

comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 125

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- Opportunities in Scots Independence Movement
- Breton Cultural Forces Tarred
- Cilmeri Rally Reclaimed
- Call for National Plan for Irish
- Environmental Rights Campaign in Cornwall
- Manx in Court
- Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl

ALBA: COMANN
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE





Fuadach nan Gàidheal
Gura mise tùrsach,
A' caoidh cor na dùthcha,
Bha cliùiteach is treun;
Rinn uachdrain am fuadach
Gu fada null thar chuantan,
Am fearann chaidh thoirt uapa
'S thoirt suas do na feidh.

"...agus caoraich cuideachd!" arsa sinne.

Tha na trì leabhraichean seo ri fhaotainn bho
Birlinn Ltd, West Newington House, 10
Newington Road, Dùn Èideann EH9 1QS, no
an leabhar-reiceadair agaibh.

AN TUIL... dheasaich Ragnall Mac ille
Dhuibh an leabhar seo agus dh'fhoillsich
Polygon, 22 George Square, Dùn Èideann e.
Seo agaibh Duanaire Gàidhlig an 20mh
Ceud.

Tha gaol mòr mòr againn air, bhon a tha e
cho beò co-aoiseach. A bhàrr air seo, bha
sinn eòlach air mòran daoine nach maireann
a rinn bàrdachd anns an duanaire seo agus
feadhainn eile a tha beò fhathast, taing do'n
Nì Maith.

Tha dà roimh-ràdh ann, fear sa Ghàidhlig
agus fear eile sa Bheurla. Aig deireadh an
leabhar seo chì sibh Cùl-Cinn no eachdraidh
aig faisg air a h-uile bàrd a bha ri fhaotainn.

Thoiribh maitheanas dhuinn! Tha cus ri ràdh
m'a thimcheall bhon a tha an leabhar seo cho
sonraichte, farsaing, beòthail iongantach.

Ma cheannaicheadh sibh e, bhiodh sibh sona
fad bhr beatha!

SUMMARY

*This is a discussion on four paperbacks that
give a selection of our Scottish (Gàidhlig)
poetry and song over 400 years.*

*Gàir nan Clàrsach covers from 1600 to
1700, An Lasair from 1700 to 1800, Caran
an t-Saoghail from 1800 to 1900. All three
are published by Birlinn Ltd, West
Newington House, 10 Newington Road,
Edinburgh EH9 1QS and obtainable through
your bookseller.*

*The fourth paperback An Tuil is published by
Polygon, 22 George Square, Edinburgh and
covers the years 1900 to 2000 AD.*

*On the left is the text in our language while
on the right there is a translation in the
English language. Each poem or song is
matched with its Note in English, illuminat-
ing it and its author both in depth and with
great acceptance. In the earliest paperback,
Gàir nan Clàrsach, one even finds the
melodies of songs.*

*With four such anthologies, one realises that
there is no place for English literature for
any school in Scotland. The place for such is
in universities, and the language of schools
is Gàidhlig!*

**Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich (Gilleasbuig
Lachlainn "Illeasbuig)**

AR BÀRDACHD ann an ceithir duanairean

GÀIR NAN CLÀRSACH...thagh Colm Ó
Baoill seo agus dh'eadar-theangaich Meg
Bateman e. Tha dà fhichead is trì dàin
Gàidhlig ann eadar na bliadhnan 1600 gu
1698. Cha d'rinn neach an aon rud riamh.

Seo agaibh linn gaisgeil nuair a bha an ceann
cinnidh ann an talla aige; far an robh na leòis
no torches a' nochdadh an luchdleanmhainn
aige ri iomair air gheall no gambling, no ri
clàrsaireachd no ri bàrdachd ...nuair a bha an
fheadhainn eile a'dèanamh fèisd no feasting
agus ag òl.

Air an laimh chli, chì sibh a' Bhàrdachd sa
Ghàidhlig agus air an laimh eile chì sibh
eadar-theangachadh gu Beurla. Barrachd air
sin tha roimh-ràdh, notaichean agus faclair sa
Bheurla agus ceòl air ioma dàn. Abair gu
bheil an leabhar seo ainmeil!
Seo agaibh eisimpleirean....

XX

Na cuala sibh-se tionndadh duineil
Thug an camp bha an Cille nhuimein?
'S fada chuaidh ainm air an urram:
Thug iad as an naimhdean iomain.
Dh'irich mi mach madainn Dòmhnach
Gu bràigh caisteal Inbhir Lòchaidh,
Chunnaic mi an t-arm dol an òrdugh
'S bha buaidh a' bhlàir le Clann Dòmhnail.

XXVII

'S mòr mo mhulad 's mo phràmhan
's mi gu mhaenas gun mhànan
Anns an talla am bu ghnàth le Mac Leòid.

Taigh mòr macnasach meadhrach
Nam macaomh 's nam maighdean.
Far 'm bu tartarach gleadhraich nan còrn.

Tha do thalla mòr priseil
Gun fhasgadh gun dìon ann,
Far am faca mi fion bhith ga òl.

AN LASAIR...tha sinn fada nas eòlaiche air
a chruinneachadh seo a rinn Ragnall Mac
'ille Dhuibhe agus na tachartan seo o
cheann gu ceann da'n ochdamh linn deug.
Seo agaibh roimh-ràdh agus notaichean air a
h-uile dàn ach chan eil ceòl ann.

Bhon a tha trì fichead 's a trì dàin anns an
leabhar seo chì sinn an spàirn aca an aghaidh
nan Sasannaich, ceannachadh agus geur-
lannmhainn. Ach mu dheireadh thall chì sinn
Albannaich a' cogadh air son nan naimhdean
agus an iompaireachd aca!

10

Óran nam Fineachan....
Seo an amair 'n do dhearbhadh

An targainteachd dhùainn - -
Bras meanmnach fir Alba
Le'n armaibh air thùs
Nuair a dh'eires gach treunlaoch
Le'n èideadh glan ùr,

... Gur mairg nàmhaid a tharladh
Ri àrmann mo rùn;

Seo agaibh cuideachd dòbrainn na ban-
ntraiche an deidh
Blàr Chuil-lodair...

32

Och a Theàrlaich òig Stiubhairt,
Se do chùis rinn mo léireadh,
Thug thu bhuam gach nì bh'agam
Ann an cogadh 'nad adhbhar;
Cha chroth is cha càirdean
Rinn mo chràdh, ach mo chéile
On là dh'fhàg e mi 'm aonar
Gun sìon san t-saoghal ach léine
Mo rùn geal òg.

...no geur-leanmhainn

35

An t-Èideadh Gàidhealach
Thàinig achd ro chruidh oirn
A-nuas à Sasainn.
Maoidheadh air ar n-èideadh-
Chan eil e tlachdmhor.

...Thèid e Latha Lùnastail
Ann an cleachdadh
Èideadh clann nan Gàidheal
A chur àfasan—

(Ach a dh'aindeoin sin, chan eil ar féileadh-
beag gràdhach à fasan fhathast!)

Ach, anns an dàn mu dheireadh...63 Blàr na
h-Òlaind... tha nàire oirn gu bheil uiread de
luchd-brathaidh ann!

CARAN AN T-SAOGHAIL ... na bithibh
ro dhuilich! Ged a tha dealbhan nan
saighdearan Albannaich a' cogadh air son an
taoibh eile ann, air a' chòmhdach...chan eil
sin ach aon earrann a-mhàin...seo agaibh
dusan earrannan eile!

Gus an d'rinn an Rìaghaltas Sasannach an
Hereditary Jurisdictions Act sa bhliadhna
1747 bha gach ceann-cinnidh mar athair na
fine aige; ach an deidh sin dh'fhàs e na h-
uachdaran agus bha feadhainn seo,
dh'fhuadaich neach-cinnidh a cnasadh tuil-
leadh airgid. Ach, taing do'n Nì Maith bha
Cluanaidh, ceann-cinnidh Clann Mhuirich
daonnan coibhneil, bàigheil, còir do'n
luchd-cinnidh aige!

SNP President joins the League

As a much younger man of twenty eight I fine well remember the Hamilton BI-Election of 1967 which brought to the fore that now internationally known figure of freedom, Winnie Ewing, better known in the European Union as Madam Ecosse, an accolade she got as the longest serving member for the largest constituency in Europe (The Highlands and Islands) which she held for the SNP time after time, undefeated, until her retirement. She then moved on to be a prominent member of the new Scottish parliament retirement again sent her for a long and well-deserved rest.

She *aint* finished yet! Oh No! as she has just joined the Alba branch of the League, and there is no doubt we will be hearing from her quite soon.

However, to get back to that Bi-Election, Winnie won by a substantial majority. It was the first time that the TV had put on a new trick, an outside broadcast at the polls, tied up with a studio panel back in the city. All week leading up to the election, the English propaganda machine, via the media which they then controlled, and still do, had said it would be a straight fight between the two

main unionist parties, i.e. Tweedle Dee Labour and Tweedle Dum Tory. They were so convinced of their own deception that they had only invited representatives of the three unionist parties – Labour/Tory/ Liberal – along to the studio. The Nationalists, Communists and others were of course not invited. This made the job of the poor comper of the programme extremely difficult, if not embarrassing, as the news from the outside broadcast kept, at regular interval, informing him of the steady pile up of the nationalist votes. The nationalist victory left him stunned, as all he could do with his three unionists was to interview each one to ask them why they had lost.

Having personally stood some 13 times for the SNP and having been on candidate lists at European and other levels I can only empathise with just how hard Winnie has worked for her country since 1967. Although a member of the Celtic League in the past, the new Scottish Parliament kept her more than busy. Now that she had retired she has not by any means hung up her spurs. Winnie, I am sure, will be an asset to the League and proposals have been moot-



Winnie Ewing

ed to make her our honorary Vice President of the Alba Branch, a proposal I don't see as having much in the way of opposition. If you are reading this and live in Scotland, then contact me (my address is on Carn pg.24). We trust you will join the steady trickle of new and former members who are returning to put the Celtic League back on the map and back on the cultural and political agenda.

Iain Ramsay

STREET NAMES STORM COULD BE CULTURAL LOSS

There will be a feeling of *deja vu* to those active in the Manx language movement who read about the current furore in parts of the Highlands of Scotland over Gaelic place names.

Local people living at Kilmallie near Fort William have apparently reacted strongly to plans to give three new streets in the town Gaelic names. They are apparently concerned that the names, derived from historic battles in the area, such as Inbhir Lochaidh Road (Battle of Inverlochy Road) etc. could prove too difficult and tongue-twisting for anglicised ears.

Proponents of the move argue that the move would promote a sense of place and culture to both residents and visitors – so far their argument is falling on deaf ears.

Paradoxically over twenty five years ago when there was a real drive to introduce (and in some instances restore) Gaelic place names in the Isle of Man there was a similar reaction in some quarters. However the programme went ahead and these days many new streets and roads have Manx or bilingual naming. No difficulty has occurred as a result of the policy.

Certainly some of the arguments now being used in Scotland about promoting a sense of culture and place are true for the Isle of Man. The place-names campaign became the first in a series of steps which not only strengthened the Manx language but also the sense of Manx identity.

In the Highlands the final decision will be made next week with the Lochaber Area planning committee of Highland Council due to have the last word.

We hope that wisdom will prevail when Lochaber Area planning committee of Highland Council come to a final decision!

JBM

Scotland's newest National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Knockan Crag, Scotland's newest NNR, in Wester Ross is to become a centre for environmental education in English and Gaelic. Knockan Crag has for the last 30 years been an important training ground for students of geology.

To mark the establishment of the centre, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), is launching a education pack for Knockan Crag, available in Gaelic and English, and local schools are to be presented with their own copies.

SNH invested over £200,000 in the Knockan project. More than £300,000 came from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £150,000 from the Highlands and Islands Objective One partnership. Ross and Cromarty Enterprise, and Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise also backed the project.

Iain Muir, local member of SNH's North Areas Board, said: 'I am delighted that Knockan Crag is becoming a National Nature Reserve in its own right. This is a truly magnificent site and with its internationally important geology and outstanding geological interpretation and visitor facilities, it is a real asset to the area. The new schools pack takes this a stage further by inviting teachers to use the site more formally in the teaching curriculum. Gaelic is one of the five languages featured in the interpretation at Knockan and it is entirely appropriate that the pack is bilingual, making it an equally useful resource for the growing number of Gaelic Medium Education units in the Highlands.'

An SNH review of all NNRs across Scotland resulted in the declaration of six other NNRs in north Highland. These are Achanarras Quarry, Dunnet Links, Gualin, Invernaver, Mound Alderwoods, and Strathy Bogs.

Is the B.B.C. unbiased?

Many of us in Scotland envy readers in Brittany and Ireland who have been spared the tedious reporting over the last few months of the dispute between the B.B.C. and the British government, though it was instructive for us. It involved the reasons given to us why we should make war on Iraq in 2003, B.B.C. reporting of it, especially by Andrew Gilligan, and the tragic suicide of Dr. David Kelly, a civil servant who had given him information. In the event the result of an enquiry by Lord Hutton, an English High Court judge, exonerated the government of any false or exaggerated statements, and condemned the B.B.C. so thoroughly that the Chairman and Director General felt compelled to resign. The newspapers accused Lord Hutton of a whitewash, and represented the B.B.C. as seriously weakened with its independence put at risk.

At this time there is a natural tendency for people to rally to the support of the B.B.C., attempt to safeguard it from supposed government interference, and begin to ignore the many complaints made against the Corporation over the years.

Many of us have questioned the B.B.C.'s independence in reporting Scottish affairs. The Scottish National Party has the second largest number of members in the Scottish Parliament, but it is never treated as 'an official opposition' nor given exposure on either Radio or TV which its support in the country should command. The 'Scots Independent' has a regular monthly column written by Colin Campbell dealing with the B. B.C. and Scotland. In a recent issue he quoted a speech by Greg Dyke (B.B.C. Director General just resigned) in which he described the Corporation as the glue which holds the United Kingdom together! In the February 2004 issue Mr. Campbell says,

There is a growing public realisation that the B.B.C. is deeply involved in underpinning the political status quo in Scotland; yet has no democratic mandate or authority for its actions. This is a serious constitutional issue, which should unite all shades of democratic opinion in Scotland and surely it is our urgent task to muster these forces sufficiently to ensure either a root and branch pruning of the existing structures to make them publicly accountable, or to rid Scotland of B.B.C. control once and for all!

The B.B.C. Charter comes up for renewal in 2006, so there is time, beginning now, to influence what it will then become.

In the 'Scottish Socialist Voice' (the weekly paper of the Scottish Socialist Party) on February 20th, the two middle pages are headed 'The battle for the B.B.C.' In an interview with Kath Kyle, Dr David Miller of Stirling

University Media Department says, 'The B.B.C. has been cowed ... It is similar to the fearfulness that existed over reporting the troubles in Northern Ireland for years. The government is continuing to pile on the pressure. They are allowing back bench Blairites like Peter Mandelson to make pronouncements on the B.B.C. and its journalists'. In another article by Paul Hollerton, the National Union of Journalists' Scots organiser, he points out that of the original 14 commercial TV franchises in Britain few remain, and there is a danger that by takeovers soon only one will remain. The government's Communications Act passed in October 2003 has made this possible 'It is clear that the steady distillation down to the new I.T.V. giant ... is going to have implications for the diversity of news, programme making and local identities in the North East and Highlands and Islands of Scotland'

If we monitor the B.B.C. can we expect that notice will be taken of what we say? In fact the B.B.C. is very conscious of criticism, especially if it is constructive. For example I quote from the protest recently made by the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Glasgow and Birmingham, underlined on February 16th by Jack Longland in 'Thought for the Day'. The Archbishops were especially incensed by plans to show a cartoon called 'Popetown' depicting the Pope as a childish pensioner. They also pointed out aggressive and unsympathetic interviewing of the Archbishop of Westminster and of the Chairman of the Scottish Catholic Education Service. The Archbishop of Glasgow expressed sympathy for the B.B.C. reporter Andrew Gilligan—'at another time and in another place his error would have been immediately corrected and an apology issued and accepted. I have less sympathy for those within the Corporation who have encouraged a tabloid culture to grow which has seen the world's most distinguished broadcasting organisation employ tactics and standards unworthy of it'.

We would be better advised to place the future of Gaelic and of the Celtic culture generally in the hands of separate Scottish, Welsh, Cornish Irish and Manx Radio/TV authorities.

At its best the R.B.C. is very good, but even then it is English culture it is promoting. Well did the late Oliver Brown call it the 'Anglo saxophone'.

Ronald I. Matheson



Europe: Democracy and Language Rights

The future of our languages without hegemony

A European-wide demonstration is planned for 9th May in Strasbourg, France: it will be open to all those people and associations which would like to hold a public debate on the future of languages in the European Union.

In 2004, the European Union will become enlarged to include 25 countries in all; and it will have 20 official languages (although, in fact, many more than 20 are used in the European Union). Nevertheless, the linguistic aspects of the European Union have not yet been seriously considered: in theory, the European politicians say that the European Union will be multilingual but, in practice, multilingualism is not respected, and some languages are preferred to others. We risk having languages divided into "important" and "not important"; and what will happen to all those languages defined as "minority languages"? How can we prevent hegemony by one language or one small group of languages?

If we do nothing to protect all the languages of the European Union (including the so-called "minority languages") and consider them all on the same level, the cultural diversity of Europe will be severely endangered.

The above-mentioned demonstration is also an opportunity to show language and cultural diversity, as it is inter-associational and because it includes participants from different European countries. The web-page of the demonstration is: <http://europa.bunto.free.fr/> and has been translated into 35 of the languages of the European Union. If your association is interested in participating and would like more information, it should contact the co-ordinator for the UK, Elizabeth Cirio, at: prezidanto@jeb.org.uk

If your association is interested, we can also include its name (eventually with a link to your home page) in the demonstration's home page:

<http://europa.bunto.free.fr/asocioj.htm>

We would also much appreciate it if you could publish information about this demonstration in your magazine

Sebastien Erhard
(Co-ordinator of Europa Bunto)



Breizh

Irish... e-tal an dazont...

Er niverenn diwezhañ (N°:124), ez eus bet graet ur sell diwarbenn istor hag yezh e bro Iwerzhon. Ar pennadskid-se zo tennet eus ul levrig embannet gant burev Europa ar yezhoù nebeutoc'h implijet. Er pennad-mañ e vo graet ur sell war ar mediaoù, an arzoù hag an armerzh. Evit echuiñ e vo anv eus an deskadurezh ha religion hag all.

Al lezenn savet e 1998, diwarbenn ar radio hag an TV, o deus lakaet e plas ur gomision (IRTC). He fal a zo an diorren er servijou ar c'hleweled. Radio-one (RTE) skign tro dro 100MN bep sizhun. Radio na Gaeltachta a ra 90MN dre sizhun ivez. E Dulenn Radio na Life a ginnig 60 eurvezh bep sizhun...dreist holl ar radioioù zo ur gwir benveg evit derec'hel ar yezh.

An TV a ra ur sapre labour ivez. TnaG zo ganet er bloavezh 1996. Skign a ra 1800MN bep sizhun. D'ar mare-se an TV iwerzhonad oa unan eus ar re gwellañ tout, en Europa, war an dachenn teknikel. Mod all, RTE-one a ginnig 180MN. Da lavaret eo dek gwech nebeutoc'h eget TnaG. Mod all an eil chadenn anvet NETWORK2 ne ra nemet 10MN. Eus he zu, ar pevare channel n'eo ket dedenet gant ar yezh. Memestra, ar chadenn-

se zo a du evit implij bruderezh paet gant ar stad.

Evit ar pezh a sell eus ar c'hazetennoù, ez eus a bep seurt. Memestra ul lodenn a zo muioc'h vicherel eget ar re all...Fionse, ar gazetenn-sul a ra 5000 skouerenn bep gwech. La, e vez gwerzhet e ker Belfast pad ar sizhun. Ar merc'her e vez kavet un hanter bajennad en Irish-Times. Saol, zo ur gazetenn miziek produet gant Bord na Gaeilge. Ar strollad-se o deus graet arc'hant evit sikour ur c'hant levr bennak e ti seitek embanner...An embann hag al lennegezh a seblant bezañ yac'h. Prizioù a bep seurt hag an Nobel Price Seamus HEANEY labour evit se.

War dachenn an arzoù ez eus bet kalz traou graet er bloavezhioù 90. Bruderezh, steunverezh ha skoazel a bep seurt. Siwazh kalz traoù a chom da ober, evit mont war raok gant ar raktres orin. An Ao Ministr nevez e 1998 o deus lakaet 26M(£) war an daol.

An arc'hant-se o deus sikouret bed ar c'hoariva. Taibhdhearc, eus Galway a zo boazet da lakaat war sav c'hwec'h pezh c'hoari bep bloaz. E Dulenn, the Peacock, zo boazet da grouiñ un abadenn bep div vloaz.

Ouzhpenn-se an TV, a ra ul liv brav d'ar c'hoariva.

Kevredigezh(CCE) Gael-Linn he o deus savet ul labour abaoe pell zo evit saveteiñ ar music hengounel. E fin ar c'hantved tremenet an dud-se o deus adsavet "sessions" er puboù. An dra-se a zo bet graet gant sikour burev an douristelezh. Ar gevredigezh (CCE) e-giz ar sportoù gouezeleg a gemer perzh er yezh ar vro dre kreizhennoù lec'hel. Siwazh ar re-mañ ne deus ket labour ket kalz. Ouzhpenn-se an traoù zo disheñvel e pep korn eus ar vro. Memestra ar c'hevredigezhioù-se, dreist-holl an hurling pe ar football gouezeleg a sach kalz tud.

Dre vraz ar servijou publik implij muioc'h muiañ yezh ar vor.

An tiez bank, post pe an tailhoù zo aozet evit digemer an oztizien e gouezeleg. Peadra da lakaat ar vreizhiz da huñvreal. Ar roll-labour anvet interCelt sikour raktresoù sevenadurel etre CYMRU & iwerzhon. Ar programm ekonomikel souezhusañ zo anvet Fiontar. Ur stummadur huel tre, savet er skolveur Dulenn, war dachenn an arc'hant hag ar yezhoù.

Evit echuiñ, dav eo lavar eo ar yezh skoazellet gant al lezennoù. Memestra dav eo evezhiañ ha krouiñ nerzh ha startijenn evit harpañ ouzh an american...

Précis

Part 2 - This article continues to appraise the booklet **IRISH - Facing the Future** which deals with the history and present day position of the Irish Language (See Carn 124)

Gi Keltik



Ur skinwel breizhat evit an holl

En darn vrasañ eus broioù Europa e kaver chadennoù rannvroel a skign programmoù digoust (Rouantelezh Unanet, Spagn, Alamagn h.a.). Ganet e oant evit an darn vrasañ anezho e penn kentañ ar bloavezhioù 80, berzh a reont holl pa grouont postoù labour ha mat int ivez evit skeudenn ar vro : 2000 post labour zo bet krouet gant chadenn Kembre S4C, 1000 post labour en Euskadi, daou film eus Kembre zo bet kinniget evit an Oscar pa n'he deus ar chadenn-se nemet ugent vloaz...

Evel boaz gant ar yezhoù bihanniver, warlerc'h eo chomet Bro C'hall, n'eus chadenn tele rannvroel ebet a zo digoust hag emren.

France 3 ne ra nemet diskregiñ eus he abadennoù broadel da skignañ un nebeud abadennoù rannvroel.

TV Breizh he deus ranket cheñch penn d'ar vazh en despet d'ar strivoù a oa bet graet e-pad tri bloaz evit lakaat anezhi da zont da vezañ ur gwir chadenn vreizhek. Deut eo da vezañ ur

chadenn hollek pa ne oa nemet 10% eus ar Vretoned a c'halle tapout anezhi (skignet e vez dre ar fun pe al loarell, paeañ a ranker).

Goulenn a ra groñs ar c'hevredad "Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl" ma vo savet e Breizh evel en holl vroioù en Europa ur gwir chadenn rannvroel digoust o skignañ war ar rouedad hertzian, analogel da gentañ ha niverel goude-se.

Evit ober an dra-se e c'houlennont digant ar CSA (Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel) dieubiñ an holl frekañsoù hertzian a zo tu da gaout e Breizh ha reiñ an aotre da skignañ war ar frekañsoù-se ur gwir chadenn vreizhat emren.

Evit gouzout hiroc'h ha kemer perzh er sinadeg:

Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl/Une Télévision Bretonne pour Tous

Hent ar Radom - BP2 - 22560 Pleumeur-Bodoù

Route du radôme - BP2 - 22560 Pleumeur-Bodoù BREIZH/BRITANNY via France

Rouedad : www.tvbzh.org - Postel : webmaster@tvbzh.org

Précis: France is still lacking a TV channel broadcasting in Breton. The State TV channel **France 3** and **TV Breizh** have very few and too short programmes in the Breton language. It is time to have a free TV channel broadcasting only through Breton. Take just one minute, visit their web site, sign the petition asking for a free TV channel in Breton and help **"Un Tele Breizhat evit an Holl"** in their campaign!

José CALVETE

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@eurobretoque.fr

Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. Ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper).

When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

BREIZH AKTU

'70-80

Breizh Akту' is a Breton play performed by ArVroBagan (AVB). The 1970s and 1980s were very special years for Brittany. The so called *Beat Generation* showed a strong feeling for freedom. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, Breton people appear to be in a nostalgic mood, therefore, the play, Breizh Akту', depicts very forcefully our best memories of these years.

Breizh. Akту' tells the story of an old woman, Nikol ar Vourc'h, who travels around with a singer Jakez Ar Borg. These two comedians give a tremendous performance by successfully linking comedy to emotions throughout the play. They progress from social battles to economic crisis's a sort of laic 'Tro-Breizh'.

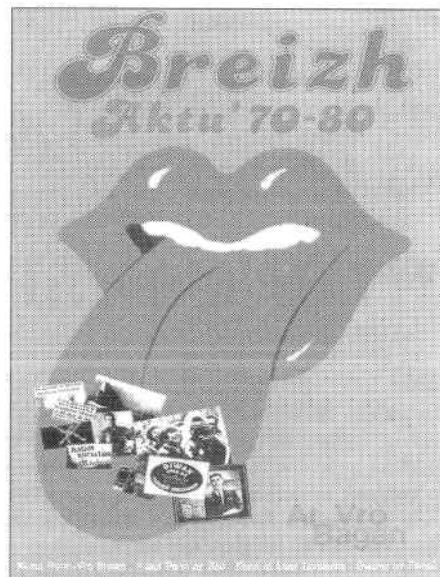
The first battle starts in the early 60's, with the Leon Veg's - Belt farmers. The two leaders Alexis Gourveneg and Marcel Leon join with the farmers to approach the 'prefecture' of Morlaix, who promises to oversee the development of the farming industry in Brittany in exchange for the support (votes) of the farmers' Trade Union ... thus, defying the French President, De Gaulle. Today these close links still exist. Thanks to Europe things are changing. Alexis Gourveneg is leaving his responsibilities at different levels: Credit Agricole and Cerafel etc. Fresh hope is growing in the cultural movement.

As expected, G. Kervella, the producer of the play, is eager to help his generation remember the seventies and hopefully to understand the implications of that era for today. In the 60s Brittany went through the vegetable crisis. Then ten years later they faced the milk crisis which was a new challenge for Brittany. In the Seventies, the Breton farming lobbies grew stronger within the EEC and by working hard in Europe solutions were found through the banks and also the Manshold Project.

In the sixties and seventies, left wing intellectuals, among others, fought hard against state colonialism. For instance R. Vautier produced a film along with the *fellaghas* which dealt with the colonialist war in Algeria, but as long as the french State controls the issuing of licences for films and television, R. Vautier has no chance of screening his film: 'avoir 20 ans dans les Aures'. Despite going on strike, his request to show the film was shot down by the state censors. One can also say that in spite of state opposition

to *any* language i.e. the diplomatic one: French, DIWAN opened it first class in Lambaol - Ploudalmeze in 1977). This century presents another important challenge for Brittany; in the face of globalisation it is vital that Brittany retains its social and economic values.

In 1978 another challenge came to the fore in Portsall with the Amoco-Cadix oil spill. Some 15 years after the oil spill, A. Arzel (Dem.) and CH. Josselin (PS), won the battle over Amoco. Dynamism, tenacity and solidarity against the French and American States as well as Amoco itself brought about their success. This was just the opposite of the recent Erica oil spill where the Gaullists and the socialists were unable to work together. Jacobinism is no friend to Breizh. It is precisely because of this philosophy that the state decided to build a power station in Plogou. However, the presidential election of 1981, gave F. Mitterrand and Louis le Penec the opportunity to quash this project which also proved to be of benefit to the Green Party in Brittany.



The idea of going back to our roots and to nature, which is a central theme in Breizh Akту', gave the producer, Goulc'han Kervella the opportunity to put across this message and give us hope for the future. This play was a 'must see' in 2003 and...hopefully in 2004.

N.B.:

This year AVB will be performing the plays *Buhez Sant Erwan* (21/05/04+...) and *Pasion Plougastell* (400th birthday!).

Gi Keltik

Farewell Jean Guég'

A founder-member of the UDB, Jean Guég'niat, died as a result of a virulent cancer. Known to all as Jean Guég', he was born at Brest in 1941. Following the 1984 UDB congress Jean Guég'niat became leader of Frankiz Breizh in order to develop his ideas for the Brest region. The following extract from *Le Peuple Breton* in May 1984 typifies his style:

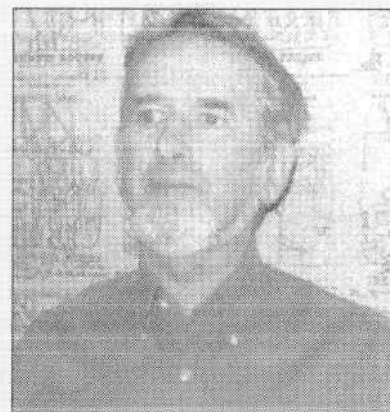
"Who then is threatening the Breton identity?

There is no shortage of answers; we know them by heart from the uniformity seeking propensity of the State to our inherent alienation towards capitalism, from the schoolmaster persuaded to do the best for his pupil to the colonised mind who refuses his own language. It is exactly the same processes that deprive the Breton of his culture and refuse to let the immigrant have his own identity. And it is the same responses that the one and the other uses to resist.

The inward-looking Brittany is finished. No more the nonsense about "true Bretons" with blue eyes, dark hair, and, why not, a round hat. No more the stereotypes of the coloniser. Today Japanese write in Breton, Portuguese workers have learnt it from their co-workers in the work-place, and people from all over Europe may be found in Breton courses.

Morvan Lebesque related many years ago in *Le Peuple Breton* how a young black man wanted to join a Celtic group but was worried that this would cause a problem, to which Morvan Lebesque simply answered "What problem?"

What problem indeed, if not that of identity. An identity not rooted in race, nor in the ghetto, but in the desire to construct a country with all those who live there or want to live there. Let the dinosaurs become sterile - let us oppose them with a Brittany of all colours!



Is the French state tarring the cultural forces of Brittany?

On November 4, 2003 the arrest in Gwengamp of five members of the twinning committee Gwengamp-Shannon came as a shock. The five were accused of helping the "True IRA", an Irish terrorist group. The question must be asked, is the French state bent on criminalizing what is known here as the Emsav, the Breton Renewal and especially the cultural renewal? It is all the more indicative of a political scheme when it is known that, at the end of March 2004, regional elections will take place and, at the same time, there will be the trial of eleven Breton activists who have been held in pre-trial detention, for more than four years for some of them, which is obviously contrary to the rule of law in a democratic nation and, moreover, in stark opposition to every international charter of human rights.

So, on November 4, 2003 members of the regional police and of the state special antiterrorist brigade arrested five very honourably known citizens of Gwengamp on the flimsiest of suspicions. Among them, Jean-Pierre Ellien, former town councillor, president and a prime mover of the Saint Loup Festival, one of the great Breton cultural events of Gwengamp each year and one of the five most important Summer festivals in Brittany.

It is especially shocking to see people, presumed to be innocent, arrested under threat; transferred to Paris, incarcerated in revolting conditions and assimilated, without the beginning of proof, to the worst international terrorists and, to add insult to injury, have their homes violated in the worst possible fashion by the French police!

Meanwhile back in Gwengamp a support committee was organized and the entire population, shaken by these scandalous arrests, took to the streets in ever greater numbers as the days went by. After a few days the police victims were released under judiciary control and will have to face trial, needless to say that although sure of their innocence they are shaken by these judiciary developments, this is the case of Jean-Pierre Ellien, questioned by, "Cam": 'I have always been active in the cultural life in Brittany. I founded the bagad (pipe band) of Gwengamp in 1973, soon after I became a member of the Saint Loup Festival committee which has been in existence since 1958. When I was a member of the city council, Mr Lessilour was then mayor; I initiated the twinning with Shannon. I received the support of the just deceased Polig Monjarret, the great renovator of Breton music and the man who did the most to forge strong links between Éire and Brittany. With the twinning committee I soon realized that the best musical groups in Éire were to be found in the pubs. Thereafter I spent all my vacations in Éire with musician friends. As a result of these trips my visiting card is in the hands of hundreds of publicans in Donegal, Kerry and elsewhere in

Éire. One day I was introduced to somebody in Dundalk near to the northern border, I was there with members of the pipe band, on the road to Belfast we had stopped to pay a visit to the grave of Bobby Sands, for us it was a kind of pilgrimage as we would do for the tomb of Yann-Vari Perrot. Subsequently, in a pub, I met a fellow by the name of Frankie Macgown, we became friends and he came to see us every time we visited Éire, he has arranged for three musical groups from Éire to come here, we have very good souvenirs to share and so, last May, when we were in the Galway area Frankie came to see us and that's it.

Therefore, it seems that it is this purely personal and cultural contact that attracted on Jean-Pierre Ellien and his friends the wrath of the French police forces and justified the accusation of collaboration with a terrorist group by the French judiciary.

Needless to say that Jean-Pierre Ellien and his friends, who claim that they are totally innocent of these charges, cannot understand why the French police forces moved with such speed and strength when all of the accused could have readily answered all the questions relating to their "Irish links" upon a simple call to the local police station. Whatever the outcome of the police inquiry Breton solidarity with the five "presumed innocents" has already been demonstrated and on Saturday, the 22nd of November last, more than 4000 people coming from all over Brittany were marching in protest in the streets of Gwengamp, in spite of a pouring rain.

This gathering, which went beyond the usual circles of Breton militants was supported by Jean-Yves Cozan, the vice-president of the Regional Council in charge of Breton identity, he was to declare: Past the first few moments of shock and disbelief we are all scandalized by the humiliating arrests which are totally out of place as well as ungrounded. This despicable attack obviously had the objective to tarnish the reputation of a respected cultural leader and belittle him through a suspicion of terrorist activities; such methods are beyond belief in a proclaimed "state of right"!

As far as he is concerned Jean-Pierre Ellien will not cave in and he is more determined than ever to continue his activity in the cultural field, he said:

Three of us have been indicted, yet my lawyer could have asked for a *nonsuit* judgement immediately, but there was a risk that the judge could ask for a complementary inquiry and send me to jail for six months!

Now, I can look up the police file but I cannot leave France without the authorization of the judge and moreover I cannot even meet the friends with whom I used to go to Éire.

It is obviously quite amazing and, in fact, beyond belief said Jean-Yves Cozan that in country, considering itself a member of the "Western World" and supposedly "democratic", apparently innocent people can be arrested as if they were dangerous terrorists even though the only "proof" of their "guilt" is purely circumstantial.

It is quite clear that, sooner rather than later, the European Human Rights Commission and Court will have to investigate the operation of the French police and justice departments whose methods are undoubtedly soiling the image of the police and justice establishments of the other member states of the European Union.

Thierry Jigourel



Kampagn skoazell Diwan 2003 evit dazont ar skolioù

LET'S KEEP BRETON ALIVE

In the five Breton administrative departments the Breton language is a strong cultural asset, which is an integral part of our identity. However if we don't do something - now - all together our language risks extinction. This method contributes to the survival of the Breton language, of course, but it also helps children to value cultural diversity and to develop their open-mindedness.

The state rejection prevents and obstructs public recognition but in no way undermines our will to carry on the educational innovation and expansion of this cultural initiative.

Today we appeal to you to help us in our hour of need. This is indeed a turning point for the Breton language. We need everyone to contribute at this critical time. Join the population of Brittany, ex-pats and friends everywhere so that Breton may thrive!

HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET, SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS DE BRETAGNE

THERE'S NO BRITTANY WITHOUT BRETON

10,000 contributions of 50 Euro will allow 2,800 Diwan pupils to continue their education in Breton and the growth of the Diwan network. However little all contributions are welcome.

Cheque to be sent to: DIWAN BP 147 29411 LANDERNE BRITTANY

<http://www.diwanbreizh.org/>



Cymru



Streic newyn dros y Llydaweg

Gofynnodd un o aelodau seneddol Ewropeaidd Plaid Cymru i Senedd Ewrop ymyrryd yn achos merch ifanc o Lydaw oedd wedi bod ar streic newyn dros ei hiaith am dros 7 niwrnod.

'Roedd y ferch ifanc, Sabrina Salvar, sy'n astudio Llydaweg fel ail iaith yng ngholeg Kerneuzec yn Kemperle yn ardal An Oriant, yn protestio yn erbyn cynllun llywodraeth Ffrainc i gwtogi ar nifer yr athrawon sy'n

dysgu'r Llydaweg a ieithoedd difreintiedig eraill yn Ffrainc. Byddai gorffen y cwrs Llydaweg yn Kemperle yn golygu gorfodi'r myfyrwyr deithio i ardal arall am eu had-dysg.

Yn Senedd Ewrop dywedodd Eurig Wyn ASE wrth Michel Rocard, cyn-Brif Weinidog Ffrainc a chadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant: "Mae'r Ffrancwyr yn barod iawn i gwyno am effaith ddifaol y diwylliant Saesneg ar eu

gwlad ac eto'n gwrthod parchu ieithoedd a diwylliannau llai o fewn eu gwlad eu hunain. Mae Cytundeb Hawliau Sylfaenol yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yn cael ei dramgwyddo yn yr achos hwn ac mae angen i chi gysylltu â Llywodraeth Ffrainc ar unwaith".

Cytunodd Michel Rocard y byddai yn archwilio i'r sefyllfa. Deallir fod 20 o athrawon sy'n dysgu Ocitaneg i golli eu swyddi hefyd. Yn ôl awdurdodau Ffrainc 'does dim digon o fyfyrwyr yn astudio'r Llydaweg na'r Ocitaneg i gyflawnhau ariannu gwersi arbennig iddynt.

A Breton schoolgirl went on hunger strike for 7 days as a protest against the French government's proposed reduction in the number of teachers of Breton. The matter was taken up in the European Parliament by Plaid Cymru MEP Eurig Wyn.

Grŵp ieithoedd Difreintiedig wedi'i sefydlu yn San Steffan

Mae Grŵp Trawsbleidiol Seneddol am Ieithoedd Difreintiedig wedi cael ei sefydlu yn senedd San Steffan. Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod agoriadol yn Nhy'r Cyffredin ddydd Mercher yr 21ain Ionawr 2004. Mae'r grŵp wedi ei sefydlu gan grŵp o aelodau seneddol sy'n cynnwys AS Plaid Cymru Caernarfon, Hywel Williams, AS Plaid Genedlaethol yr Alban Gogledd Tayside, Peter Wishart, a'r Arglwydd Laird - unoliaethwr o'r 6 sir! Byddant yn edrych ar ffyrdd i hyrwyddo'r ieithoedd difreintiedig yn y wladwriaeth.

'Roedd cyflwyniad gan Gadeirydd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, Rhodri Williams, a'r Prif Weithredwr John Walter Jones, am 'Cynllunio Ieithyddol, Gwersi o Gymru'. Dywedodd Hywel Williams AS: "Rwy'n croesawu sefydlu'r grŵp trawsbleidiol hwn. Mae hi'n gyfle i Seneddwr ddsu am y llu o ieithoedd gwahanol a siaredir yng ngwledydd Prydain - Cymraeg, Gwyddeleg, Sgoteg, Gaeleg, a Chernyweg. Ein gobaith fydd i godi ymwybyddiaeth o fewn y drefn ddeddfwriaethol o anghenion arbennig siaradwyr ieithoedd heblaw am y Saesneg. Gyda dyfodiad 10 o wledydd newydd i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, mae'n bwysicach nag erioed i sicrhau ymrwymiad i amddiffyn a datblygu ieithoedd llai." *A cross-party group for the minorized languages in the English state has been set up in the London parliament.*

Mynnwch stampiau Cymreig!

Clywyd yn y Wasg dipyn yn ddiweddar am anawsterau a gafwyd gan rywrai wrth fynnu prynu stampiau post Cymreig. Mae fersiynau Cymreig o'r stampiau mwyaf cyffredin - y dosbarth cyntaf a'r ail ddosbarth - ar gael ers degawdau. Ond ers sefydlu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol maent yn fwy gwahanol i'r rhai Prydeinig. Yn lle pen mawr brenhines Lloegr a draig Gymreig fach fel y byddent, ers 1999 mae pen y frenhines yn fach a bathodyn Cymru yn fawr - draig ar y rhai dosbarth cyntaf a chenhinen ar y rhai ail ddosbarth. Mae stamp ar gyfer llythyrau i dir mawr Ewrop hefyd, a daffodil arno. Cafwyd yr un fath o newid yn stampiau'r Alban a'r Chwe Sir hefyd, ac am y tro cyntaf dechreuwyd cynhyrchu stampiau cyfatebol i Loegr a llewod arnynt.

Ond nid yw mor hawdd gael stampiau Cymreig mewn swyddfa bost ag y byddai flynyddoedd yn ôl. Rhaid gofyn amdanynt yn aml, neu stampiau Prydeinig heb ddim ond pen brenhines Lloegr a gewch. Ac os prynwch stampiau mewn archfarchnad neu o beiriant stampiau ni chewch ddewis hyd yn oed. Mae'n debyg bod y bai ar y stampiau hunanludiog (nad oes angen eu llyfu) a geir mewn llyfrynau neu ar roliau nad yw ar gael ond fel stampiau Prydeinig. Mae Postwatch - y sefydliad i ddefnyddwyr post - wedi ymddiddori yn y mater ac argymhellwn i rywun sydd yn cael trafferth gael stampiau Cymreig gysylltu â nhw ar www.postwatch.co.uk (e-bost: cymru@postwatch.co.uk, cyfeiriad: Golwg ar Bost Cymru, Lefel 5, Cwrt y Groes Hir, 47 Heol Casnewydd, Caerdydd, CF24 0WL).

Mae'n werth gofio bod stampiau yn effeithio ar edrychiad post i bawb sy'n ei weld ac mae defnyddio stampiau Cymreig yn ailadrodd y neges mewn ffordd fach bod Cymru yn wlad ar wahân. Mae hyn yn werth gorfod llyfu eich stampiau!

Since devolution Welsh postage stamps have been made more different from standard British stamps, and there are now distinctive English stamps sold in England too, but they have become more difficult to obtain due to new self-adhesive stamps which are available only in standard British form. In order for our post to reflect the distinction between our countries we recommend members to insist on buying national definitive stamps in Cymru, Alba, and England. Use www.postwatch.co.uk in case of difficulties.

Robat ap Tomos

GLYNDŴR CORONATION COMMEMORATION

The six hundredth anniversary of the crowning of Owain Glyndŵr Prince of Wales in 1404 is being commemorated in events across Wales this year, the centrepiece of which is intended to be a 'Glyndŵr's Nation Weekend' at

Machynlleth between the 18th and 21st of June when it is hoped thousands of people will come to the town in west Powys. Events now at the planning stage include a recreation of Glyndŵr riding into the town on horseback, a medieval market and the presentation to the town of an exact copy of the sword sent by the French king to mark the coronation to mark Machynlleth's role in the bid for Welsh independence from the English throne.

Embassy Glyndŵr, set up in 1999, has liaised with councils across Wales in an effort to promote the anniversary as a tourism winner. They are trying to persuade communities with connections with Glyndŵr such as Machynlleth, Harlech, and Dolgellau to organize commemorations this year, pointing out how Welsh towns can copy how other countries promote their historical connections to boost their tourist trade.

Cilmeri Rally Reclaimed

The traditional rally at Cilmeri, Powys, took place this winter to commemorate the killing of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd ('Ein Llyw Olaf') by the English on December 11th 1282 which marked the end of the independent princes of Gwynedd and thus the end of continuous Welsh independence (restored temporarily by Owain Glyndwr 120 years later). Usually held on the Saturday nearest the 11th, this annual rally has become more establishment-oriented in recent years, with Plaid Cymru career politicians, some with a dubious political colour, using the rally as an opportunity to publicize themselves. Last winter, 2002, Liberal Democrats, who want more power to be given to the National Assembly but who are really unionists, even turned up and spoke at Cilmeri. This dilution of the event prompted a group of nationalists, including those who initiated the Cilmeri rally in the 1960s, to hold an alternative rally on the 6th December, a week before the 'official' rally on the 13th.

The march to the commemoration



stone from the place of assembly was led by a colour party from the Welsh republican movement. The speakers at the stone included a representative of Cymru 1400 and a delegation from the Kernow branch of the Celtic League who had been invited to express inter Celtic solidarity. Several members of Cymru branch were also present and a meeting of League members and other nationalists held immediately after the rally was addressed by the Kernow and Cymru branch secretaries who were able to stress the value of inter Celtic cooperation.

The (nationalist) rally this winter was

smaller than usual since many attending the establishment rally would have come to the former if they had known about it. It is expected that if two rallies remain a necessity, the nationalist version will grow in years to come while the other, if it remains a semi-unionist affair, will decline and become meaningless. However, the 11th next winter, 2004, falls on a Saturday when it proposed to hold a nationalist rally on the same day as the other event, so that those coming can see both if dialogue between various groups in the meantime has not resolved the problem.

CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TO LANGUAGE SINCE ELECTION

Wales's Labour government is covertly anti-Welsh language

Education minister Jane Davidson of Wales's Labour government, and minister with responsibility for the language, Alan Pugh, declared at the beginning of the year, in words meaning nothing less, that they were opposed to the opening of more Welsh-medium schools as they did not want to see the "ghettoisation" of the language, and preferred rather the development of Welsh-medium streams in English-medium schools. It is difficult to believe that this new-found 'caring' stems from any *bona fide* concern for the children's education or the language. It looks like part of a covert policy of the Labour Party to slow the growth in bilingual education for fear of the long-term effects an increase in bilingualism on the national and political outlook of the population.

For many years now, organizations concerned with the development of Welsh and educationalists have been unanimous that schools run through the medium of Welsh (or another Celtic language) where the children can be immersed in the language are more effective in developing the children's bilingualism than Celtic-medium streams in mainly-English/French-medium schools where the children are in a Celtic-medium

atmosphere only in the classroom and are discouraged by the presence of their monoglot peers from using Celtic elsewhere. The statement from the ministers confirms what was suspected when Davidson overruled Caerffili County Council's decision to open three new Welsh-medium primary schools last year. Even though the level of protest caused Davidson to backtrack verbally, "of course" she was in favour of Welsh-medium schools, we are left in little doubt that there has been a swing in the attitude of the Welsh government since the general election last year. Under the Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition that ran Wales up to 1st May 2003 a consensus formed among the four establishment parties in the Assembly that the Welsh language was to be promoted with the long-term aim of creating a 'bilingual' Wales. This consensus was frustrating for the Welsh language movement because of the unwillingness of the Assembly politicians to make a principled stand for steps to protect Welsh-speaking communities from the *Mewnllifiad* and to support the calls for a new Welsh Language Act. But the consensus had the effect of marginalizing the anti-Welsh too. The policy document on the language, *laith*

Pawb, produced under the auspices of the coalition government last year, was widely condemned for its lack of substance and commitment, but did reiterate the need for developing Welsh-medium schools hand in hand with local demand. But with last year's change to an all-Labour administration with its unionist wing boosted by the decline in the Plaid Cymru presence and the disappearance of several prominent Welsh-speakers from the Assembly, it is widely felt that the former 'consensus' has gone. *laith Pawb* has effectively been shelved. As minister with responsibility for the language, instead of the naive but 'nice' quasi-English Liberal Democrat Jenny Randerson, we now have the hard unionist Alan Pugh. And while publicly the liberal pro-bilingualism rhetoric continues, Rhodri Morgan's new administration increasingly views Welsh-speakers with suspicion and hostility in private. (Actually, from the point of view of Labour hegemony in Wales, there is some justification for this attitude.) Above all, it is the element of good-will that seems to have disappeared.

It is significant that the former Secretary of State for Wales and Assembly Member Ron Davies, who led the 'Yes' campaign in the devolution referendum in 1997 and is regarded as the founder of devolution in Wales, has left the Labour Party, citing the increased hostility to Welsh-speakers as a major factor in leaving.

Robot ap Tomos

CYMRU IN BRIEF

Orange attacked as Cymdeithas visit quango:

14 members of Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg were arrested in a protest at the Orange mobile phone shop in Cardiff in January during a demonstration calling for a new Welsh Language Act.

The protest for a New Language Act had started at the nearby offices of the government's language quango where attention was drawn to the glaring defects in the quango's approach, and then moved on to Orange where protesters occupied the shop and chained themselves to it. Police arrested the protesters, 13 of whom were released without charge. In a statement Cymdeithas said, "Orange has been targeted because the Welsh Language Board announced as far back as the Llanelli National Eisteddfod in 2000 that they were involved in talks with Orange concerning the adoption of a Welsh language policy. We still await the outcome of these talks." Before the protest at the quango HQ spokesman Rhys Llwyd said, "This is only the first of many visits we will make to the Welsh Language Board this year. We shall also continue campaigning against Orange and similar institutions that are not answerable to the present Welsh Language Act. If we are to witness a growth in the use of Welsh then a new Welsh Language Act is urgently needed."

Plaid AC slams Labour hypocrisy on second homes:

Plaid Cymru's Shadow Environment Minister, Helen Mary Jones AC, accused the Labour party of 'total hypocrisy' after its members voted in January against proposals to include second homes as change of use under the 'Use Classes Order' (under which planning permission would be required before changing the status of a first home to a second home) despite committing to do so in the Culture Committee meeting of July 2002. Speaking after an Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee meeting she said: "Today's decision by Labour members of the Environment committee smacks of hypocrisy and inconsistency. Labour members of the Culture Committee agreed with these proposals in July 2002 yet in January 2004 Labour members of the Environment Committee have changed their minds." The Culture Committee's Review of the Welsh Language states "The committee recommends that planning permission should be required before changing the status of a permanent dwelling into a holiday home in areas where the number of holiday homes exceed a threshold of the existing housing stock. The Environment Minister should consider this recommendation alongside other measures to ensure sufficient availability of housing stock for people within their communities". Ms Jones added "The increase in second and holiday homes and the significant lack of affordable housing means that people are being forced to leave their communities resulting in them becoming unsustainable. Allowing second homes to be classed as 'change of use' could have had a huge positive impact on safeguarding our rural communities. Instead, Labour has chosen once again to turn its back on the countryside."

Homebuyers' pack should include information on local community, says MP:

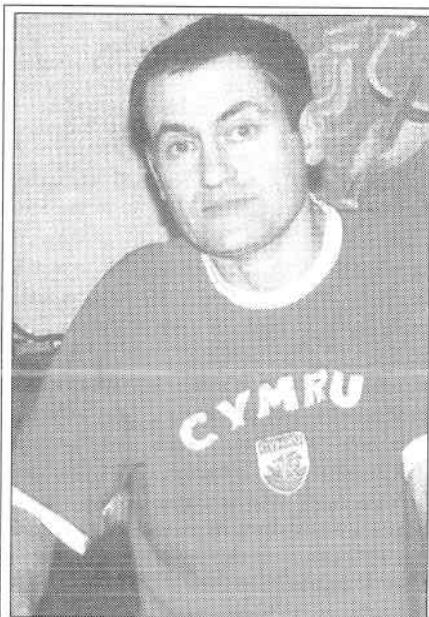
Simon Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Ceredigion, has called on the London government to include a provision in the Housing Bill, debated in the House of Commons in January, which will require sellers of property to supply a home information pack for buyers. According to Mr Thomas, in Wales, this pack should include information about schools, the Welsh language, and the local community.

He said: "This could be done voluntarily through the National Assembly. Its purpose would be to better inform those moving into Wales or from area to area about the nature of the local community. There are still people who do not realise Welsh is a living language, for example, or used in our schools".

End of Welsh rail information line?

It looked at the beginning of the year as if the Strategic Rail Authority was going to end the telephone service for providing information about rail travel through Welsh. This service - on 0845 6040500 - was set up some years ago to allow Welsh-speakers to obtain train information in Welsh as an alternative to the English-only enquiry service on 08457 484950 that operates from Plymouth, England. But the workers at the Welsh call centre in Cardiff were told that their contracts were not to be renewed and recently it has become much more difficult to obtain an answer on the service.

Robat ap Tomos



Welsh language poet, Ifor ap Glyn, a winner of the Eisteddfod crown who had a very successful week long poetry tour in Ireland in mid February. His novel presentation where he uses a video medium with English subtitles, while he delivers his poems in Welsh, was really well received.

CONSEU MEETING

The Celtic League was represented at the latest working meeting of the CONSEU (Conference of European Nations Without State) which took place in Nantes, Brittany in January. In addition to Breton Celtic League members, Mark Kermode attended and represented the Gaelic nations.

The two day meeting resolved to condemn the misuse of territorial special measures and anti-terrorist laws to further oppress nations without state. In an attempt to positively address this and collect reliable information on national oppression within European states, it was further agreed to establish a public access website listing reliable instances of oppression. To do this, it is necessary to establish a network of informants in each nation.

It is hoped that two representatives for each nation can be identified to relay reliable, objective information to the proposed web-site.

It is also hoped to take advantage of European law that permits lawyers from other jurisdictions to act as observers in trials.

The Conference was hosted by Skoazell Vreizh, the Breton prisoners support group. Included in the nations represented were the Basque country, Catalonia, Galicia, Sardinia, the Canary Islands, the Flemish people and the Berbers.

MK



Éire



Ó thrádmharc go fealsúnacht

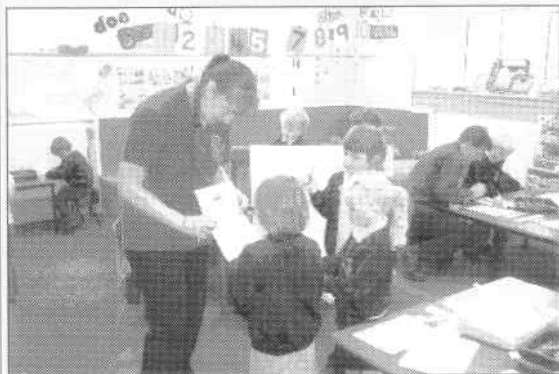
An féidir fómhá chorporáideach a bheith ag tír? Is dóigh le cuid de lucht fógraíochtra agus lucht gnó gur féidir ach níl siad ar aon intinn faoin chur chuige ceart lena leithéid a chruthú. Is díol suntais é do lucht fógraíochta an iarracht atá ar siúl faoi láthair thrádmharc nó branda a chumadh do Mhanainn. Is é atá taobh thiar den tionscnamh "Branding Isle of Man" fómhá chorporáideach dhearfach a cheapadh agus a chur chun cinn leis na turasóirí agus infestíocht a mhealladh agus meas na Manannach iontu féin a neartú. Is é **an tOllamh Hugh Davidson** atá i mbun an tionscnaimh mar aon le coiste stiúrtha.

Rithfeadh sé le cuid againn láithreach gur seafóid é plé le tír amháin is dá mba chuideachta ghnó é agus go bhféadfadh thrádmharc a bheith ina chur sfos ar phobal náisiúnta dá laghad é. Mar sin féin tugann feachtas mar sin deis do Mhanannaigh machnamh a dhéanamh ar cé hiaid féin. B'in díreach an cheist a tharraing cathaoirleach Corporate Edge, Creenagh Lodge, anuas agus í ag labhairt ag lón an Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce i mí Feabhra. Chuir sí ceist eile: "Céard a theastaíonn uainn a bheith ionainn i gceann 20 nó 30 de bhlianta?"

Nollick sy Vunscoil (Nollaig sa Bhunscoil)

Cuireadh *Y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh* (An Bhunscoil Lán-Mhanainnise) ar bun cúig bliana ó shin le cúigear páistí mar aonad taobh istigh de bhunscoil Bhéarla. Tá a foirgneamh féin aici anois le cúigear páistí is fiche agus tá sí ag fás gach bliain.

Tá dhá rang sa Bhunscoil; Rang a hAon le ceathrar páistí déag agus Rang a Dó le aon pháiste déag. Tá na páistí sa chéad rang idir ceithre bliana agus sé bliana d'aois, agus tá na páistí sa dara rang idir sé agus ocht mbliana d'aois. Is í Julie Matthews an múinteoir i Rang a hAon agus is é Paul Rogers an múinteoir i Rang a Dó. Tá Cathy Clucas ag obair mar chúntóir foghlama i Rang a hAon.



Julie Matthews agus Rang a hAon

Baintear úsáid as an Mhanainnis gach lá i ngach ábhar ins an dá rang. Tagann an chuid is mó de na páistí ó theaghlaigh Bhéarla ach is iontach an dóigh atá siad ag foghlaim na teanga dúchais agus iad a húsáid, go gasta agus gan fadhb.

I Mí na Nollag réachtáladh ceolchoirm na Nollag i Manainnis ar fad. D'oibrigh na

páistí uile go crua agus bhí ceol agus amhráin ar fheabhas acu, cóirithe le Annie Kissack agus Bob Carswell. D'fhreastail neart daoine; meascán tuismitheoirí agus Gaeilgeoirí (Gaeilge Oileán Mhanann ar ndóigh!) agus bhain gach aon duine mórán suilt as.

Tá *Mooijer Veggey* (muintir bheaga) ag réachtáil *Y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh* in éindí leis an Roinn Oideachais. Comhlacht atá ag réachtáil naiolanna Manainnise ar fud na hOileáin is ea *Mooijer Veggey* agus is buíochas ar Annie Kissack agus Phil Gawne, agus an obair chrua atá déanta acu go bhfuil *Y Bhunscoil Ghaelgagh* ann agus í ag dul ó neart go neart.

Paul Rogers

Bhí díospóireacht den chineál atá ar siúl i Manainn anois faoi réim sa Bhreatain Bheag sna 1990í. Stiúrthóir margaíochta Bhord Turasóireachta na tíre sin, **Roger Pride**, a bhí taobh thiar den iarracht ansin. Bhí tuiscint ar leith aigean ar an difríocht idir thrádmharc a chur ar earra agus a leithéid a dhéanamh ar thír. Thuig sé, mar shampla, go gcaithfeadh thrádmharc náisiúnta a bheith inghlactha ag muintir na Braataine Bige féin fiú agus é dírithe ar dhaoine ar an taobh amuigh, ábhar turasóirí den chuid is mó. Thuig sé freisin nárbh leor teachtaireacht shimplí amháin nuair a bheadh rud chomh casta le tír i gceist agus í dírithe ar chineálcha éagsúla daoine thar lear. Ba é an meon a bhí ag Pride go gcaithfí sraith teachtaireachtaí a chur amach a bheadh bunaithe ar chroileacán d'fhirinní faoin tír. Go luath sa phróiseas tháinig sé ar an tuairim nach bhféadfaí braithstintí éagsúla faoin Bhreatain Bheag mar ionad turasóireachta a scarúint ó Cymru, an tír, an náisiún agus an t-aonad polaitiúil. Ba é toradh a mhachnaimh cnuasach de thrádmhairc bunaithe ar ghnéithe éagsúla de shaol na tíre agus iad uile ceangailte le thrádmharc críche. Roghnaigh sé an focal hwyl mar chroílár an thrádmhairc sin. Focal do-aistrithe é atá lán de phaisean, de dheabhaíl agus de Bhreatainachas.

Tá an cheist faoi thrádmharc aonair nó sraith thrádmhairc faoi chaibidil i Manainn agus tá go leor daoine i gceirceail oifigiúla ar aon intinn go mbeadh ceann aonair róshimplí. Tacaíonn Ardúnai an Chonartha Cheiltigh, **Bernard Moffatt**, leo. Ag labhairt dó faoina chaipín mar cheannaire ceardchumainn deir sé gur fearr thrádmharc ar leith a bheith ag earáilacha éagsúla. Dar leis d'fhéadfaí andochar a dhéanamh don thrádmharc aonair dá mbeadh tubaiste in earáil amháin i Manainn. B'fhéidir go bhfuil an ceart aige nuair a smaoiníonn tú ar an dochar a rinne **George Redmond** agus an earáil airgeadais d'iomhá Mhanann in Éirinn.

Deir **Phil Gawne** MHK, ionadaí Rushen sa Teach Cheathrar is Fiche (parlaimint Mhanann) gur ceart don chultúr agus oidhreacht náisiúnta a bheith lárnach i gcur in aithne na tíre don saol amuigh. Dar leis nár cheart díriú ar Mhanainn a chur ar aghaidh mar ionad gnó agus díriú air sin amháin. "Ní aguisíní le híomhá iad an oidhreacht agus an cultúr ach is ceart go mbeidís de dhlúth agus inneach ina leithéid," ar sé.

Aithníonn lucht na Manainnise go dtugann an díospóireacht seo deis dóibh tábhacht na teanga a chur faoi bhráid an phobail. Ag scríobh dó san Isle of Man Examiner le déanaí dúirt Oifigeach Forbartha na Manainnise (ar post rialtais a oifig), **Adrian Cain**, go bhféadfadh tairbhe a bheith in athbheochain na Manainnise do chúrsaí gnó ar an oileán. Measann Cain gur féidir leis an teanga a bheith ina huirliis mhargaíochta agus earraí Manannacha á ndíol. Luann sé an chaoi ina bhfuil Isle of Man Creameries agus an Roinn Turasóireachta tar éis glacadh leis an teanga mar chuid d'fílis dá n-íomhá agus mar bhealach breise le haithneantas a bhaint amach dá dtáirgí. Deir sé freisin go mbeadh úsáid na teanga ina cúnamh do dhaoine a

(continued on page 12)

bheadh ag plé le heagrafochtaí idirnáisiúnta polaitiúla, eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta le cur ina luí orthu gur tír ar leith í Manainn atá taobh amuigh den Ríocht Aontaithe agus a bhfuil leagan amach bunreachtúil ar leith aici. Buntáiste praiticiúil eile ar chóir a chur faoi bhráid lucht gnó, dar le Cain, an chaoi a mbíonn sé níos éasca do ghasúir a bhfuil Manainnis acu Fraincis nó Spáinnis nó aon teanga eile a fhoghlaim.

Maidir leis sin ní beag an maithreas a dhéanann sé d'fomhá Mhanann nuair a moltar an athbheochain thar lear. B'ábhar suntais é ar an oileán an t-ardmholadh a thug an **Ollamh Colin Baker** ó Ollscoil Bangor le déanaí don bhunscoil Ghaeilge nua mar a bhfuil 25 daltaí á múineadh trí Mhanainnis.

B'fhéidir gur beag an tábacht sa deireadh a bhaineann le trádhmharéach tharlódh go mbeadh sé mar thoradh ar an díospóireacht seo i Manainn go ndéanfaí plé ceart ar fhealsúnacht na náisiúntachta. Sa chomhthéacs sin ní miste smaoineamh ar a bhfuil ráite ag láithreoir Newsnight Channel 4, **Jeremy Paxman**, ina leabhar *The English: "Those countries which do best in the world – the ones that are safe and prosperous — have a coherent sense of their own culture."*

M. MacAonghusa

Précis

This article reports on the campaign to 'brand' the Isle of Man. Some language activists argue that the Manx language and culture should be central to this.

New Irish Language Commissioner – 'Tread softly but carry a big stick'

The announcement that Seán Ó Cuirreáin, who had been assistant director of Radio na Gaeltachta, had been selected as the first Commissioner for Official Languages received a general welcome from the Irish language community. He was seen as someone who would take to the task of ensuring implementation of the Irish Language provisions of the new legislation with energy and directness. He was appointed formally in the position by the President, Mary McAleese, at the end of February and at the Irish Language Tostal (annual open meeting of Irish language groups organised by Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge) a week later had the opportunity to outline his strategy in his first public address.

Ó Cuirreáin said the Language Act was the most comprehensive legislative plan for the language since the foundation of the State and the foundation of that plan would be in the schemes which were called for. The provision of services in Irish was a right not a concession. He intended to adopt a practical, sensible and measured approach in seeking partnership from State bodies and the public. Initially the State services would be asked to fulfil their obligations through encouragement and co-operation but it would have to be understood that at the back of all was the threat of enforcement contained in the legislation. To quote the English proverb 'Tread softly but carry a big stick'. He did not accept that there would be too high a cost associated with services in Irish – a price could not be put on tradition, heritage and culture. The new Act was not an 'a la carte' Act but was very clear on the rights of the community and the obligations of the State.



Call for National Plan for Irish

At the annual Tostal of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge the Director of Fionntar, Dr. Peadar Ó Flatharta, called for a task force to carry out a strategic review of the resources being used in the promotion of Irish, the use these resources and for identification of gaps in provision. He stated that this would be an important step forward in conjunction with the new language Act and provisions in legislation which could form the basis for a National Plan for Irish. As there was no National Plan (and the issue had not been addressed since the mid 1965 white paper on the Revival of Irish [Ed. *It may be noted that this document was ignored by the Government of the day and gathered dust on shelves, many of its worthwhile recommendations were never implemented nor adopted*]) it was difficult to maintain focus and direct energies and there was overlapping in some areas. Many initiatives were not maintained through lack of resources, there was also a lack of assessment and research. He condemned the recent closure of Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (Linguistics Institute of Ireland) which left a big gap in the research area.

The Minister for the Gaeltacht, Éamonn Ó Cuív, who attended the Tostal, later announced in a press statement the establishment of an Advisory Council on Irish, the aims of which seemed to mirror much what was called for by Ó Flatharta. The role of the Advisory Council was stated to be to provide advice to the Minister on:

- The desirability of preparing a twenty year plan for Irish in the State with a set of realistic aims.
- The short term strategic priorities for the conservation and promotion of Irish in the State.
- The priorities in the implementation of the Irish Language Act (Official Languages Act)
- The best and most practical methods to make progress in this work.

The Minister said he hoped to appoint the members of this Council before Easter. A guarded welcome was given to the proposal i.e. the Council should not be an internal Government one, and sound practical advice which should be acted on was necessary.

Where does now leave the cross border Foras na Gaeilge, was no advisory role seen for them?



Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann

Founded in 1996, Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann is the national voluntary cultural organisation for the promotion of non-competitive Irish ceili dancing among all age groups. This is done by organising ceili dancing classes, workshops, training courses and exams for teachers and nights of ceili dancing known as Fíor Cheilithe. Over 10,000 people per year take part in the activities of the organisation. Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann is the only national organisation with the sole purpose of preserving the native group dancing of Ireland – ceili dancing.

We would like to invite all those with an interest in the native dancing of Celtic countries to come to our national residential weekend of Irish ceili dancing in St. Mary's College, Galway, Ireland from August 6th-8th 2004. Accommodation will be available on the University Campus. This will consist of ceili dance classes, Fíor Cheilithe, lecture, Religious services and a training course for potential ceili dance teachers. A very reasonable weekend package including two nights B&B in en-suite accommodation. Further details from the national secretary Eilis Ní Mhearraí, 39 Moyne Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland. www.ceilidancing.com. Phone (00353) 1 4982422.

Eilis Ní Mhearraí

SLUSH FUND ALLEGATIONS POINT TO ISLE OF MAN BANKING SYSTEM

Ireland has been gripped again with sensational revelations that infer bribery and corruption surrounding planning matters went right to the heart of government.

A tribunal enquiring into these matters heard testimony from developer Tom Gilmartin in which he indicated that almost half the Fianna Fáil cabinet of the late eighties, including the current Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, were at a meeting after which he was asked to deposit a multi-million pound sum in an Isle of Man offshore bank account.

Bertie Ahern denies any involvement but at least one UK paper inferred that Ahern dubbed the 'Teflon Taoiseach' because of his squeaky clean image would be tarnished by the allegations.

Gilmartin meanwhile with ironic humour records that he was so shocked by the bribe proposition that he declared "You (the Fianna Fáil Ministers of the time) make the Mafia look like monks". The mood however darkened when he was told "You could end up in the (river) Liffey for that statement".

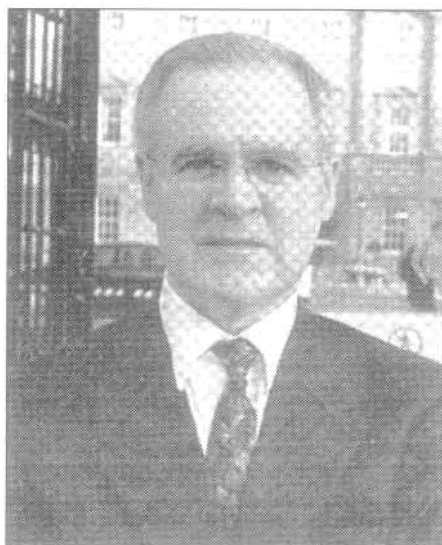
There is no doubt that Isle of Man accounts were in use by corrupt interests in Ireland at this time. George Redmond, a former Dublin planning official who was arraigned before the Tribunal previously, was arrested getting off a plane from the Isle of Man with £300,000. He was jailed.

However, as the flak flies in Dublin the Isle of Man and its secretive banking industry of the day has emerged relatively unscathed. It is passed time that full disclosure was provided by the Isle of Man government and its banking regulators into what was happening at the time. If Fianna Fáil had a slush fund offshore who else was involved and what deposits were made into it? Did the Bank(s) have knowledge of these transactions? It seems incredible that any account linked to such high-profile figures could have been handled without Bank officials at the highest level being aware of it.

If as Gilmartin alleges he was threatened we are not talking about a bit of 'innocent' Irish tax dodging we are dealing with a serious criminal conspiracy and it's time the facts were published.

We have heard the revelations in Dublin. Now the focus should switch to Douglas, Isle of Man and the full details of all accounts linked to the Tribunal hearings should be published - that is of course unless someone still has something to hide!

J.B. Moffatt



Pádraig Ó Laighin, who was the first recipient of the 'Gael of the Month' award inaugurated by the Irish weekly newspaper Foinse in January. He received the award for his central role in the campaign for Official Status for Irish in the EU and the professional attitude and dedication he exercised in that role.

GAELTACHT PROJECT FOR THE NORTH

Plans have been unveiled which would see the creation of the North of Ireland's first Gaeltacht in Co Tyrone.

Cathal O'Donghaile, a former teacher from Belfast and Irish language enthusiast, has acquired a 52-acre site in Altmore, Co Tyrone which could house up to 20 Irish-speaking families. There are also plans for an education and cultural centre.

Mr. O'Donghaile was inspired to make the move following the success of the unofficial Gaeltacht on Shaw's Road in West Belfast. It is hoped that in time the new community will complement traditional Gaeltachtaí in Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork, Meath and Waterford.

He told a UK national newspaper:

"It's a big dream, but it's not impossible. Eventually, we hope to have a cultural centre at the heart of the village and to attract employment and tourists to the area. The centre would be the hub of the village, hosting a Gaelic college, education, music, social, environmental and health programmes. The Irish language is lying dormant in everyone, and we want to create a stress-free environment in which all sections of the community can enjoy Irish culture."

The projects success will depend on joint funding of £1.8m which Mr O'Donghaile hopes to secure from the Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Community, Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs in Dublin.

J B Moffatt

EU Constitution Bad for Small Nations

Having had an undemocratic Convention to try to whip up support for the proposed EU constitution European leaders of course have no intention of allowing their own electorates (who survey polls have shown to be sceptical on the project and poorly informed) to participate in any decision making with regard to it. With a few exceptions, where referendums are required or seen as desirable, they intend to use their parliamentary majorities to vote through the constitution if and when final agreement is reached on what was seen as the last stumbling block, the allocation of relative voting powers between some of the larger countries. The EU presidency rests with Ireland at present and according to reports progress has been made on this issue with Poland ready to make concessions and a changed scene after the elections in Spain. The likelihood is that by year end proposals will be forthcoming for ratification of the constitution. It is timely then to recap on the basic flaws of the proposal and why it should be voted against.

What the proposed constitution will do is to wind up the EC/EU treaties that now exist by repealing all the existing European treaties, from the Rome Treaty to the Treaty of Nice. These will totally disappear. The Treaty then re-founds the EU on the basis of its own Constitution or fundamental law, just as with any other State.

This turns the EU into an actor on the international stage in its own right, separate from and superior to its Member States. Henceforth the EU rather than its component States will sign international treaties on virtually every area of policy.

The EU Constitution thus has primacy over the laws and the Constitutions of its Member States. Clearly States that put themselves under a Constitution containing such an Article can no longer regard themselves as independent or sovereign in the way the world's other 170 or so States are.

One important area it gives the EU power to make laws for is that of criminal and civil law and procedures, which could affect the right to trial by jury and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty that exists in countries with a common law legal tradition.

The Constitution changes the rules of running this new EU to make population size fundamental to Brussels law-making. It thereby lessens the protection for small nations and enables far more EU laws to be passed, because it is much easier to establish a majority for EU laws among States with 60% of the EU population than with 72% of weighted votes, as under the current Treaty of Nice arrangements. so long as the Big States with their large populations favour such laws. In fact there are proposals now from Germany to reduce the 60% to 55%



Kernow



DEW DENEWEN A'N UNN VRESEL?

My a redyas yn kever an galow dhiworth Adam Price E.S. ow tervynn studh kowall kysgwlassek rag para Kembra. Tra a'n par na meur a'gan deur yn Kernow. Yma prest ow sordya an kaletter a wodhvos (poken dewis) a-barth pana ranndir y tal dhe'n kernow/es gwari h/y rann.

(Nyns yw homma kudenn bersonkek rag bydh ny veuv vy dhe les yn sport vydh, na ve goelya martesen). Byttegyns an vater yw onan a vern yn gwlas mar vunys a-vel Kernow.

Mar mynn nebonan avonsya war tu gwartha an skeul y'n sport a vo da gansa, kales yw, avel rewl, a-ji dhe'ga bro aga honan. Rag henna, kynth eus tus a vri ow treddhes an ughella savon, ogas distowgh y fydhons ow kwari rag para a-ves dhe'n vro. My a woer yn ta nag yw tanow an kas ma y'n bys; byttele dihedh yw na yll gwarioryon lel ha kolonnek sevel arwoedh aga bro, pan vyn-nons. Ensompel da a dheuth a-dhiwedhes pan wrug dewdhen a Gernow (onan,

Woodman, genesik ow flu) gweres 'Pow Sows' ow kwaynya hanav an bys rugbi.

Rugbi Kernow, pur wir, yw gwiw dhe sevel yntra'n gwella y'n bys ha pan vo chons y hyll omdhiskwedhes an par dhe dus pynag yn Breten Veur. An chons na a dheu treweythyow yn kamyorieth 'konteth'. Ena an banerow ha'n lu-ganow a re dhe'n skoed-horyon an hanow a 'Lu Trelawny'. Y'n gwelir yn pub maner poran kepar ha fytt yntra-wlasek ha chons bras dhe ombrevi goethus a'n vammvro.

Lemmyn, ha nyns yw efan an skila, y fyn-nir gul diwedh dhe'n kamyorieth na. Unnweyth arta ny wrer vri a oryon Kernow; gorrys a vydh agan tus bras dhe wari y'n keth para ha'ga hyns- eskerens a-barth neb kwartron 'howlsedhes-soth'.

Peub a woer, ha ny skoelyas termyn ow terivas an kas dhe'n rewloryon, kemmys kolonn a via kellys ha dhe Gernow ha dhe rugbi, mar mynnens i pesya.

Pup-prys problemow a syw an fowt a

aswonvos a'n savla a Gernow. Igor yw an vresel lemmyn kepar y'n bys sportek hag y'n 'digresheans', may fynir ynwedh agan enkleudhyes. Yth esov vy ow synsi y hallo an dhew denewen krevhe an yll y gila. Gweles a wren.

IGNORED AGAIN

It is ironic that, just when John Angarrack's tireless campaign has achieved for Cornish pupils the right for their nationality to be recorded, Cornwall, ignored in the 'devolution' 'may-game', is threatened again, this time by the Rugby Union.

Widespread indignation has followed an ill-conceived plan which would effectively destroy 'County' rugby, where the Cornish squad enjoys great success. We hope that resentment at this proposal may strengthen the demands for Cornwall's status to be taken into account on the political field as well as the sporting one. Cornwall's supporters have always considered the 'County' Championship as an 'international' and the R.U. are mistaken if they think that the enthusiasm of Trelawny's Army will be transferred to support some concocted new team.

Julyan Holmes

NOWODHOW DHIWORTH AN POWYOW BRYTHONEK

Windows yn Kembrek

Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg/Kesva an Yeth Kembrek re beu ow kesoberi misyow gans Microsoft rag dyllo an dowlenn **Windows XP** yn Kembrek. Microsoft a vydh dyllys yn Kembrek a-rag diwedh 2004. Pur dhe les yw dyllans **Windows XP** yn Kembrek war-lergh ordenoryon **Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg**. Prenys vydh an dowlenn gans Microsoft yn unsell. Rag ordenoryon **Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg** an dowlenn ma yw avonsyans bras rag an yeth Kembrek drefenn bos moy ha moy poesek teknologiethow y'n bywnans pub dydh, yn skol po yn tre.

Précis: Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg/Welsh Language Board is collaborating with Microsoft in order to publish Windows XP. According to Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg this is a very important project as technologies are more and more important in our daily life.

Google yn Bretonek

Aswonys yw Google gans dus a wra devnydh a'n Kesroesweyth. Jynn rag kavoes derivadow war an gwias yw Google. Lemmyn y hyllir gul devnydh a'n yeth bretonek rag kavoes derivadow war an gwias dhe'n le ma: <http://www.google.com/intl/br>

Précis: now it is possible to use Google in Breton to find information on the web at the above address.

Skolyow Diwan

Pur dha veu gweles lyther dannvenys dhe Graham Sandercock, pennskriker **An Gannas** dyllys yn niver diwettha **An Gannas** (Niv. 236, Mis Hwevrer). Skrifys veu an lyther gans **Talat Chaudhri** a-barth an **Kowethas Kembra-Breten Vyghan/Cymdeithas Cymru-Llydaw** a-dro dhe ankombrynsi arghansek gans skolyow **Diwan**. Dell skrifas Talat

Chaudhri: 'my a grys bos res dhymn sevel ow lev a-enep dyghtyans skolyow **Diwan** gans Governans Frynk ha govynn gans seul a allo ri arghans dhe **Diwan** drefenn bos Bretonek an nessa hwoer-yeth dhe'n yeth kernewek. A pe skolyow a wre dyski pub testenn yn Kernewek y'n etegves kansblydhen, ny via ogas dhe varow agan yeth ni y'n ugensves kansblydhen.' Mar mynnowgh sevel agas levow hwi dhe skoedhya an yeth bretonek ha diskwedhes unnveredh gans an vreder vretonek y yllir kavoes pella derivadow war: <http://www.kembre-breizh.org.uk> po <http://www.diwan.org>

Précis: Talat Chaudhri member of Cymdeithas Cymru-Llydaw sent a letter to Graham Sandercock, editor of the all-Cornish magazine **An Gannas** calling for financial support for the **Diwan** all-Breton schools. It is good to see britonic solidarity. For further information: <http://www.kembre-breizh.org.uk> or <http://www.diwan.org>

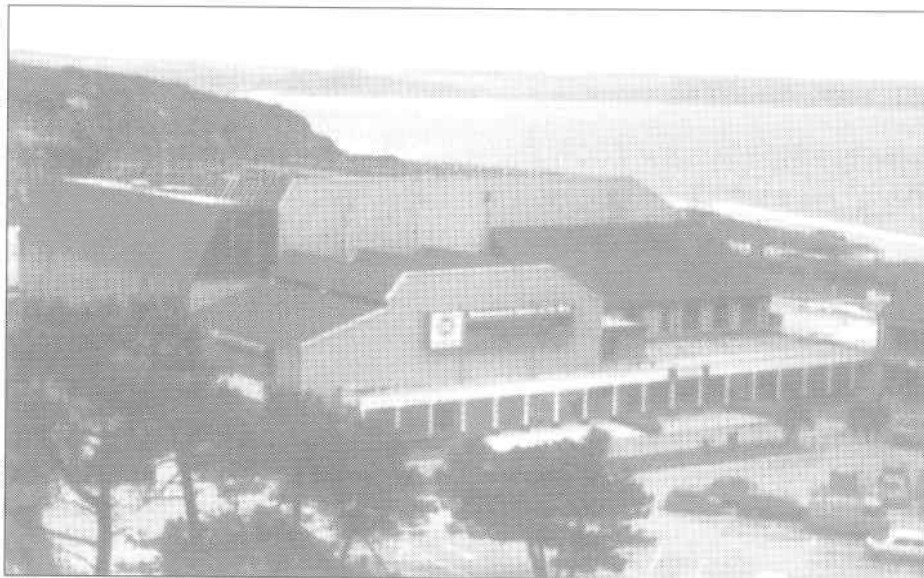
José CALVETE

Environmental Rights

In the latest move by second-home developer Ampersand, access to Carlyon Bay, via the only road to the beach and the coastal footpath, has been blocked amid allegations that the development group have not followed the correct legal procedure.

The public have been prevented from gaining easy access to the beach for 'health and safety' reasons, as the development group say they are carrying out work on the cliff face; work that Carlyon Bay Watch, the organisation set up to oppose the development plans, say the builders are not entitled to do.

Peter Browning commented to the Kernow Branch of the League that "I am advised that it is necessary for them to make a planning application for any work to be undertaken on the cliff face and, at the moment of writing, that has not happened, so they should not be doing anything"



The photo is of the proposed development site at Crinnis Beach, Carlyon Bay. Everyone agrees that something ought to be done about the site, where a disused nightclub now stands (shown in picture), but the building of second homes represents a slap in the face to the local and wider communities. The Cornish Branch argue that Cornwall does not need another second home (and definitely not 511 of them) and do not believe that the proposed Ampersand development will add anything to the Cornish economy, as Ampersand are arguing, excepting a few badly paid part-time jobs.

GONISOGETH KELTEK DHE BENN AN BYS

Dell welsyn yn erthyglow eus passyes, yma tus ow lavurya yn ta yn Argentina rag brashe ha ledanhe gonisogeth Keltek ena. Synsys yw meur a arethow a-dro dhe'n yethow Keltek, meur a dowlennow radyo war an yethow ha'n wonisogeth Keltek, korsow yeth Albanek, yeth Kembrek...Pur boesek yw kemmynyethow Keltek ena dres oll an kemmynyethow Albanek, Galithyek, Asturianek, Iwerdhonek ha Kembrek. Rag ensampel kevys yw 3 bagas pib Albanek yn Buenos Aires, synsys yw Gorsedh Kembrek yn Patagonia (yn deghow an vro)...

Kales yw lemmyn bywnans gonisogethek Keltek yn Argentina. Mes nyns yw es aga lavur. Aswonnyys yw yn ta studh erbysek a-dhiwedhes yn Argentina, hep mar. Res yw dhyn perthi kov a'n lavur splann gwrys gans tus avel *Susana Shanahan* rag an *Movimiento Celta de Argentina* ha'y thowlenn radyo « *Plum Pudding* », *Manuel Castro* ha *Pablo Rodríguez Leirado* rag an *Liga Celta de Argentina* ha'n wasva « *almargen.co.ar* ». Mars nyns yw es aga lavur yn pennsita an vro, kalessa yw rag tus ow pywa pell dhiworth Buenos Aires. Rag ensampel yn Patagonia. Ena y kevir den henwys *José Maria Walton* ow lavurya yn ta rag displegya gonisogeth Keltek a-dro dhodho. Toller yw ev. Ev a drig y'n sita henwys *Comodoro Rivadavia*, usi yn Patagonia, yn Argentina deghow, orth penn an bys. Aswonnyys yw Patagonia rag hy hemmynieth Kembrek mes yth esa ynwedh tus dhiworth Iwerdhon hag Alban yn Patagonia. Profya a wra ev towlenn radyo henwys « *Viento Celta* », henn yw « *Gwyns Keltek* » pub dy' Lun. Esel ha skrifennys an *Kowethas Iwerdhonek-Albanek* yw ev ynwedh. Hendasow *José Maria Walton* a dheu dhiworth Iwerdhon dhe Argentina mes trevesigys yw y deylu yn Argentina a-dhia 5 henedh.

Yn y dowlenn radyo y hyllir dyski istori an gemmynieth albanek yn Argentina, diskudha ilow Keltek, dyski taklow a-dro dhe'n Gellyon goth, h. a. ...Soweth ny giv ev meur a dhevnydh ena rag y dowlenn radyo. Mars eus tus a vynno 'y weres gans devnydh rag y dowlennow, ottomma y drigva e-bost : jm_walton@uolsinectis.com.ar

Summary:

As we have already seen in previous articles Argentina is full of exciting initiatives concerning the Celts.

José Maria Walton, an Argentinean of Irish descent broadcasts a radio programme, called Viento Celta (Celtic Wind) from Patagonia which is well known for its Welsh community, but we also find important Irish and Scottish communities there. José Maria Walton is also the secretary of the Irish-Scottish Societies. His radio programme covers Celtic music, the history of the Scottish community, facts about the ancient Celts, etc...Alas as he lives very far from Buenos Aires, it is not easy for him to have access to material for his programme. If anyone is interested in helping him, please contact him at the following e-mail address: jm_walton@uolsinectis.com.ar

José CALVETE

In trying to gain access to the beach via the footpath, CBW campaigner Peter Browning was told that he was not permitted on the site for purposes of 'health and safety', despite the fact that no work is being undertaken at present to affect that section of the footpath.

It seems that Carlyon Bay is not the only beach area in Cornwall that is being affected by the profit-driven demands of big business. Only last month, an organisation called Hayle SOS wrote to the League asking them to help in stopping the owners of Hayle Harbour from sand mining in the Hayle estuary.

The group say the mining is contributing to the destruction of the beach area and the dunes along the coast and is having a disastrous effect on bird migratory habitats. The mining work continues to be undertaken, despite intervention by English Nature, who succeeded in getting a Section 18 notice placed on the beach. However in the meantime, the Harbour Company, who was undertaking the mining was declared bankrupt and was bought by a Dutch investment company who completely ignored the Section 18 notice and carried on digging. It seems that big business in Cornwall think they can do as they like!

Hayle SOS are now seeking for the harbour to be brought into public ownership through a compulsory purchase order, with the aim of stopping further mining and are seeking the "sensible regeneration of the harbour facilities and permanent protection of the beach".

Is it time to resurrect the Celtic Environmental Council?

R. Tal-e-bot

St Piran's Flag for tourists

The new St. Piran's flag symbol is beginning to replace the Tudor Rose on the brown tourist signs across Cornwall.

The flag symbol was the winning entry of a competition run by Cornwall Council to replace the despised Tudor Rose sign. Geevor tin mine in Penwith was the first tourist attraction in Cornwall to use the new symbol in October 2003 and it is hoped that many other attractions will follow suit.

The Tudor Rose was objected to on the grounds that it is an imperial English symbol and reflects a time when the English ruling monarchs tried to systematically destroy Cornish traditions and culture. The blotting out of the despised symbol with black paint by many aggrieved individuals landed one Celtic League member with a hefty fine and many hours of community service.

Council Tax increase?

"Should Cornwall's six District Councils reduce Council Tax discount on second homes?" is the question that Cornwall's Council is asking in its monthly publication 'Homepage'. In a move which would have been unheard of 12 months ago, is this a signal that Cornwall's Council is realising that second homes are killing Cornish communities?

Currently, second home owners receive a 50% discount on Council Tax charges, but this could soon change in plans to allow district councils to charge up to 90% of the full council tax from this April. How the additional income will be then spent by the district councils will be discussed over the coming months.

In some facts and figures put together by the Council, we are told that in Cornwall there are now 11,000 second homes, with North Cornwall with 4,900 of them (8.3% of its housing stock) and Newlyn and Mousehole in Penwith having more than a third of its housing stock taken up with second homes. The price of the average house is now at £167,032, which is eight times more than the average salary of around £18,500, with 1 in 3 full-time workers earning less than £250 per week.

New Chair for Fellowship

A new Chairperson was voted for at the Cornish Language Fellowship AGM in Truro in January. Loveday Jenkin will replace Jane Ninnis as the leader of the organisation, after Jane decided to step down due to family commitments. Loveday is a Kerrier District Councillor for Mebyon Kernow and a past Celtic League member.

European Partnerships

The EU has affected our lives in an increasing number of ways over the last 10 to 15 years and it is extremely likely that this will continue in the future. For this reason I believe that it is important for each Branch of the League to stay abreast of new developments occurring at the European political level.

Many of us may be opposed to the current European political system and probably think that extensive reforms are needed, but with 10 new States joining the EU this May, taking membership from its current 15 to 25, it is important that the Celtic League build contacts with other organisations with similar aims in these new States.

This is already being done in purely political circles, for example in the European Free Alliance, but as the Celtic League already knows from experience, this is also possible at a non-governmental level too. In making such contacts, useful political allies and lobbying partnerships throughout Europe can be formed. In addition, undertaking such activities, the Celtic countries are able to make its 'national struggles and achievements better known abroad', which is one of the fundamental aims of the League.

It was with this in mind that the Cornish Branch decided to accept an invitation to become a co operational partner in a European project that had the intention of informing school children about the process of EU enlargement.

Late last year a representative for the Kernow Branch went to Denmark to work alongside members from other European groups, to prepare an educational publication for dispatch to every secondary school and College in Cornwall. The publication, which is written in English, contains articles by young people from mainly eastern European States, about their expectations and fears of joining the European Union in May 2004.

In addition to raising awareness, the publication is designed to provoke discussion among young people in Cornwall. The booklet will present young people with an opportunity to see for themselves what students of their own age, who wrote the articles and who come from completely different cultural backgrounds, are saying about Europe. There is also the opportunity for students in Cornwall to offer their own perspective and to contact the writers themselves, through the website address www.people.hojoster.dk.

As part of the cooperation, the Branch was asked to outline the aims and achievements of the Celtic League. A brief summary of the Celtic League was written on the above website, as well as contact addresses and links to the official web site of the Celtic League.

As well as free publicity, the Kernow Branch will have played an instrumental part in educating young people in Cornwall and also made other organisations aware of the national struggles going on in Cornwall and the Celtic League's role in fostering cooperation between the Celtic countries.

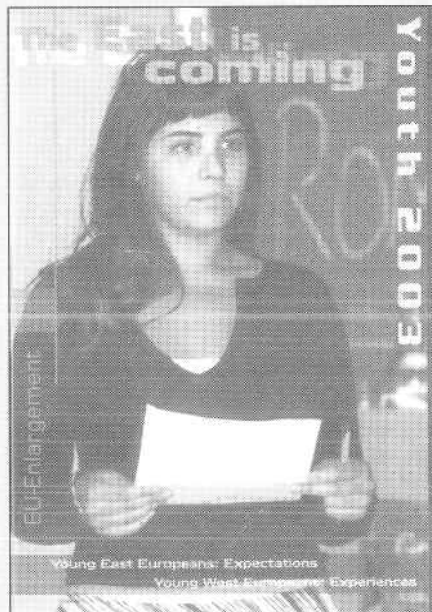
Engaging in European dialogue is imperative, if we are not to miss opportunities of working with others to bring about reform, both within our own countries and at a European level. In the case of Cornwall, with our political demands for greater autonomy being constantly ignored by Westminster, coupled with central governments determination to pursue cultural and political assimilation, it seems fairly likely that reprieve could come in the form of European political pressure. This has indeed been the case in the past few years and with EU influence growing, this also seems more likely in the future too.

Youth 2004 - Faces on Europe

Højskolen Østersøen continues its tradition of inviting young Europeans active in NGOs/voluntary associations or students with a special interest in European issues to join up for debate in Denmark; at Højskolen Østersøen (June 27th to July 10th 2004)

Young people (18-25 year olds) who want to spend an interesting couple of weeks in Denmark (virtually free) can obtain a detailed invitation, programme and practical information for the event from the People site at:

<http://www.people.hojoster.dk/SEEEMS/1777.asp>



Mannin

Cowraghey Cheeraghyn

Ec y tra a t'ayn ayns Mannin, ta lugt-dellal ayns shen er chur er e hoshiaght shalee dy 'chowraghey' Mannin, ta shen dy ghra, dy 'chreck' Mannin da'n teihll cheu-mooie, goaill ymmyd jeh reddyn ayns Mannin t'ad coontey dy ve mie. Ta'n chalee shoh goll er leeideil ec dooinney veih'n Scoill Dellal Eddyraashoonagh ayns Mannin ta ny chaairliagh jeh bing dy leih ta coontit dy ve sauchey dy liooar. Fer ny ghaa veih'n cherroo-argidys, fer veih'n Rheyenn Ynsee, y Stiureyder jeh Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin, as myr shen foast.

Cha nel y sleih ayns y ving shoh bolvaneagh. S'mie shen, er y fa dy nhegin daue gynsaghey dy tappee dy nee cheer er ltheh Mannin (ny lhisagh ee ve), mannagh vel ad toiggal shen hannah. As shegin da'n chooid smoo jeu gynsaghey dy vel chengey as cultoor Vannin feer scanshoil dy jarroo sy chalee-chowree shoh. Cha nel paart jeh'n ving toiggal shen foast. Dooyrt y fer veih'n Rheyenn Ynsee, 'Oddagh shin goaill ymmyd jeh'n eiraght as y cultoor as shynyn prowal cowraghey Mannin.' Cre'n yindys! Agh ta caairliagh y ving toiggal y scansh jeh eiraght as cultoor Vannin, ga dy vel eh baghtal nagh vel monney fys echey er ny nheeghyn follit shen foast. She dean y ving feddyn ny reddyn ta sleih ayns Mannin dy firrinagh credjal dy ve fondagh as mie, as eisht 'chreck' Mannin feiy ny cruinney as ad goaill ymmyd jeh ny reddyn shen. Ta lugt-cowree (branding people) dy mennick cur yn Elveeish, yn Teelan Noa as Nerin myr sampleyrn jeh cowraghey cheeraghyn. Ta'n Elveeish coontit dy ve ny cheer stooalt as fondagh, lesh ooreyderyn as cluig ardghooagh as jeshaghteyrys mie. Ta'n cheer coontit dy ve feer ghlen, lesh kerroo-argidys niartal. Ta sleih er chlashtyn mychione yn Elveeish as t'ad cur arrym jee, mie ny sie.

Ta'n Teelan Noa er chosney goo mie liorish troar-eirynys as liorish aalid ny cheerey, erskyn ooilley lurg filmyr 'Chiarn ny Fainaghyn.' As ta sleih gra dy vel ad jeeaghyn er Nerin er agh elley nish - cha nel ee shenn-emshyragh as ass daayt, t'ad gra. Cheu-mooie jeh Sostyn, ta sleih soiaaghey jeh ny Yernee son seyrey yn chooid smoo jeh'n cheer oc veih ny Sostnee as goaill ayn mooar syn Unnaneys Oarpagh (cha bee yn ving-chowree gimraa yn lheid).

Ta lugt-cowree credjal (ny lhiggey er) dy vel fys feiy ny cruinney er yn Elveeish, y Teelan Noa as Nerin kyndagh rish

shaleeyn-cowree (branding projects). Agh foddee oo gra dy vel fys er ny cheeraghyn shen nish kyndagh rish reddyn ren taghyrt ayndae fegooish shaleeyn-cowree erbee! Agh abbyr dy vod shaleeyn-cowree ve speeideilagh. Cre vees bing-chowree Vannin creck? Ta olteynyn y ving toiggal dy bee yn chooid smoo jeh cummaltee Vannin smooinghtyn dy vel y chalee-chowree ry hoi gloyr yn cherroo-argidys ny lomarcen - my ta ny cummaltee shen er chlashtyn mychione y chalee-chowree er chor erbee. My vees y chalee-chowree speeideilagh, shegin da'n theay credjal aynjee as ta'n theay feer foddey veih'n stayd shen ec y tra a t'ayn.

T'eh aitt dy liooar dy vel Reiltys Vannin gra nish dy vel ad ayns foayr jeh cur er e hoshiaght 'jarroo-enney ashoonagh' Vannin. Lurg bleaantyn jeh lhiggey er nagh row Manninaghys scanshoil t'ad gra shen. As creid eh ny dyn, ta jarroo-enney ashoonagh ny ayn mooar jeh'n chalee-chowree shoh. Ta pargys ny h-ashooneyryn er jeet fy jerrey.

Kyndagh rish sheelogheyn dy choloinaght, s'mie lesh Manninee ennagh jannoo beg jeh red erbee Manninagh - erskyn ooilley yn Ghaelg. Foastagh, cha jean ram Manninee coontey monney jeh nhee erbee ayns Mannin derrey t'eh er ny vannaghey veih Sostyn (cha neeu cheer elley erbee). Shen doilleed vooar my t'ou cowraghey Mannin. Shimmey red ta olk ayns Mannin nish, agh shimmey red ta mie nagh vel shin clashtyn monney mychione. Myr sampleyr, son y chooid smoo, ta ny scoillyn Manninagh foddey ny share na adsyn ayns ymmodee cheeraghyn elley. As oddagh ad ve ny share foast dy beagh Rheyenn Ynsee Vannin shassoo er ny cassyn eck hene as jiooldey goaill stiagh tooilley boghtynid veih Sostyn.

Gyn ourys, bee ashooneyryn craidey mysh y chalee-chowree as ee goll er stiurey ec lugt-dellal as Reiltys Vannin. Agh ta chaghteraghtyn feeu ec y chalee-chowree: soilshee ny reddyn ta shin jannoo dy mie, shass er ny cassyn ain hene, cur jarroo-

enney ashoonagh er e hoshiaght. Y doilleed smoo, foddee, ta shen: cre'n jarroo-enney ashoonagh? Cheayll mish mychione y chalee-chowree shoh ec chaglym ayns Radio Vannin boayl va caairliagh y ving-chowree loayrt, mychione y chalee. Manninagh elley ta gobbraghey nish as reesht son Radio Vannin, dooyrt eshyn dy nhegin da cummaltee Vannin cheet ry cheilley fo'n lipeid 'Manninagh'. Sostnagh ta gobbraghey da Radio Vannin (goll rish y chooid smoo jeu), dooyrt eshyn dy row eh ayns foayr jeh shen, agh cha jin-nagh eh taghyrt: va Manninee ayn nagh lhiggagh da joarreyn gra 'Manninee' roo hene. She doilleed vooar t'ayn, agh cha noddym fakin raad elley er lhimmey jeh gra 'Manninee' roosyn t'er jeet dy chummal ayns Mannin as ad ayns foayr jeh Mannin as gobbraghey son Mannin. My ta shin dooney magh sleih nagh vel Manninagh er yn chenn agh, ta shin er raad y vaaish as dy firrinagh ta shin gra 'Lhig dooin cur seose nish.' Skeal elley bentyn roosyn ta craidey mysh Mannin as Manninee.

Dy firrinagh, shoh yn doilleed t'ec ooilley ny Celtiee as (ayns y jerrey) ec y chooid smoo jeh ashoonyn y teihll. Cha nodmayd croghey er kynneaghs dy reayll shin 'glen' - she ashlish foalsey t'ayn. Y noid smoo, shen downaghey (globalisation) as ny cliaghtaghyn-dellal ta goll marish ec y tra a t'ayn. As adsyn shirrey tooilley argid foastagh, ta fir-ghellal bwoalley sheese as sheese y faill jeh sleih ta boght agglagh hannah. Ta'n sleih boght shen debejagh son bee as obbyr as t'ad eginit faagail ny cheeraghyn oc hene. Cha nodmayd, ny Manninee, gra 'Lhig da'n siehll goll mygeayrt' ayns lheid y teihll shen.

Ny ynrican reddyn oddys mayd croghey orroo, shen ny h-inchyn ain hene as y chengey as cultoor ain hene. Ta caa ain nish ashoon Manninagh noa y chroo nagh vees croghey dy bollagh er y cherroo-argidys. Va ny Manninee rieu feer vie as ad lheim veih un red gys red elley. Foddee dy row ad ro vie as ad ceau ersooyl ny reddyn nagh row ad coontey dy ve feeu keayrt dy row. Ta boghtynid dy liooar sy chalee-chowree shoh, agh ta stoo feeu aynjee ny yei. Choud's nagh vees mayd goll er daajey myr ollagh.

Précis

Possibly foreseeing a downturn in the Isle of Man's financial sector, business interests there are launching an exercise to 'brand' the Isle of Man internationally. While there are dubious elements to this exercise it could have some beneficial effects.

Brian Stowell

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



The Isle of Man was the first country in the world to grant women sexual equality, which came to the Isle of Man as early as 1881 when women were given the right to vote.

Bloody Sunday Commemoration in Derry

On that day which is called 'Bloody' Sunday the 30th of January 1972 at a civil rights march in Derry, thirteen unarmed Catholic civilians were shot dead by soldiers of the British army Parachute Regiment.

February 2004.

On Sunday 1st February this year, Mark Kermode and I representing Mec Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Party, were in Derry in the north of Ireland to attend the Bloody Sunday Commemoration. We watched the wreath laying at the Bloody Sunday Memorial, and took part in the 32nd anniversary march.

Mark and I flew to Belfast on the Friday ahead of the Commemoration. We arrived in Derry on Saturday afternoon and, after picking up a local guide, made a tour around the city. I noticed a great many army observation towers and other heavily fortified installations, though apparently these are now disused.

Late Saturday night we enjoyed music at the Féile na Gáslainne event in the Dockside. There we enjoyed singing and instrument playing by Declan McLaughlin, the all girl band 'The Shambelles' and Terry O'Neill.

On Sunday morning we attended the wreath laying at the Bloody Sunday Memorial on Rossville Street. The rain held off for the whole of the wreath laying ceremony which was attended by several hundred people and was quite moving. Wreaths were laid by relatives of the murdered men, and also by the Mayor of Derry.

The starting point for the march was in front of the Creggan shops. We found the shops with the aid of directions from helpful locals. It began to rain quite heavily. The route of the march was the same as that taken by the NICRA marchers in 1972. Thousands of people turned out to join the walk despite the rain and cold. Many carried umbrellas, several had banners and flags. It took about an hour to reach Free Derry Corner. The only police presence that I saw was two PSNI land rovers which kept well back in the side streets. The whole event went off peacefully, there being no trouble of any sort. When the march reached Free Derry Corner we listened to speakers representing the families, Sinn Féin and the SDLP. They called for a just outcome to the Saville Inquiry when it makes its' report later this year. Saville is a British government sponsored investigation into the actions of the British army in Derry on Bloody Sunday.

Bloody Sunday 1972

A detailed study of the Bloody Sunday atrocity is contained in the book 'Those are real bullets aren't they?' by Peter Pringle and Philip Jacobson, published by Fourth Estate, London. (ISBN 1-84115-316-8). I can recommend the book, and I relied on it while writing the following brief résumé of the shocking events of that day in January 1972:

A large number, several thousands, of people assembled in the Creggan to take part in a civil rights and anti-internment march



Mark Kermode at the H-Block Hunger Strikers' Monument in Derry.

organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA). In the early stages of planning, it had been intended to march out from the Bogside, Derry's Catholic heartland, and walk to the Guildhall, symbol of Protestant rule in Derry. Later, the march organisers set the route to stay within the Creggan and Bogside. On the morning of the march, the British army put up barriers at roads off the route to ensure the marchers could not change course. The barrier on William Street blocked the way to the Guildhall. Expecting there to be some rioting, the army planned to use snatch squads to arrest rioters and especially stone throwing youths. Army reinforcements had arrived from Belfast, including paratroopers. Towards the end of a peaceful march, trouble flared at the William Street barrier when some youths confronted soldiers and RUC (NI armed police force, now PSNI). The march stewards could not prevent youths from stoning the soldiers and the youths began rioting. By Derry standards

the rioting was not severe, and uninvolved bystanders along with people just visiting relatives were all in that area close to the army roadblock on William Street.

The bulk of the marchers continued peacefully along Rossville Street towards Free Derry Corner.

Meanwhile, the army used a water cannon and CS gas to try to break up the rioting youths at the William Street barrier. The British military's planned operation to arrest rioters was launched. Paratroopers who had been waiting nearby swooped in to the crowd of people. In front of Press reporters and photographers, the paratroopers began firing live rounds indiscriminately and at close quarters against unarmed civilians on William Street and Rossville street. They continued this lethal fire for at least ten minutes. 27 unarmed Catholics were shot, four of them shot in the back. Thirteen men died in that massacre in Derry that day.

Mark Lockerby

MANX IN COURT - IS IT LEGAL?

A series of questions aimed at clarifying the legal status of the Manx language have been set down for answer in the Manx legislature.

Phillip Gawne, Member of the House of Keys (MHK) and prominent language activist, is to press the Island's Attorney General about the status of the language if used in legal documents or proceedings in the Island's courts.

The text of Mr. Gawne's questions are set out below:

With a view to explaining the legal status of the Manx language will you explain whether:

1. In civil proceedings would documents and evidence in Manx Gaelic be admissible;
2. In proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters would documents and evidence in Manx Gaelic be admissible;
3. In criminal proceedings would requests and evidence, whether written or oral, not be considered inadmissible solely because they were formulated in Manx Gaelic; and
4. Would legal documents drawn up within the Isle of Man be valid if they were drafted in Manx Gaelic?

J B Moffatt

TREASURY MINISTER MISLEADS AGAIN

In an inquiry chaired by an English QC into alleged corruption in the Island's planning system (the Mount Murray Inquiry), current Isle of Man Treasury Minister Alan Bell was identified as having wilfully misled the Island's Tynwald parliament.

The first part of the inquiry concluded that there had indeed been a corruption of the system of government though no evidence of money changing hands has yet been uncovered.

The second part of the inquiry, which has encountered repeated attempts at obstruction by at least one of the parties involved, is yet to be published but Mr. Bell is already trying to cloud the issue with dubious claims about the Inquiry's cost.

He claimed in a radio interview this week that the total cost of the inquiry, into what he described as a "minor planning matter" (it was actually into corruption and Mr. Bell was identified as a central figure) would exceed one million pounds and would be more costly than the UK's "Hutton" inquiry.

Firstly, that figure appears to be rather inflated but more importantly, it is impossible for Mr. Bell to truthfully make this claim since the cost of the Hutton Inquiry is yet to be determined, as confirmed by Mr. Michael Richards of the UK's Department of Constitutional Affairs in February..

Ultimately, there can be no price put on truth but if Mr. Bell and his colleagues in the Council of Ministers were more open and honest in their dealings, these issues would not arise

MANX FINANCIAL WATCHDOG KEEP TABS ON TRIBUNAL REVELATIONS

Isle of Man financial regulators are 'closely monitoring' events at the Mahon tribunal in Dublin but 'at this stage there is nothing that concerns' them.

The Celtic League was advised of this fact when they queried the Isle of Man Financial Supervision commission this week.

There have been a string of allegations linking accounts at banks in the Isle of Man to corruption in public office in Ireland in the late 1980s.

Serious allegations were recently made in Tribunal evidence provided by property developer Tom Gilmartin (See Éire Section - SLUSH FUND ALLEGATIONS POINT TO ISLE OF MAN BANKING SYSTEM).

It is reassuring to know that Manx regulators are considering the situation. The FSC was established in the early 1980s and whilst the type of comprehensive financial controls that we have today did not exist in the period with which the Tribunal is currently dealing any suggestion of a breach of the regulations which were in place at the time should be pursued.

The FSC stance is also refreshingly more open than the Isle of Man Constabulary so far a telephone query to them has gone unanswered.

J B Moffatt

BISHOP OF SODOR AND MANN

The newly appointed Bishop of Sodor and Mann, a Church of England Diocese, has been swift to politicise his position by making a statement supporting his right to vote in the Tynwald parliament of the Isle of Man.

The Tynwald is composed of two "chambers", the 24 member House of Keys, elected by popular vote and the eight member Legislative Council which is indirectly appointed by the House of Keys.

Whilst Mec Vannin does not advocate the abolition of the Legislative Council, it has actively campaigned for its system of appointment to be substantially modified, as demonstrated by its 2003 AGM resolution:

This AGM calls upon Tynwald to:

a) reform the Legislative Council to be a popularly elected body.

b) ensure that, until such time as Legislative Council is a popularly elected body, no ministers can be appointed from within its membership."

The Bishop is appointed by the Church of England which, unlike England, has no constitutional authority in the Island.

The Christian Church has several organisations and bodies through which it can make representation to government and has no case to call for special representation.

As a secular Party and especially in light of the increasing number of non-Christian religions being practised in the Island as the nature of the population changes, Mec Vannin would support any fresh initiative to have the Bishop's special political influence removed.

Mec Vannin is a republican independence party that has been operative in Mannin for over 40 years.

MK

NO SENSE OF CULTURAL PRIDE WHILST CHRONICLES REMAIN IN LONDON

Whilst the Manx government may be prepared to 'sit on its thumbs' over the return of a long cherished artefact from the British Library to the Manx people there is no such reticence amongst authorities in various areas of the UK.

We reported some time ago on Welsh requests for the return of the "Gold Cape of Mold" for storage and exhibition near the site where it was located in North Wales. Now the North East of England is pressing a case for the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to a home there.

Campaigners, assisted by the local MP, are hoping that the British Library can be persuaded to part with the Gospels to allow their exhibition at Durham Cathedral or Holy Island.

The campaigners say, "Having the originals in the region would be a huge boost to the regions economy and to our growing tourist industry"

One would have hoped that the Isle of Man government might also have seen the advantage of having the mediaeval manuscript of The Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles returned to the Isle of Man.

It is currently languishes as part of a meaningless and unrelated collection of papers in the British Library. Although it was loaned at one stage to the Manx for the opening of the MNH flagship heritage site, the House of Mannan, the question of the permanent return of the Chronicles is repeatedly evaded by the government.

One of those campaigning for the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels is quoted as saying, "Culture is not an optional add-on these days it is very much part of the intrinsic attraction of the region and the intrinsic image of a region".

This is a commendable stance by a UK region which sadly is not mirrored by a National government, the Isle of Man.

J B Moffatt

Mec Vannin

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

Mec Vannin is a republican independence party that has been operative in Mannin for over 40 years. A newlist goes to media and individuals throughout the world. Further information e-mail the list-owner at mec_vannin-owner@yahoo.co.uk with contact details.

Yahoo! Groups Links

To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mec_vannin/



Celtica



This is my truth, tell me yours

On a visit to Wales some years ago, I looked out of the train window as we were approaching Cardiff Central Station. Staring back at me was massive poster showing the cover from the Manic Street Preachers new album, *This is my truth, tell me yours*. The title of the album was not in English, but in Welsh. What a good way, I thought, to show the public that the Welsh language is still a part of who this native Welsh and English speaking and singing rock band are.

On picking up a copy of the 'Western Mail' newspaper in Cardiff however, I was surprised to read an article that criticised the poster because it translated an English language colloquialism from the Welsh Valley's into Welsh. In Welsh, the English title of the album read *This is my truth, SAY yours*. The article stated that academics were incensed that the band dared to use slang in an English to Welsh translation so publicly on such a grand scale!

In my opinion, it is important for languages to develop if they are to keep alive in an seemingly ever changing world that's fraught by global pressures. Progressivism is not a word I associate with conservatism and in my view the academics sited in the Western Mail article were being conservative with a big 'C'.

In today's ever increasing global economy, it is not only necessary to develop the most appropriate means to communicate, but an essential part of being able to compete in a cultural domain that is dominated by a handful of languages. I'm not saying that the most appropriate means of communication is in the English language or Mandarin Chinese, but quite the opposite. My argument is best illustrated by taking the example of information communication technology (ICT).

As the Rough Guide's *The Internet* states, the Internet is "...about people, communication and sharing knowl-



Manic Street Preachers

edge" and as such it can be used as a tool to generate virtual speech-vernacular communities. ICT, of which the Internet is a part, can be used as a tool for lesser-used language groups to communicate in more effective ways than ever before. Despite the fact that ICT is dominated by English, there are nevertheless opportunities for other languages to take an active role in electronic (e) communication. These include free translation services on websites, Internet service providers in some of the Celtic languages and the many more channels of communication available to us to communicate in the Celtic languages.

The Celtic languages, like other lesser-used languages in Europe, face a major challenge in the English speaking electronic world of ICT. As more people in the Celtic speaking world communicate electronically, over the Internet, through text messaging and email, it is inevitable that language use will develop and change accordingly. It is important that people (especially young people) do not get into the habit of thinking that the language of e-communication is English. It is therefore essential that people are given the opportunity to use communication networks that are in the Celtic languages, so that people become familiar with seeing the Celtic languages on their phones and their computers. I am sure that this will encourage lan-

guage development to occur naturally within all linguistic realms.

Among the many points that the Welsh Language Bill 2002 failed to address, was the need to extend legislation to incorporate all private sector, enabling Welsh language speakers the right to use and see the language in relation to all their private business. This would have led to the situation where communication networks would be obliged to use the Welsh language in all areas of ICT. This, I believe, would have been a particularly important step in getting the mobile phone/Internet using generation to use the Welsh language (or at least making it more visible to them) in their everyday lives.

If the Celtic languages are to keep in-step with technological developments, it is vitally important for people to see that our languages are part of the ICT revolution that's gripping in the world.

The English language has developed enormously, due to the prolific use of the language in ICT, to the extent that it is highly possible that in the future, electronic 'easy-speak' will be an established part of the English speaking world's everyday vocabulary. But what effect does this have on those of us who speak a Celtic language? Will English easy-speak infiltrate the vocabulary of young Celtic language speakers and if so wouldn't it be better to develop a Celtic language easy-speak, by ensuring that communication networks are obliged to provide their services in the languages of the Celtic nations?

As the English language develops, as a result of e-communication, it is necessary for the Celtic languages to keep apace. This responsibility not only lies with those that seek to establish or amend Language Acts, but those of us who use e-communication in our lives. In creating a "loose" language style in our respective Celtic languages, when we are communicating electronically, we will be developing language use that will appeal to the younger generation.

Of course it will take a significant shift in cultural attitude, habit and outlook to achieve this end, but I believe this is a necessary step if our languages are to reach out into the post modern electronic era. In using a (W) English colloquialism in the translation of their English album title, I believe that the Manic Street Preachers were reaching out to a Welsh youth culture that needed to see a truth that reflected their own lives.

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot

THE CELTS – A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION

Publisher : Oxford University Press (June 2003)

Paperback : 161 pages

ISBN : 0192804189

size (in cm) : 1 x 17 x 18

Price : £ 7.37

In 1995 Oxford University Press began to publish a series of books under the heading 'A Very Short Introduction' intended for anyone wanting to access a new subject in a stimulating way. The books are written by experts, and have been published in more than 25 languages worldwide. They cover a wide variety of topics including history, philosophy, religion, science and the humanities. Moreover, these small-format books are perfect to pop into your pocket for reading during a spare moment.

The Celts – A Very Short Introduction by **Barry Cunliffe** is an excellent introduction to the study and knowledge of the Celts of ancient and modern times.

Barry Cunliffe is Professor of European

Archaeology at the University of Oxford. He has excavated widely in Western Europe and is currently working in Spain, Brittany, and Wessex. His research interests have recently focused on the importance of the Atlantic sea routes to European prehistory and history. His books include *The Celtic World*, *The Ancient Celts*, *Prehistoric Europe*, *Facing The Ocean : The Atlantic and Its Peoples* (see **Carn N° 118-120 Winter 2002/03**), and *The Extraordinary Voyage of Pytheas the Greek*. He is also Trustee of the British Museum.

The subject of the Celts has always fascinated, from the Greeks and the Romans through the nineteenth century to more recent times. **Barry Cunliffe** tackles questions such as 'who were the Celts?', and explores the archaeological, artistic, and linguistic evidence to provide the answers, helping us to identify the ancient Celts and to trace their successors in the modern world. As **Julian D. Richards** (University of York) states, this book is '...essential reading for anyone interested in European culture and politics, past and present. This masterly survey ranges from Herodotus to Breton bagpipe festivals, and shows how the Celts have been harnessed in support of both the European Union and Scottish and Welsh devolution. Only Professor Cunliffe could range so widely but so authoritatively in time

and space to present an account that disentangles fact from fiction in the history of this controversial European people.' Professor **Barry Cunliffe** ends his work stating that 'the concept of the Celts is an ancient one that has changed with time ; the Celts are always being reinvented, sometimes by outside observers, sometimes by the people themselves. If we were to take a tough purist line we might be prepared to admit that present-day Bretons could claim to be descendants of Celts, in that Caesar said that the inhabitants of central and western Gaul called themselves Celts, that their language and culture probably survived the Roman interlude, and that there has been comparatively little population change since then. No other region qualifies on all three counts. But many would find this definition unnecessarily restrictive, arguing instead that all those regions where Celtic languages are regularly spoken today may claim some relationship to Celtic roots in the prehistoric period. This does **not** mean that they were descended from Hallstatt aristocracies or La Tène elites but that they are the inheritors of an Atlantic culture and language that is far more ancient.'

Carn readers will find a Carn cover among the illustrations. This book is a model of good writing for a general audience.

The Celtic Inscriptions of Britain: Phonology and Chronology, C. 400-1200

Patrick Sims-Williams

Publisher: Blackwell Publishing.
(Publication of the Philological Society)

Paperback 480 pages

(March 2003)

ISBN: 1405109033 **Price:** £22.99

Celtic inscriptions have been largely studied by philologists, especially the Irish inscriptions. Most of these inscriptions inscribed in the Roman or Irish Ogham alphabets were made on stones.

The work of Macalister called *Corpus Inscriptionum Insularum Celticarum* (1945-1949) was a pioneer oeuvre which gave birth to later and more specialized studies on Celtic inscriptions such as Nash-Williams's *Early Christian Monuments of Wales*, Okasha's *Corpus of Early Christian Inscribed Stones of South West Britain*, or to studies on phonology such as the magisterial oeuvre of

Jackson's *Language and History in Early Britain* in 1953.

This book, written by Patrick Sims-Williams, is in the same line and at the same time a crossroad of works on Celtic inscriptions and Celtic phonology.

The fifth- to twelfth- century inscriptions studied in this book include almost all the roman-letter and ogham inscriptions of Britain that were listed in Macalister's *Corpus Inscriptionum Insularum Celticarum*, plus eighty-two additions.

It is indeed the first comprehensive linguistic study for 50 years of the stones from Western Britain and Brittany, inscribed in the Roman and Irish Ogham alphabets.

The author through a new study of the phonological development of the Brittonic and Irish branches of the

Celtic languages places the chronology of the inscriptions on a surer footing. Patrick Sims-Williams in his large chapter about Brittonic phonology enlarges, completes and goes beyond the magisterial oeuvre of Jackson by giving more examples, details and enlarging Jackson's examples. Moreover his treatment of Irish phonology is quite large as well.

This excellent book carries a large bibliography which will enable readers to find, or go further into more specific points. It will be of interest to archaeologists, historians and art historians, philologists interested in the methods and problems of historical phonology and onomastics as well as to native speakers and learners wishing to know the remote forms of their language and its first written witness.

José CALVETE

Fry an Spyrys / Free the Spirit

Thank you for the piece about our campaign in Carn 124. We have set up a website at www.freethespirit.org.uk

You might mention that I have compiled and we have sponsored the first ever bi-lingual prayer book in Kernewek and English which is available through Agan Tavas (link on our website.) in it we have prayers to commemorate those killed fighting for Cornwall in Cornish risings. It is suitable for personal use and in churches and chapels.

**Yn Iel dhys
Andy Phillips**

PLUM PUDDING

The voice of the Irish in Argentina is becoming the voice and the ears of all the Celtic Communities in the Spanish Speaking World.

The Irish have been in Argentina for a very long time. We find Irishmen visiting the Rio de La Plata on the voyage made by Magellan in 1525 as there were two Irishmen in his crew. From that date on the Irish presence became more and more prominent. More and more Spanish expeditions had Irishmen in their crews. The internal history of Ireland also had an obvious connection with the presence of Irishmen in the Rio de La Plata area as the Irish chieftains and the Spanish crown were closely linked in their struggle against English colonization and imperialism and the Elizabethan conquest of Ireland. The 17th century with its brutal plans for the extirpation of the Irish as a national community saw a major emigration to Europe, mainly to Spain and France. As Spain was the ally, the Wild Geese naturally fled to Spain. These Irish migrants and their descendants were astonishingly successful in their new homeland. In the political field, they produced a Prime Minister of Spain, a daughter of Irish migrants became Queen of Spain and in the military field they produced several high ranking officers and Spain had an Irish Brigade in its army for a long time. We find these 'Wild Geese' or Spanish of Irish descendants soon afterwards occupying important positions in the Spanish army and in the colonization of the Spanish territories, especially in the Rio de La Plata area which was to become known as Argentina. By 1700 we find soldiers like O'Donnell or important persons like Doctor Miguel O'Gorman.

But of course most of the Irish emigration will be due to 'An Gorta Mór' or the Great Famine also called the '1845 Famine'. The Great Famine saw more than 2,000,000 native Irish leaving Ireland. Most of them emigrated to the English-speaking world as by then the linguistic change towards English was made. As Peter Berresford Ellis has pointed out in his excellent book 'The Celtic Revolution': 'It is interesting and perhaps a significant observation that during the centuries when Irish was the common language of Ireland, the emigrants tended to settle in Europe, particularly in France, Spain...'. But outside the English-speaking world Argentina holds the biggest Irish migrant community

with an estimated 500,000 scattered throughout the country but with the majority settling in Buenos Aires, the western part of its province and the province of Santa Fé. They came to Argentina attracted by the Argentinean laws which favoured immigration and the community was organized by Father Fahy in spite of the distance and the linguistic barrier. But they soon merged into the young Argentine nation to the point that they gave a president to Argentina.



Susana Shanahan

'Plum Pudding' is a radio programme broadcast since 1996. It is presented by Susana Shanahan with all her boiling Irish blood flowing in her veins. The programme is not only the voice of the Irish community in Argentina but is becoming more and more the voice and the ears of all the Celtic communities of Argentina. 'Plum Pudding' is also linked with the active 'Movimiento Celta de Argentina' (Celtic Movement of Argentina). Now it is not only broadcast throughout the whole country but worldwide as it is possible to listen to the programme every Saturday between 20h00 and 22h00 (GMT) through the web at www.fm895.com.ar

This excellent programme deals with every aspect of Celtic cultural life from a national and an international point of view. The range

of topics is wide since news, culture, history, literature, politics, economics, science, fashion, sport, and gastronomy are dealt with. Celtic culture is promoted in particular and especially Celtic music, history, mythology, legends, literature and rituals. There is also Celtic live music every Saturday with national or international groups playing during the programme. But the national struggles of the modern Celtic countries are not forgotten. Recently, the programme has been campaigning to support the rights of the Breton speakers in Brittany and the official acceptance of the Irish language in the European Union. News from outside Argentina is given by correspondents in Ireland, Galicia, Asturias, France, the United States, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, etc... It is an invaluable reference and source of news for all the Celts in Argentina, Latin America and beyond for all the Celts of the Spanish speaking world. For further information, please contact Susana Shanahan at: plumpu@arnet.com.ar or visit the website of the programme at www.plumpudding.com.ar

José CALVETE

WHO GUARDS THE GUARDIANS?

Celtic League concerns about the lack of regulation of special police units such as the Special Branch in Britain, the SDU in Ireland and the RG (Direction Centrale des Renseignements Généraux) in France have been highlighted to relevant Departments of the Council of Europe.

A reply from Walter Schwimmer Secretary General of the Directorate General of Human Rights highlights steps already taken by the Council of Europe and its programme 'Police and Human Rights - Beyond 2000'. However the Directorate General has assured us that the Leagues concerns have also been transmitted to relevant Council of Europe bodies and departments.

In the past twenty years Special Police units have been involved in many alleged scandals. In the United Kingdom the Special branch is alleged to have withheld information which put the public at risk. In Ireland the activities of both the SDU and its offshoot the ERU has not been without controversy and in France the RG also has a controversial history.

As State security is quite properly tightened as the terrorist threat grows in Europe it is also important that appropriate checks and balances are put in place to control these special police units which to date have been something of a law unto themselves.

J B Moffatt

Trial of Bretons

From March 1st to March 28th 2004, the trial of 11 Breton militants was held before the Paris special court of assizes. These people will be judged for their presumed responsibility in 17 attacks perpetrated in Brittany between 1993 and 2000.

This trial took place after more than 4 years of provisional detention for one of the six accused and nearly four years for four others, all of whom are still in provisional detention. The conditions in which these men were imprisoned in Paris jails - tougher prison regime due to the status of detainee under reinforced watch, detention of a militant against the opinion of the prosecution, detention of two other detainees who were seriously ill, have led citizens associations, artists, political, union and humanitarian organisations, to denounce this situation.

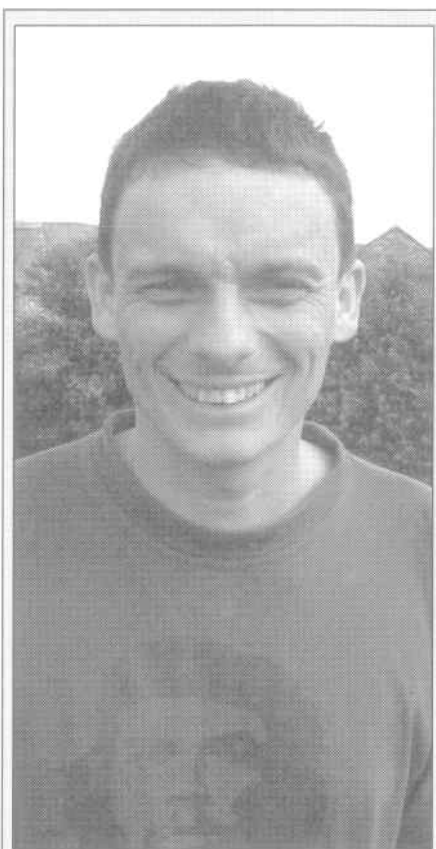
In Brittany, the wave of solidarity keeps on growing, and several observers from international organisations attended the trial where militants appear before a special jurisdiction that, clearly, will judge them more for their political beliefs than for what they allegedly did.

While some of the accused admitted involvement in ARB activities all denied having any involvement in the bombing of Mc Donald's in Quévert, where a lady was killed. The prosecution case was long on rhetoric and short on evidence. In the closing speech of the prosecution (before defence counsels and defendants speak) they demanded the following for the various individuals.

1. Christian Georgeault : An 18 year jail sentence of which he will have to serve at least a 10 year minimum mandatory before being eligible for release. He admitted being involved in some attacks, but not Quévert.
2. Gaël Roblin : 15 years, with 10 years minimum mandatory sentence
3. Paskal Laizé, 12 years, 8 years minimum mandatory sentence
4. Stéphane Philippe, 10 years, 6 years of minimum mandatory sentence
5. Arno Vannier, 8 years, 4 years of minimum mandatory sentence. He already served some time and was released. If sentence is confirmed he will be jailed immediately.
6. Alain Solé, 6 years, no mandatory sentence due to poor health. As he already served much more than 4 years, he could be released quite soon if sentence is confirmed as such.
7. Philippe Jaumouillé, 5 years (he already served a few months, and was released)
8. Solenn Georgeault, Yann Solon, Paskal Scattolin, Jérôme Bouthier: nothing was demanded. The Prosecutor also apologised to Jérôme, saying he was "sorry that Jérôme should be in this situation". It's high time the Prosecutor realized that Jérôme has been in jail for nearly 2 and a half years.

The verdict may be delivered by the time you read this. At the time of going to press the defence case has yet to be heard.

Let's wait for the verdict and possible appeals.... Let's hope....



Adrian Cain from Port St Mary, who was recently appointed to the position of Manx Language Officer. Phil Gawne, who held the position for many years, moved on to become a Member of the House of Keys (Parliament). We wish Adrian well in his new job.

TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES UNFOLD IN SCOTS INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

Further signs of the tensions and opportunities facing the national movement in Scotland continue to emerge following the radical realignment of pro independence forces flowing from the last Scottish Parliament elections. This saw a loss of seats for the SNP but gains for the pro independence Greens and Scottish Socialists.

Now former SNP MSP Lloyd Quinan has quit the party, joined the SSP and sharply criticised the direction of the main pro independence party. Quinan was a left wing member of the SNP Scots Parliament group in the 1999/2003 intake and supported Alex Neil's challenge to John Swinney in the leadership election which followed Alex Salmond's resignation. In an interview with the SSP's weekly Scottish Socialist Voice he is sharply critical of the SNP's perceived move to a more 'business friendly' agenda which has been less kindly described by some as "New SNP." The SNP he says, feel

that they need to be "electable at all costs" and are courting the business world, says Quinan "It is misguided. The business community is a transnational community; it doesn't care about Scottish sovereignty." The proposed Independence Convention is he says, a positive development which could "if instituted now, with absolute commitment from the parties' involved" be "one of the most dynamic forces in the 2007 elections." The Scots Parliament elections in 2007 coincide with the 300th anniversary of the Parliamentary Union with England and as such will be give an extra edge to those who want to break that union.

What the Quinan resignation and criticism brings into sharp focus is the growing plurality of the National movement in Scotland and the complex issues this raises.

It is also forcing the non SNP independence supporters to give serious thought to making their demand a reality.

And as Lloyd Quinan makes clear in his interview the movement away from big states to local democracy is taking place across Europe. In Italy the Communist Refondazione have taken a much more relaxed view of nationalism in Sardinia than in the past while in Spain the Green Left accept the current state structure does not meet the national aspiration of the nations such as the Basques, within its frontiers. Quinan is a long term supporter of Basque independence and reaches the conclusion that there is growing common interest between movement for national and social liberation across Europe.

"Nationalism is revolutionary, internationalist idea" he says calling for co-operation across Europe for nationalist movements on same journey as us, seeking the restoration of sovereignty."

Ken Ferguson

International Branch Internet Site

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

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American Branch Internet Site

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Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership/ subscription rates (including *Carn*) are: Stg£12; €20; US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe: Stg.£15 (airmail); Outside Europe: Stg.£18.00 (airmail).

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IRISH DEMOCRAT



For news, analysis, reviews, features, and an independent voice

Published continuously since 1939, the Irish Democrat is the bi-monthly journal of the Connolly Association which campaigns for a united and independent Ireland and the rights of the Irish in Britain. Regular contributors include the respected Celtic historian Peter Berresford Ellis whose regular column *Anon* is *Anail* has been a feature of the paper for over ten years.

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