going ahead with a safety validation of the plant. Sellafield is anxious to have some of the sites operations re-certified to ISO 40001 standard as part of its fight back against the wave of bad publicity. The League's General Secretary has written to the Irish, Manx, Icelandic and Norwegian governments drawing their attention to the LRQA assessment and urging action by them.

The data falsification scandal will hopefully mean that the £1.5 billion part privatisation of BNFL, which we christened, the *privatisation portfolio from hell*, is likely to be shelved.

## War Games Threat to Air Routes

A review into an Irish airline tragedy over thirty years ago, expected shortly, seems likely not to reveal new evidence of military involvement. Aer Lingus EI712 crashed in 1968 in the Irish Sea all on board perished. However, the main suspect in the tragic accident is still in business and continues to pose a threat to Irish Sea air routes.

Increasingly obsolete RAF aircraft, such as the Tornado with outdated weapons systems, regularly use the Air Guided Weapons Operational Evaluation Unit located in Anglesey to exercise over the Aberporth weapons range. (The base was the subject of controversy last week when the Welsh media uncovered detail of a dangerous air-miss over the RAF Valley base complex). Aircraft from Valley exercising over the Aberporth range concentrate in an area called The Gate, which straddles a major air route waiting their turn to attack targets. Target aircraft called Jindiviks from Llanbedr in Wales are fitted with flare packs to attract live air fired missiles in practice intercepts. The target aircraft are usually recovered but occasionally things can go wrong and both targets and missiles become "unguided". In such situations chase aircraft, which accompany the targets, can destroy them. In the Aer Lingus tragedy several eyewitnesses described an aircraft near the Wexford coast that was almost certainly a Jindivik.

These dangerous war games take place in an area straddled by Irish Sea civil air routes. The British MOD created a so-called range, (the Irish Sea danger area) off west Wales which, interestingly, was considerably extended following the Aer



Lingus tragedy in 1968. Astonishingly, the Irish government has not protested about the dangers posed by these exercises and its inertia over the issue invites further tragedy. The situation is particularly dangerous given the admission last month by the UK that RAF defence systems are plagued by technical deficiencies and serviceability due to both age and manpower shortage. The main hardware used Sidewinder guided missile equipped Tornado aircraft and Hawk chase planes have been involved in many accidents in recent years. The pilotless Jindivik targets are also well past their 'sell by' date, a factor which no doubt explains their somewhat erratic operations.

J B Moffatt

## *The Isles - a history*

by Norman Davies published  
by MacMillan, 1999,  
hardback pp. 1182 £30.00

Norman Davies has written a timely study of over 1,000 pages, which has copious appendices and notes. As the public debate about Britishness grows ever more strident he has written a radical history of the "British Isles" including Ireland. It examines their history less from the standpoint of an insider than from that of an outsider. The Anglo-centric nature of much received wisdom in the past is closely analysed.

He connects events on the isles with contemporary events on the continent and reinforces the major role of the Celts whose role in Europe has been downgraded by generations of classical scholars. The current Celtic revival is covered as part of a review of the many ages we can now interpret from all the available sources.

The Celtic League's activities warrant a paragraph!

Norman Davies' introduction alone is worth reading for its clinical review of the world-wide confusion in the use of words like "British", "British Isles" and "United Kingdom". Davies has produced a mine of informed discussion which is essential reading.

Rob Gibson

## PRISON DECISION 'MEAN-SPIRITED'

The Celtic League have slammed prison authorities in the Irish Republic for refusing permission to Josephine Hayden to visit her elderly father (87) who was hospitalised in Waterford. The refusal by the prison authorities has been described by the Celtic League in a letter to Irish Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue, TD, as "mean spirited".

It is not the first time that Josephine has been the subject of harsh treatment by the prison authorities. After suffering a heart attack part way through her sentence she was denied proper medical treatment.

Josephine Hayden is just months away from completing a lengthy prison sentence in Limerick Jail. Since being imprisoned she has campaigned ceaselessly to improve conditions for women prisoners in the jail, and her efforts to fight this injustice has undoubtedly caused the hard attitude towards her.

However, in denying the visit to her sick father the prison authorities have plumbed the depths of callousness and inhumanity.

Bernard Moffatt



Cuntelles  
Keltek  
Kesgwllasek  
International  
Celtic  
Congress

24-29 April 2000, Kernow/ Cornwall

It is often assumed that the Celtic countries and their languages have continuously been in a state of decline. A detailed look at our histories will show that this is not the case. The theme of Congress 2000 is intended to encourage members to plan for the future while at the same time learning from the lessons of the past.

Further information: Mrs D. Chubb, Gordon Villa, Sunnyvale Road, Portreath, Redruth, Kernow/Cornwall, TR16 4NE



## Celtic League AGM

This year's AGM will be held in Mannin on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July at The Mitre Hotel, Ramsey.

The Conference is set to coincide with the first week of the Inter-Celtic (music and dance) Festival, Yn Chruinnaght. For further information contact Crislt Jerry, Manx Branch Secretary, address pg. 24.

## CELTIC LEAGUE INTERNET SITE

<http://www.manxman.co.im/cleague/>

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## Galician Celts You Are Not Alone

On page 7 of CARN 108 Manuel Castro's letter ends with the question: Are the Galician Celts alone again? The answer from the International Branch of the Celtic League is: No, the Galician Celts of Argentina are not alone. Please be assured that, as branch secretary, I will remember our Celtic friends in Argentina, and those in Galiza and Asturias. It is my hope and intention that we maintain the regular contact and cooperation in matters of common Celtic interest as established between Alan Heusaff and yourselves.

Mark Lockerby

### International Branch Internet Site

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

e-mail International Branch Secretary

[mlockerby@enterprise.net](mailto:mlockerby@enterprise.net)

## Ar Bed Keltiek

on line books, records, Celtic art,  
Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82

Brest: 02.98.44.05.38

<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>

e-bost: [arfur@eurobretagne.fr](mailto:arfur@eurobretagne.fr)

[bernez.abk@eurobretagne.fr](mailto:bernez.abk@eurobretagne.fr)

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.

## 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 IRE£10; Stg£10; 100FF or US\$20.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe Stg.£10 outside Europe Stg.£13.00 airmail.

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

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**BREIZH** *Jakez Derouet*, 14 Hent Kemper, 29700 Pluguen/Pluguffan, Brittany.

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

**KERNOW** c/o *General Secretary*, 11 Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan, Mannin.

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