

# comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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- Gaelic Medium Schools Success
- Parti Breton
- Declaration of Rights of Bro Gymraeg
- Redmond's Folly
- Yn Impirolaghys Reeshtagh
- Pillars of Manx Language RIP

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CELTIC LEAGUE





# Gaelic Medium Schools Success

At its Educational Conference in November in Kilkenny, the Irish medium schools organisation, Gaelscoileanna, had as its guest speaker Professor Richard Johnstone of the University of Stirling who gave two lectures, one on comparative studies he had undertaken on the performance of pupils in Gaelic medium schools in Scotland and another on the international experience with immersion education. This report will outline the results of the former.

Professor Johnstone introduced his presentation by outlining briefly the current situation of Scottish Gaelic. Census data has shown a continuing decline in the number of speakers of Gaelic; only 58,652 people aged three or over spoke the language in 2001, compared with 65,978 in 1991 and 82,000 in 1981. The historical influences of the Highland Clearances and the Education Act of 1872 (which introduced monolingual English education) have been further augmented by the lack of jobs in Gaelic speaking areas (with displacement to the cities), the effect of high status English speakers moving in and globalisation via English as an international language, invading the traditional Gaelic space - the home and local community.

Initiatives to recover include Bòrd na Gaidhlig, the Gaelic Broadcasting Fund, the Gaelic Bill about to go through Scottish Parliament and the development of Gaelic-medium (GM) Primary Education. The attainments of pupils in GM education are contained in the publication Johnstone, R., Harlen, W., MacNeil, M., Stradling, R. & Thorpe, G. (1999). *The attainments of pupils receiving Gaelic-medium primary education in Scotland*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive. This can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/education/i62-02.asp>

## Main aims of the investigation

- To compare pupils' performance against national targets in the 5-14 programme: Gaelic, English, Mathematics
- To compare GM pupils' achievements with those of English Medium (EM) pupils in same schools, local authorities and nationally: Science (1996), Mathematics (1997), English (1998)

The research sample was 31 Scottish primary schools which had developed GM education to Primary 7, the final year of Primary School education. It was based on the pupils in P7, and also to a lesser extent those in earlier years. The research instruments were assessments of 5-14 year olds which were administered by class teachers as and when they felt pupils were ready. These assessments were graded by teachers at 5-14 in into levels A to E as shown in the next column.

To approach our second aim it was necessary to use data generated by the Assessment of Achievement Programme (AAP). This is a three-year rolling programme which surveys the achievements of pupils in English, mathematics and science. The National AAP survey covered Science, then Maths, and then English followed by Science & Maths translated into Gaelic. It was externally set, administered by schools and externally graded.

Targets for Levels	
<b>Level A</b>	Should be attainable in the course of the first three years at primary schools for almost all pupils
<b>Level B</b>	Should be attainable for some pupils in P3 or even earlier, but certainly by most pupils in P4
<b>Level C</b>	Should be attainable for most pupils in the course of P4 to P6
<b>Level D</b>	Should be attainable for some pupils in P5 or P6 or even earlier, but certainly by most in P7
<b>Level E</b>	Should be attainable for some pupils in P7 or S1, but certainly for most in S2

## Findings on pupils' attainments: 5-14 Criteria

For the 5-14 target pupils almost two thirds in P7 were at levels D or E in Gaelic for Listening, Reading, Spelling – just about what was expected. Performance in Gaelic Writing was well below this, though EM pupils'

performance in English Writing was also below expectation. It was considered that more thought is needed to help pupils write creatively in Gaelic and in teaching Mathematics in the middle Primary School years.

## Findings on pupils' attainments: AAP surveys

Science (1996) at Primary 7 found GM pupils results close to the national average but below EM in the same schools. Mathematics (1997) at Primary 7 showed GM higher than EM in the same schools and nationally. This was also the case at P4, but the gap was wider by P7. Slight problems were evident for GM pupils in problem solving at P4. For English (1998) at Primary 7 those in GM were ahead of EM in the same schools for Reading and Writing and GM pupils were the same as the national average for Reading and ahead for Writing.

## Scottish Gaelic Medium research: Conclusion

Gaelic Medium pupils are not being disadvantaged; in fact in some cases they are clearly exceeding English Medium pupils' performances. There were reasons to explain the initial problem with performance in AAP science. There was no clear impact relating to the gender of a pupil or the location of a school. Gaelic Medium pupils are gaining the clear advantage of fluency in two languages and access to additional culture. This clearly shows the success and benefits of Gaelic Medium education.

- Professor Johnstone's report on international research on immersion education may be found at: <http://www.scilt.stir.ac.uk/pubs.htm#067>

**Johnstone, R. (2001).** *Immersion in a second or additional language at school: evidence from international research*. Report for the Scottish Executive Education Department. PDF version only available. Click on to the buttons for Summary, Acknowledgement etc



*Professor Johnstone of Stirling University, Director of SCILT (Scottish Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research) with Dónal Ó hAiniféin, President of Gaelscoileanna*



# First Parti Breton Summer School

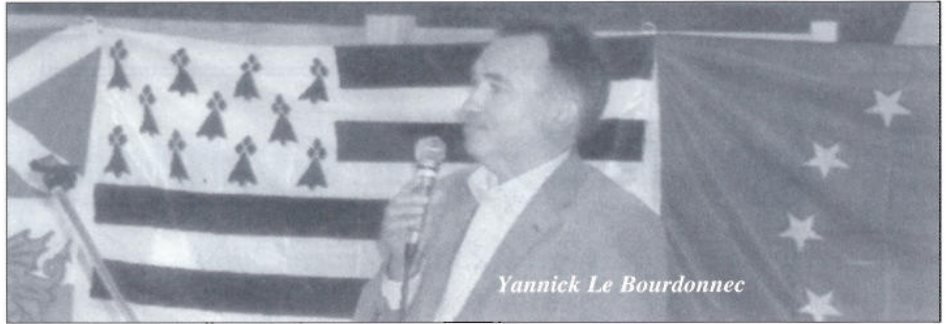
The first Parti Breton Summer School took place in Gwidel, near An Oriant, on the 18th-19th September. One hundred people came to listen and exchange ideas with a dozen guest speakers.

During the two days various speakers underlined the necessity for Brittany to be quickly given devolved institutions with a tax system in order to play a role in Europe. The Parti Breton sees its own priorities as reinforcing the party itself, working on the local level, and building a programme for the future. The party's strategy is to build a Breton way of political thinking, opening Breton minds to Europe-wide action in the economic, social, and cultural fields.

Joan Vallvé, a former minister in Catalonia, spoke first. He said that the stateless nation of Catalunya is as large as



Joan Vallvé



Yannick Le Bourdonnec

Belgium and smaller than Brittany. In Spain, the Basques and Galicians do have devolved powers in various fields like education, health, and roads. They teach the native language in schools. In Catalonia they are able to cope with Catalan and Spanish. He said 98% understand Catalan. A long way to go for our political leaders in Brittany.

The journalist Yannick Le Bourdonnec addressed the audience on Sunday afternoon. In his last book *Que veulent donc les bretons?* (What are the Breton people asking for?) he gave a good sum up of the economical, social, and political situation in Brittany. In my opinion it's a good mix of 'la Bretagne dans 20 ans' (Breizh in 20 years) from the sociologist Ronan Le Coadic, and books and figures coming out of Rennes university with Jean Ollivro.

At the end of the day, the Parti Breton can

look back positively on this very interesting weekend and first Summer School. This new party, born in 2003, might change politics in Brittany if they can keep going forward with young politicians involved in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Gi Keltik.

## Call for more Breton Language Teachers

### AGM 2004

**Motion 2:** "This AGM calls on the French government to employ more Breton language teachers because there is more and more demand."

### Background

In 2002, the higher state court made it clear that French was the 'state language', therefore Diwan's schools could not be included in the state school system (Education Nationale). This made most parents and Breton people understand what a Jacobin republican state was about. Since 2002, the EN had told the parents that they were ready to train students in Breton courses in order to respond to the growing number of children in the bilingual schools, but they have not kept to their promise. In so far as they work for the state, it's not easy for Breton teachers to go on strike for Breton courses.

In secondary schools (lycées) teachers are not allowed any more to teach Breton if they are not enough children (at least six) in their classroom. Instead, the academy of Brittany bought a video conference display in order to teach Breton in five different schools. The socialist leaders of the Council of Brittany are refusing to give a single euro to this bad deal. At the end of the day, pupils are missing Breton lessons, and the education establishment make it clear that French alone is the language of this Jacobin state.

It looks as if the game is not over ...who's next?

Gi Keltik.



## Kampagn skoazell Diwan 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.*

*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.*

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/>



# Campaign for a New Language Act is renewed

On the night of the 17th October members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith covered the windows of numerous large private companies (chain shops, banks) in Cardiff with stickers and posters demanding "Ble mae'r Gymraeg?" (Where's the Welsh?). The action took place in Heol Albany/Albany Road, Yr Eglwys Newydd/Whitchurch, and Treganna/Canton districts and the companies targeted included the Royal Bank of Scotland, Somerfield, Lloyds the chemists, Iceland, Boots, and Tesco, all of which make at most minimal use of Welsh. These are all large organisations with chains of branches, and they could easily afford to introduce extensive Welsh-language policies. Cymdeithas draw a distinction between these and small local businesses in Anglicised areas who could find difficulty in operating such policies.

This action was to draw attention to the fact that the present Welsh Language Act

does not cover the private sector and thus private businesses are free to provide services only in English if they wish, and most do. The protest followed similar action in Fflint, Caernarfon, and Aberystwyth in the preceding weeks, and was part of Cymdeithas's campaign for a New Language Act. Spokesman Rhys Llwyd said "Time after time we see companies and institutions still refusing to provide most of their services in Welsh and trampling on the rights of Welsh-speakers. This will not change until we have a New Language Act. It is over ten years since the present Act was passed, and so it is a suitable time to consider revising and strengthening the legislation. Indeed, considering the way privatisation and technology have transformed the way services are provided, this is a matter of urgency." Society vice-chairman Hedd Gwynfor added "Through this action... we proclaim that the era of the old Language Act

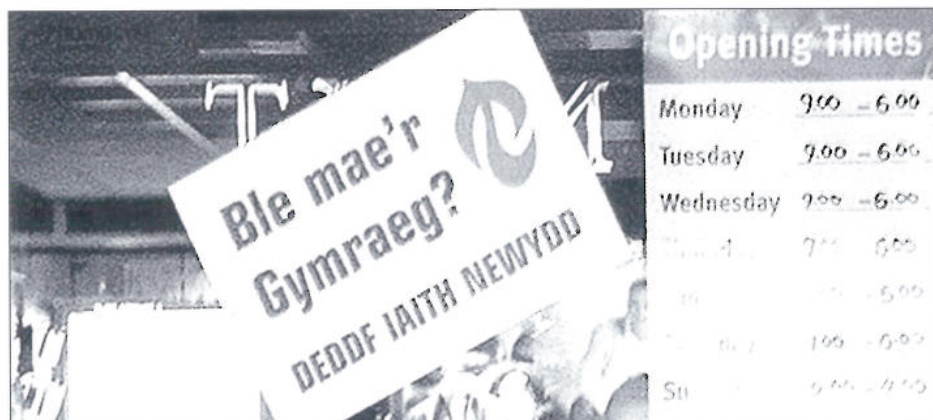
has come to an end. Wales has transformed since the passing of the old Act in 1993, and a New Language Act is back as a serious item on the political agenda."

Cymdeithas said that further action like this would take place in towns throughout Wales in the run-up to Christmas.

Indeed, the following Sunday night similar action took place in Bangor. Dozens of shops and offices were covered with the same stickers, including Kwik Save, Halifax, JJB Sports, Topshop, Burtons, Phones4U, and Debenhams. The message "Ble mae'r Gymraeg" was to be seen all over the city.

As a climax to this phase of the campaign, Cymdeithas will be holding a national forum on a New Language Act in the Old College, Aberystwyth, on Saturday March 12th 2005, where they will present their proposal for a new act. The aim will be to persuade the language quango to recommend that the Assembly demand a new language law from Westminster. Hywel Williams MP (Plaid, Caernarfon), who is in the process of drawing up a draft language bill to be put before Westminster, has agreed to address the forum and Meirion Prys Jones, the Welsh Language Board's Chief Executive, has agreed to respond. In the period up to the forum Cymdeithas are calling for a national debate on the possible contents of any new act. Their document *Canrif Newydd - Deddf Iaith Newydd* has been sent to numerous organisations and there is to be more internal debate within Cymdeithas too.

R. ap Tomos



## Plaid Cymru call for official EU status for Welsh

Plaid Cymru have launched a campaign to establish Welsh as an official language of the European Union following approval of the policy at Plaid Cymru's Annual Conference in Llandudno. The campaign will be led by the party's Deputy Leader Jill Evans MEP.

The party wants the proposed European Constitution translated into Welsh before it will consider supporting any referendum and is also calling for Welsh to become one of the EU's working languages. This would mean that Welsh speakers could write to the European institutions and expect a reply in their language and that Welsh speaking politicians could use the language in discussions on a European level.

The issue is back on the European agenda following Ireland's request for Irish to become an official language; the Spanish government is also making the same demands for Catalan,

Basque, and Galician.

Plaid Cymru Deputy Leader Jill Evans MEP will lead a campaign to put pressure on the London Government to negotiate the necessary changes. Conference delegates received campaign packs from the Euro MP. Jill Evans MEP said:

"It is a matter of principle for us that Welsh should be treated equally with the languages of other European countries. The European Union is funded through public money and should be there to serve all of the people - it should have a duty to provide services to Welsh speakers in their language of choice.

"We are calling for Welsh to be given the status of one of the EU's official working languages. This would mean that people could write to the European institutions and get a reply in Welsh. It would also mean that Welsh speaking politicians could use the Welsh

language in European negotiations with simultaneous translation provided into other languages.

"We're now seeing similar moves for Irish, Catalan and Basque to get this status. If it's good enough for them then why not Welsh? And let's not forget that Maltese already has this status even though fewer people speak the language than speak Welsh.

"Not only is giving Welsh official EU status right in principle, it would also be good news for the Welsh economy and for tourism, raising our profile on the international stage.

"It now needs the London Government to argue the case at the European level. We'll be doing all we can to make this happen and I personally look forward to the day when I can address the European Parliament in the language of the country I am privileged to represent."



# ANTI-WELSH RADIO CHANNEL IS WARNED

*Radio Carmarthenshire on 'Yellow card'*

The complaints by Cymdeithas yr Iaith and other language activists about a new local radio station's hostility to Welsh culture have been endorsed by the government quango Ofcom. Radio Carmarthenshire was given a licence to broadcast in Carmarthenshire, a county where 50% of the population still speak Welsh despite recent immigration, and which has the highest absolute number of Welsh-speakers in Wales. The licence stipulated a minimum number of hours to be broadcast in Welsh. Since they started broadcasting in June 2004 they have been criticised for their lack of Welsh language material and Welsh culture generally. Their nightly Welsh language programme broadcast from 7 to 9 every evening only plays English music with Welsh used to introduce each record. The only other Welsh heard on the station comprises bilingual trailers, twenty seconds of daily news bulletin and a patronising 'Welsh Word of the Day'. Cymdeithas are also unhappy that there are no live Welsh language programmes and therefore there is no opportunity for Welsh speakers to take part in programmes.

Cymdeithas have campaigned against the station using pickets and occupation of the studio.

The response to the campaign from the radio station has been unequivocal, with MD Keri Jones saying:

"It may be that 50% of the people of Carmarthenshire speak Welsh, but 100%

speak English"

\* "We do not play Welsh music and we never will"

\* "We will not support local bands unless they have an agreement with Sony or a similar company and have reached the British charts".

Jones even threatened to shorten the evening 'Welsh' program if Cymdeithas continued complaining.

A rally was held by Cymdeithas and local language group Menter Taf Myrddin on October 23rd outside the studio in Narberth, Pembrokeshire, which was addressed by Adam Price, Plaid MP for Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, and the bard Mererid Hopwood. It was followed by performances from two local bands, Mattoizd and Garej Dolwen - the type of music Radio Carmarthenshire ignores. Before the rally Catrin Howells of Menter Taf Myrddin said:

"While an alien broadcast will be going on inside the building, the alternative station will be heard from outside the building. The county's wealth of culture and talents, ignored now by Radio Carmarthenshire, will be heard in the language of over half the population of this county."

Speaking about the rally Radio Carmarthenshire's MD said "There is nothing for me to say that I haven't said before."

Following the rally Ofcom, the government regulator for the communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio,

telecommunications and wireless communications services, announced the results of an investigation they held following Cymdeithas's complaints. Ofcom's director in Wales said "Our monitoring suggested that the amount of Welsh broadcast by the station per day is less than that agreed. However, we are more concerned about the total absence of Welsh music ... It appears to be breaking the agreement clearly. Ofcom have the power to place statutory sanctions on licence holders including fines and shortening or revoking their licence to broadcast. We are today giving the station a yellow card and asking that they address these problems quickly and effectively".

In response to this Hedd Gwynfor of Cymdeithas yr Iaith said "Radio Carmarthenshire and their Chief Executive Keri Jones have shown total contempt for the Welsh language by not even broadcasting enough to meet the requirements of their license. Cymdeithas are calling for their licence to be revoked altogether and given to those with a real interest in reflecting and supporting the communities and culture of Carmarthenshire." He said that it was not a matter of the number of hours broadcast but of dealing with arrogance and prejudice towards the Welsh language and culture, and it is not a yellow card but only a red card that can deal with this.

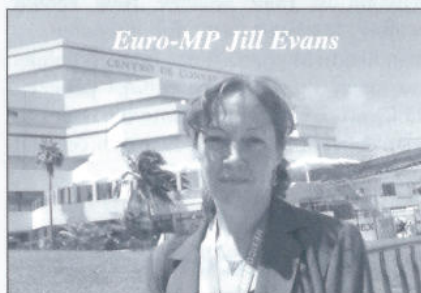
**Robat ap Tomos**

## **Evidence before admission, says Welsh MEP:**

Ahead of the report on Turkish EU membership, Plaid Cymru Euro-MP Jill Evans expressed dismay at reports that the European Commission was set to open the door for Turkey without first demanding hard evidence of progress on the country's human rights record, and in particular its treatment of the Kurdish people.

She explained that whilst Plaid Cymru and the European Free Alliance take the view that eventual Turkish membership of the EU would be good for Turkey and for Europe, there must be strict conditions attached, particularly in relation to human rights and the Turkish regime's treatment of the Kurdish minority:

"This is the reason for our dismay about the possibility of the Commission opening the door for Turkish membership with this report. Though our Group welcomes, up to a point, reports of a mechanism for slowing up or even halting the negotiations if Turkey fails to make progress on human rights, this falls well short of what we would have hoped for." Jill Evans, Deputy Leader of Plaid Cymru, continued:

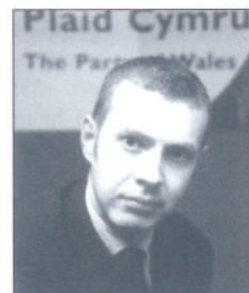


"Throughout this process we've voiced our concerns that not enough progress is being made in improving the human rights situation in Turkey, in particular the treatment of the Kurdish people.

"It remains the case that the linguistic, political and cultural rights of the Kurdish people do not get the recognition they deserve from the Turkish regime. Indeed it's reported that around 40% of the Kurdish population in Turkey cannot read or write - the legacy of an education system that doesn't recognise the Kurdish language. Can we really start accession negotiations against this backdrop?"



## **Impeach Blair Campaign**



Plaid MP Adam Price, shown here, is leading a campaign for the impeachment of Blair. Plaid members believe that an apology is no longer acceptable. Tony Blair must face the full consequences of his actions and his failure to resign has led to a call for impeachment.



# Éire

## tochailt beartaíthe le haghaídh shuíomh chiaráin naofa

Tá carthanas sa Chorn ag obair go dian chun tionscadal a chur le chéile d'fhonn tochailt a dhéanamh faoi fhothracha Theampall Chiaráin Naofa (Piran sa Chornais) an bhliain seo chugainn. Teampall meánaoiseach atá i gceist. De réir an bhéaloidis sa Chorn, tháinig Chiarán Naofa as Éirinn i mbád cloiche (cloch mhíle a ceanglaíodh air nuair a caitheadh le haill é) agus tháinig i dtír san áit atá ainmnithe air ó shin – Perranporth (Port Chiaráin). Gach bliain, déantar teacht an naoimh a cheiliúradh ar an 5 Márta. Dar ndóigh, is é Cros Chiaráin bratach náisiúnta na gCornach.

Cuireadh tús leis an tionscadal mar *Thionscadal Chiaráin Naofa* sa bhliain 2000 ach tá an bhuíon atá páirteach ann tar éis stádas carthanais a bhaint amach anois mar *Iontaobhas Chiaráin Naofa*. Is é cuspóir na buíne ná na hiarsmaí seandálaíoch a bhaineann le Chiarán Naofa i bPerranzabuloe (An Paróiste – “Chiarán sa Ghaineamh”) i gceantar Perranporth, an séipéal paróiste a tógadh ina dhiaidh sin san áireamh, a chaomhnú agus a fhorghnó.

Tá dhá mhórshuíomh reiligiúnda sna dumhcha ó thuaidh ó Perranporth: Aireagal Chiaráin Naofa ó luath-thréimhse na meánaoiseanna agus Teampall Chiaráin Naofa a tógadh ina dhiaidh sin. Is séadchomharthaí sceidealta iad an dá shuíomh agus tá cosaint dlí acu.

- Cill a tógadh go luath i ré na Críostaíochta is ea Aireagal Chiaráin Naofa ar tháinig clú uirthi san 19ú haois mar an foirgneamh Críostaíochta ba shine sa Bhreatain. Tá ardstádas aige toisc an bhaint atá aige le Chiarán Naofa, naomh náisiúnta an Choirn. De dheasca fadhbanna leanúnacha le loitiméireacht agus tuilte, cuireadh faoi ghaineamh arís í sa bhliain 1980 agus anois tá dumhach shaintógtha os a cionn.
- Tógadh Teampall Chiaráin Naofa timpeall na bliana 1150, tar éis don phobal éirí as Aireagal Chiaráin Naofa a úsáid, agus tá seans gur ar shuíomh réamhstaire a tógadh é.

### Tochailt faoin Teampall

Tháinig an teampall slán, Cros Cheilteach in aice leis agus dumhcha Thrá Penhale timpeall air. Cruinníonn na mílte timpeall ar an gCros agus ar an Teampall gach bliain mar chuid de cheiliúradh Lá Chiaráin Naofa.



*One of three Celtic crosses of its type in Cornwall, this cross stands next to the sand covered church of St Piran.*

Níor tugadh mórán aird ar an suíomh féin le fada. Tá codanna d'fhallaí an Teampaill le feiceáil cé go bhfuil an taobh istigh fós lán de smionagar agus de ghaineamh na farraige. Teastaíonn ó Iontaobhas Chiaráin Naofa tionscadal pobail a eagrú chun an smionagar a bhaint as an Teampall agus cabhrú cuid den chuma a bhí air a fháil ar ais.

I dteannta radharc níos fearr ar an Teampall a chur ar fáil, beidh obair chaomhnóireachta ar siúl ar na fallaí atá fágtha agus ar ghnéithe eile a nochtadh. Chomh maith leis sin, eagrófar taispeántas áitiúil de na nithe a aimsíodh ar an suíomh tar éis na tochailte, cuirfear leis na háiseanna léirmhíniúcháin sa cheantar agus déanfar plean bainistíochta seandálaíochta le

haghaídh an cheantair a cheapadh. Beidh Seirbhís Timpeallachta Stairiúla Chomhairle Contae an Choirn ag tabhairt lámh chúnta don Iontaobhas san obair seo go léir.

Arsa Eileen Carter, urlabhraí de chuid an Iontaobhais:

“Cuid thábhachtach de thaipéis stairiúil Chiaráin Naofa, Perranporth agus an Choirn is ea Teampall Chiaráin. Is dóigh linne go gcuideoidh an tochailt faoin Teampall chun a bhfuil fágtha a thabhairt chun beatha athuair, rud a chuirfidh ar chumas daoine tuiscint a fháil ar an stair iomlán a bhain leis.

Ina theannta sin, tabharfaidh an tochailt an deis do mhuintir na háite páirt a ghlacadh san obair chun a dteampall a aisghabháil as an ngaineamh.”

### Suirbhéireacht Gheofisiciúil

Cuireadh suirbhéireacht gheofisiciúil ar bun, Márta 2004, chun léargas a fháil ar na hiarsmaí atá fágtha faoin talamh timpeall ar Theampall Chiaráin Naofa. Chuir “Oidhreacht Shasana” an maoiniú ar fáil ar iarratas ó Sheirbhís Timpeallachta Stairiúla Chomhairle Contae an Choirn, agus gnólacht as Devon, Substrata Ltd., is ea a dheimhniú an tsuirbhéireachta féin.

I dteannta taifeadadh a dhéanamh ar an mbábhún, déineadh taifeadadh ar fhianaise thábhachtach faoi sheanBhaile an Teampaill. San áireamh ansin, bhí roinnt páirceanna beaga siar ón mbábhún agus fianaise ar rian an chéachta agus ar shaothrú talún a bheith ar siúl. Thángthas, ina theannta sin, ar thrí cinn d'aimhrialtachtaí maighnéadacha a d'fhéadfadh a bheith bainteach le hurtheach na reilige, tígín nó foirgneamh dá leithéid.

Dar le Dick Cole as Comhairle Contae an Choirn go bhfuil torthaí na suirbhéireachta go hiontach. Ar seisean:

“Leis an suirbhéireacht seo, táthar tar éis lion mór gnéithe seandálaíoch a aithint timpeall ar Theampall Chiaráin Naofa, gnéithe ar léir baint a bheith acu le lonnaíocht stairiúil Bhaile an Teampaill, lonnaíocht atá anois faoin talamh. Ábhar sceitimíní is ea eolas a fháil faoi mhéid agus cineál na n-iarsmaí seo, nithe atá anois faoi ghaineamh a séideadh anuas orthu leis na céadta bliain.

Beidh torthaí na suirbhéireachta an-úsáideach maidir le cabhrú oibreachta timpeall ar Theampall Chiaráin Naofa amach anseo a bheartú.”

**Tuilleadh faisnéise:** Dick Cole (Comhairle Contae an Choirn) 00441872 322056 / [ricole@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:ricole@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Summary

*This article describes the work being undertaken to restore St Piran's church, now covered under sand dunes near Perranporth in Cornwall.*

**Vivian Uíbh Eachach.**



# JOHN REDMOND'S FOLLY

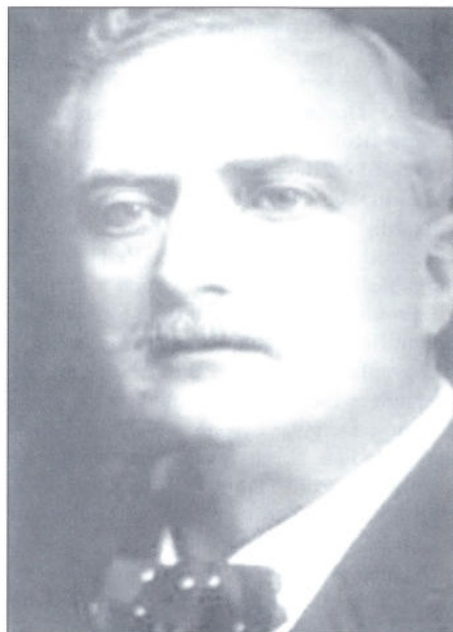
In an address given by former Taoiseach John Bruton, to a conference held by the 'Reform Movement', last September, He questioned the need for the 1916 Rising, and suggested that Irish independence could have been achieved without a shot being fired. This erroneous view is, unfortunately, shared by many, especially those of the 'revisionist' school. What is not widely known is that on the eve of the Great War, John Redmond, the Irish Party leader agreed to Partition, limiting Home Rule to a 26 county Southern Ireland. This was John Redmond's Folly!

After the disaster of the Parnell split, Redmond had re-united the Irish Party. In the 1911 election, they held the balance of power at Westminster. Redmond's price for supporting Herbert Asquith's Liberals to form a government was a new Irish Home Rule Bill, which would be put before parliament in 1912. Edward Carson's Unionists and their Tory allies were appalled. Even allowing for the possibility of a small number of Liberal defectors, the

numbers just wouldn't add up. Once the Bill passed its final reading, it would become law. With the formation of an Ulster Volunteer Force, extra parliamentary methods came to the fore.

On April 25th 1914 a massive arms importation took place at Larne. Faced with an armed insurrection, should Home Rule be enforced on Ulster, Prime Minister Asquith's nerve failed. He met with Tory leader, Bonar Law, who suggested excluding at least four of the six North Eastern counties, unless a majority there voted to accept Home Rule. John Redmond reiterated his view that Irish nationalists could never assent to the mutilation of the Irish nation. In early February, Asquith had given Redmond a number of reassurances that both he and his Cabinet were opposed to even the temporary exclusion of any part of Ulster. Now, faced with an armed Unionist militia contemplating a coup d'état, Asquith came up with a new proposal; any Irish county where a majority of its voters so decided, could opt out of Home Rule for

a six year period. After six years, unless Westminster had made a new provision, these counties would then automatically come under Home Rule.



*John Redmond*

## Gaelscoileanna Progress – new attitude from a new Minister?



*Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanifin, reviewing the Irish language software package 'An Cat Dubh' with pupils from Gaelscoil Osraí in Kilkenny following her launch of it after her address to the Gaelscoileanna Education and Annual Conference.*

The new Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanifin, was a guest speaker at this year's very successful Education and Annual Conference of Gaelscoileanna in Kilkenny in November. She at least, while showing the influence of the Department of Education mandarins in some parts of her speech, did, unlike her predecessor Noel Dempsey, indicate a willingness to accept a delegation from the organisation to discuss a range of issues affecting the position of many Gaelscoileanna and the broad range of difficulties facing Irish Medium Education. A series of very informative

workshops were held over the weekend ranging from curriculum oriented ones to those directed at planning second level schools (see also p.3). Amongst matters of concern shown in the reports of the executive and in motions discussed were the attitude of the Department to immersion education in the infant years in particular, the pressing need for development of second level schools and rejection of the policy evidenced by the Dept. earlier in the year with their refusal to sanction two new primary schools in Mullingar and Dublin. (See Carn 126).

After consulting with Ulster nationalist Joe Devlin, who had most to lose, given his position as an Ulster MP, Redmond suggested a temporary arrangement to allow Antrim, Armagh, Derry and Down to remain outside the Home Rule area for three years. Redmond then presented this watered-down opt out clause to Asquith. After more long hours of fruitless negotiations, Redmond finally agreed to the four-county, six-year opt out clause, but only as his very last concession. What John Redmond didn't know was that neither the Tories nor Edward Carson knew anything about these new proposals. When the new offer was put to Carson some days later, he rejected it contemptuously, stating,

*"We do not want a sentence of death with a stay of execution for either three or six years".*

As the Home Rule Bill got its second reading in the House of Commons, Carson took his members out of the House and returned to Belfast. The rumour was he was going there to stage a Unionist coup. The Liberal government watched and waited as Carson's now well-armed Ulster Volunteer Force prepared to flex its muscles. While the Irish Volunteers were organising their own small-scale arms importation at Howth, King George V invited all parties to a conference at Buckingham Palace in an attempt to find a way past the deadlock. The conference which took place from the 21st to 24th of July was amicable enough,



# Kernow



## GWIASVA RAG BAGASOW BYGHAN EUROPEK.

Yma gwasva pur dhe les a-dro dhe vagasow byghan Europek. Trigva an wasva ma yw [www.eurominority.org](http://www.eurominority.org) Gwasva bagasow byghan Europek, kenedhlek, ranndiryel, gonisogethek ha yethoniethek, poblow genesik, bagasow ethnek, tiredh arbennik, rannvroyow a omsyns dihaual a dus erell ha gans plegansyow federalek yw. **Organisation pour les Minorités Européennes (OME)** yw hanow an kowethas. Henna a styr **Restrans rag an Bagasow Byghan Europek**. Hwithrans, derivadow hag avonsyans yw amkan an kowethas ma gras dhe lavur 90 kesskrifer a-berth yn Europa.

Yma baner dhe'n OME ynwedh. An baner a dhiskwa unyans yntra tus Europa ha liester poblow Europa. Baner an OME yw sevys war vaneryow Konsel Europa ha'n Unyans Europek. An sterennow yn kylgh a dhiskwa an liester, an vri ha'n golowder gonisogethek an bagasow byghan.

Gwrys veu an wasva ma yn 1999 yn



Michel  
Bolloré-Pellé

Kemper (Breton Vyghan) gans **Michel Bolloré-Pellé**. Breton yw an den yowynk ma. Privedh yw an kowethas ma ha nys yn kevrennys gans an Unyans Europek. Pur boesek yw lavur an OME ha'n wasva yw hembrenkys ha gwithys dhe dhydh pup-prys. Gwrys yw an lavur ma gans an gesskriforyon hag ordenys gans **Michel Bolloré-Pellé**. Gweresys yw **Michel Bolloré-Pellé** (Ordenor hag alhwedhor) gans **Darko GAVROVSKI** (skrifennyas), **Perdu**

**PERRA** (kynsa islywydh) ha **Johannes HOFMEISTER** (nessa islywydh). Ygerys yw an OME dhe bub bolonjedh da. Heb kost yw bos esel an OME. Ty a yll dos ha bos esel an OME ow pos kesskrifer. Rag bos kesskrifer res yw ri derivadow kwar ha heptu heb godrosow aghel. Pub kesskrifer a yll skrifa y erthygel yn yeth y dhewis. Nys yw treyls an wasva ma dhe Gernewek hwath ha da via kavoes kesskrifer kerneweger parys dhe dreylya an wasva ha dhe ri derivadow yn-kever Kernow ha'n Kernewek !

Pella derivadow orth: **Eurominority**, Michel BOLLORÉ-PELLÉ, 86, kae Stêr an Oded, **29000 Kemper, Breizh / Bretagne** (Dre Bow Frynk) **Tél. +33 (0)2 98 52 96 46** **[www.eurominority.org](http://www.eurominority.org)**

### Summary:

[www.eurominority.org](http://www.eurominority.org) is a website created in 1999 by a young Breton called **Michel Bolloré-Pellé**. The aims of the website are research, investigation and promotion of the minorities of Europe. **Michel Bolloré-Pellé** is helped in his task by **Darko Gavrovski**, **Perdu Perra**, **Johannes Hofmeister** and also by 90 correspondents all over Europe. Membership is free and this website is open to every good will. Everybody can become a correspondent. Articles written by the correspondents have to be objective, neutral and non-racists. Cornish correspondents are needed as the website has still not been translated into Cornish.

José CALVETE

## Henry and Katharine Jenner

A Celebration of Cornwall's Culture, Language and Identity

Edited by Derek R. Williams



## Henry and Katherine Jenner

A Celebrations of Cornwall's Culture, Language and Identity

ISBN 1 903427 19 3 Price £12.50

This collection of essays is published to mark the centenary of the publication of Henry Jenner's Handbook of the Cornish Language in 1904, a landmark in the revival of Cornwall's ancient tongue, and to celebrate the contribution to Cornwall's culture of Jenner and his wife, Kitty Lee. Having helped Cornwall gain acceptance as a Celtic nation by the Pan-Celtic Congress, the Jenners went on to found the Old Cornwall Societies and Henry was to become Cornwall's first Grand Bard. Kitty Lee was a talented painter, poet and novelist, whose work until now has received little recognition. The book includes essays by Henry Jenner and poems by Jenner and Kitty Lee, with contributions by, David Everett, Alan M. Kent, Donald Rawe, Tim Saunders, Brian Coombes and Derek R. Williams, who explore the Jenners' writings, their achievements and their Anglo-Catholic and Royalist beliefs.

This book is produced in association with Gorseth Kernow.

To order a copy of the book contact:

Francis Boutle Publishers, 272 Alexandra Road, London 22 7BG.

Tel: 020 8889 7744

Email: [jenner@francisboutle.demon.co.uk](mailto:jenner@francisboutle.demon.co.uk)



## Yn Impirolaghys Reeshtagh

Lurg y Nah Chaggey Mooar, shimmei peiagh va smooinghyn dy row eash noa vaynrey cheet rish. Va ny Natseeyn currit mow, va ny h-Ashoonyn Unnaneysit currit er bun, as feiy ny cruinney va sleih streeu son seyrnys as cairys. Ayns cheeraghyn Oarpagh dy liooar, v'eh coontit dy ve yn red kiart dy chroo shirveishyn-slaynt as shirveishyn-ynsee son dy chooilley pheiaagh, boght ny berchagh. Ec y traa cheddin, va ny shenn impiiraghtyn Oarpagh goll sheese y liargagh dy tappee. Ny veggan as ny veggan, va ny meeryn slaait jiarg ec Sostnee niartal er caslys-cheerey yn teihll geddyn sorch dy heyrnys. Va'n red cheddin taghyrt bentyn rish ny h-impiraghtyn Frangagh as Belgagh as impiiraghtyn elley. Ga dy daik y Caggey Feayr rish as va sleih goaill aggle roish caggey cheshveanagh, hannee meeryn mooarey dy yerkallys.

Tra huitt yn Unnaneys Soveidjagh veih my cheilley, va tooilley jerkallys ayn. Dy firrinagh, she yn Impiraght Rooshagh huitt veih my cheilley. Lhig ny Soveidjee er dy row ooilley yn pobble syn Unnaneys oc corrym, agh, ginsh yn irriney, va laue yn eaghtyr ec ny Rooshee.

Agh cha row yn jerkallys shen cooilleenit. Vrish caggaghyn magh ayns cheeraghyn dy liooar, yn Yugoslaavey ny mast'oc. Fo'n ennym foalsey jeh CEjeianaghey<sup>1</sup> (CEmodernising<sup>1</sup>), ta pooaraghyn lajer er vooadaghey yn vaarney eddyr sleih boght as lught yn argid. Ta'n CEdeallal seyr<sup>1</sup> stroie ny beaghyn jeh sleih feiy ny cruinney.

Gyn ourys, shione dhyt ooilley yn stoo shoh hannah. Agh, myr Celtiee, erskyn ooilley, shegin dooin cur geill da'n impirolaghys noa. Neayr's l'ing ny Romanee ny shlee na daa veeilley blein er dy henney, ta ny Celtiee er hurranse kyndagh rish yn impirolaghys. Shoh yn polasee ta dellal rish sleih as cheeraghyn ta currit fo chosh myr greieyn-obbyr ta currit er y teihll cour cosney argid son ny mainshtyryn oc. Foastagh, ta ny h-aghtyn-smooinghyn ec ymmodde Celtiee soilshaghey dy vel yn impirolaghys jannoo orroo ec y traa t'ayn.

Va kuse jin bolvaneagh dy liooar dy chredjal ny skeealyn dy row yn impirolaghys goll ersooyl son dy bragh lurg y Nah Chaggey Mooar. Cha row shen kiart - t'eh cheet erash dy lajer nishtagh, goll er

leeideil ec deiney goll rish George W. Bush as Putin sy Roosh.

Neayr's hoie ny h-Arabee shen er America lesh etlanyn, ta leshtal cooie er ve ec Bush as Putin as fir-toshee elley dy lhiggey er dy vel sheshaght agglagh dy h-ymaggleideryn gobbraghey ry cheilley feiy ny cruinney, dy jeean as dy fondagh. As ny jean jarrood y dooinney treih shen, Tony Blair. Agh hooar yn FBI as yn CIA nagh vel lheid y cheshaght agglagh shen ayn. Son shickyrys, ta possanyn dy gheiney debejagh ayn ayns ymmodde cheeraghyn ta arryltagh dy varroo sleih elley as jannoo reddyn scammyltagh elley. Agh t'eh er ve myr shen rish ram bleeanntyn.

Ta reiltyssyn ennagh goaill ymmyd jeh skeealyn ard-yindyssagh mychione Al Qa'ida (Yn Undinys) dy cheau ersooyl cairyn sleih. Cooinee er yn chennaghys. Shimmei leigh hranlaasagh va bree currit jee ec fir-toshee Hostyn harrish ny bleeanntyn kyndagh rish yn eab dy chur Nerin fo chosh. Ta ny leighyn shoh er chur stiagh er sleih cadjin ayns Sostyn, Bretyn, Nalbin, Mannin as y Chorn chammah as orroosyn ayns Nerin hene. As nish, kyndagh rish CEY Chaggey noi'n Atchim<sup>1</sup> t'ad croo leighyn smessey foast ayns America, Sostyn as cheeraghyn elley. As ta Putin er naavioghey yn impirolaghys Rooshagh liorish y chaggey scammyltagh ayns Chechnya.

Agh ta'n sampleyr share jeh'n impirolaghys noa ry gheddyn syn Earack nish. Rish ymmodde bleeanntyn, ta Rumsfeld as e chaarjyn er naarlaghey dy hoie er y cheer shen. Nish t'eh jeant oc - as cre'n brock fuilltagh t'ayn. Jarrood y blaatar mychione Wappynyn Cour Ard-Chragh. As jarrood y boghtynid mychione seyrey pobble - t'eh jeeaghyn nagh row ad laccal agh geddyn greim er yn ooill, s'cummei vel meeillaghyn dy leih oney marrooit.

Ayns Sostyn, ta'n impirolaghys noa ry akin ayns ny claareyn CEshennaghys<sup>1</sup> ta goll er creeley er y chellveeish. Jeeagh er y strane dy chlaareyn jeant ec y fer shen David Starkey son Ammyr Kiare. Ta Starkey er ngoll erash dys ny shenn laghyn as eshyn livrey goo Yee mychione cre cho yindyssagh as va reeaghyn as mraane-rein Hostyn. Choud's ta fys aym, cha row ny Celtee imraait echey agh un cheayrt - myr pobble neu-feeue va scughit ersooyl ec Anglo-

Hostnee va jeeaghyn da'n teihll yn agh dy chroo ashoon veagh reill harrish y chruinney. Ta Starkey gra dy vel Crooin Hostyn er nyannoo reddyn mooarey son CEyn ashoon<sup>1</sup>. Shione dou cre'n ashoon t'eh loayrt mychione. Ny sodjey, ta Starkey corree CEy vel shin er chur sthap er ynsaghey shennaghys as cultoor yn ashoon ain dy kiart<sup>1</sup>. Gyn ourys, t'eh smooinghyn dy bare dooin jarrood y theay ayns shennaghys. Share y lught-reeoil my t'ou cur yn impirolaghys er e hoshiaght. Ta Starkey ny charrey mooar da'n Phrinse Chalse, ren gra CEta shin er choayl yn agh dy hoiggal yn eiraght ashoonagh ain. T'eh ooilley kyndagh rish ny bleeanntyn tree feed<sup>1</sup>. Cre'n jeeyl va jeant ec ny bleeanntyn shen. As ta shin toiggal c'ired ta'n prinse ooasle cheet er tra t'eh loayrt mychione CEyn eiraght ashoonagh ain<sup>1</sup> as CEShin<sup>1</sup>. Shione dhyt dy vel reddyn beggan ersooyl cam tra ta Starkey gra CEShe yn rheam reeoil yn agh dooghyssagh dy reill. Gagh sorch elley dy reiltys, she red aggairagh t'ayn<sup>1</sup>.

Fer -shennaghys elley, shen dooinney enmyssit Ferguson. Ta eshyn lane shickyry dy row (as dy vel) impiiraghtyn foaysagh. Vel shen yn oyr hooar eh obbyr yindyssagh myr olloo niartal ayns ollooscoill Americaanagh myr Yale ny Harvard? Son shickyrys, ta ny CEneocons<sup>1</sup> Americaanagh goll rish Rumsfeld slane ayns foayr jeh'n impirolaghys. Shimmei neocon as shimmei sidoor Americaanagh ta lhaih dy jeean mychione yn Impiraght Ghoaldagh nish. Foddee ad jeeaghyn da ny h-Arabee treih yn agh dy chosney yn deynlaght.

Foddee nagh vodmayd, ny Celtee, jannoo monney mychione ny cooishyn shoh. Agh er y chooid sloo fodmayd gaccan mychione claareyn chellveeish nagh vel agh ashoonaghys Sostnagh. As ta currym er l'eh ain dy ve caggey noi'n impirolaghys. Son shickyrys, ren ram jeh ny shennayraghyn ain cooney dy jeean lesh yn impirolaghys - jeeagh er ny captanyn-marrey Manninagh va dellal ayns sleabyn. Agh er y laue elley, va shennayraghyn ain va mastey yn chieid sleih va currit fo chosh ec yn impirolaghys syn Oarpey. T'eh fassanagh ec y traa t'ayn dy hannaghtyn dty host. Lhig dooin gyllagh magh.

### Summary

*A new and dangerous imperialism is appearing, led by the unholy alliance of the Bush clique, Blair and Putin. Celts may appear powerless in the face of all this, but the insular Celts should at least protest about the stream of imperialist propaganda masquerading as history which is appearing on British television.*

Brian Stowell



# Celtica

## AGM 2004

This year's AGM took place on the 16th October 2004 in Perranporth, Cornwall. The following resolutions were adopted for progress by the branches.

### Alba

This AGM proposes that we liaise with the Unrepresented Nations of People Organisation (UNPO) with a view to membership of the Celtic League.

This AGM requests that the International Olympic Committee hereby recognises the legitimate right of the ancient Celtic nations (Alba / Scotland, Breizh / Brittany, Cymru / Wales, Kernow / Cornwall, Mannin / Isle of Man) and in doing so proscribe the false, non-nations of Britain and France from participation.

### Breizh

This AGM calls on the French government for the reunification of a Brittany of 5 *departments* as it was before World War II without any opposition to connections with other Atlantic regions.

This AGM calls on the French government to employ more Breton language teachers because there is more and more demand.

### Cymru

The AGM notes the decision of Cymuned to adopt a strategy of trying to win recognition of the Bro Gymraeg as an entity in order to preserve Welsh as a naturally spoken community language. The AGM endorses this direction.

### Éire

This AGM calls on the new Minister of Education, Mary Hanifin, TD, to reverse Dept. of Education and Science policies which are curbing the expansion of Gaelscoileanna in the Republic. In particular we call for an end to the ridiculous policy of stating that demand for new schools must be accommodated in existing Gaelscoileanna, when they are in fact full and have little room for recreation let alone any totally disruptive expansion. We also call for a change to the date requirement for application for new Gaelscoileanna from September to December.

This AGM calls on the Irish and British governments to ensure that the Good Friday agreement in the North is maintained and implemented. The Assembly must be



*Sua Bowen,  
Secretary, Kernow Branch*

restored and cross border bodies fully implemented.

This AGM congratulates Stádas on its successful campaign to get the Irish government to ask for full EU working language status for Irish. We call on the EU Council of Ministers and the EU Commission to grant the request of the Irish government for full EU working language status for Irish and to expedite its implementation.

This AGM demands that the Irish Government stop its collusion with the US in the Iraq war in its illegal granting of the use of Shannon Airport for transfer of US military personnel and material. We call for the proper maintenance of Ireland's neutrality.

The Celtic League deplores what has happened in the recent past in the six counties of the North of Ireland in regard to collusion between Westminster State security forces and loyalist paramilitaries. This AGM calls for an immediate independent international inquiry into the London Government's collusion in murders committed there in the past.

### Kernow

1.1 That the Church of England in Cornwall should be disestablished to create a new province of the Church of England - a Church of Cornwall.

- 1.2 That the Archbishop of Canterbury should acknowledge on behalf of the Church of England its part in provoking and suppressing the 1549 Prayer Book Uprising.
- 1.3 That the Archbishop should make a statement of regret on behalf of the Church of England for all it has done since 1549 and continues to do to suppress Cornwall's national identity, political freedom, language and culture.

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN TO BECOME SUBJECT OF RACIAL EQUALITY COMPLAINT

A Perthshire man is promising to make a complaint to the Commission for Racial Equality the next time he hears God Save the Queen played.

Mark Hirst, 35, of Abernethy, a public relations executive, said he had already contacted the commission for advice and intended to report a racist incident next time he hears the anthem.

Mr Hirst, who is not a member of any political party, said: "I have long been bewildered that God Save the Queen, with its openly racist and anti-Scottish lyrics, has not led to prosecution by the authorities.

"While Flower of Scotland simply asks the English to have a wee think to themselves, God Save the Queen wallows in the 'crushing' of our rebellious ancestors."

He said the commission advised him to make an official complaint the next time he heard the song played.

Mr Hirst does not intend to scour events schedules and TV listings in the hope of finding some place where he will hear it soon, but insists he will report an incident the next time he chances upon the anthem.

He added: "As for my preference to the Scottish national anthem, I think Flower of Scotland is a fine tune with inspiring lyrics, and long before the chattering middle classes started organising focus groups and petitioning the parliament, it was accepted and embraced by the people as our rightful anthem.

"Had it not been for the preference of Scots to sing Flower of Scotland as their anthem these last few decades, we might still be droning along to the tune which celebrates our defeat and humiliation at the hands of our English conqueror."

Mr Hirst also described it as ironic that the British anthem's lyrics were written to celebrate the defeat of the Jacobites.

He said the tune was an old Jacobite one, with the lyrics changed to suit the political agenda of the day.

*The third verse in full  
Lord grant that Marshal Wade  
May by thy mighty aid  
Victory bring.  
May he sedition hush,  
And like a torrent rush,  
Rebellious Scots to crush.  
God save the King/Queen!*





# The Chough - an Avian Link between the Celtic Nations

The Celtic League journal *Carn* is subtitled *A link between the Celtic Nations*, because the word "*Carn*" occurs in all of the 6 Celtic languages. As a Manxman who has watched choughs for almost all of his life, I would like to suggest that this bird is also a link between the Celtic nations, as it occurs in all of the Celtic countries.

For those who are not familiar with the chough, either in the wild or on the Cornish coat-of-arms, it is a crow with glossy black plumage and striking red legs and bill. It is about the same size as the much more numerous and widespread jackdaw. Unlike other species of crow, such as the magpie and raven, the diet of the chough consists mostly of insects and other invertebrates. It is particularly spectacular when flying, both when soaring with wing feathers spread out like fingers and when swooping down with closed wings to its nesting and feeding sites. A sociable bird, it seems to do best in areas where there are lots of other choughs around to join in flocks for flying, feeding and roosting. Its name in the Gaelic languages is onomatopoeic. Thus, in Manx it is called *caaig*. The English name is not onomatopoeic, but a Cornishman once told me that he had heard the name "chough" pronounced like "chaw."

The Celtic League's definition of a Celtic nation is one which has a living Celtic language. How can I claim the chough as a Celtic bird? Although the species is fairly widespread in mountains in southern Europe, especially Spain, as far as north western Europe is concerned it only breeds in the 6 Celtic countries. There is no other species of bird which has a range like that. As examples, the two birds flanking the Manx Government heraldic shield are the raven and the peregrine falcon. The raven nests in the 6 Celtic countries, but also in all the other countries of north western Europe except Luxembourg. The peregrine falcon is, I believe, extinct in Breizh. It breeds in the other 5 Celtic countries, but also in parts of England and Scandinavia.

Even within some of the individual Celtic countries, the chough is concentrated in what might be regarded as being some of the most traditionally Celtic areas. Thus, although choughs are found almost all round the rocky coasts of Mannin, they are especially concentrated in the far south west, where more than 40% of the breeding population occupies less than 3% of the Island's area. It was

in this part of Mannin where some of the last of the old generation of Native Speakers of our language lived in the twentieth century, including Ned Maddrell himself. Coincidentally, in the same way that the census of the human population in 2001 found a higher number than for many years of people who professed an understanding of the Manx language, a census of the chough population in 2002 found 426 birds (including 150 breeding pairs) in Mannin, likely to be the largest population since at least the mid 19th century.

In Alba, the chough is now restricted to just two of the Inner Hebrides, Islay and Colonsay, except for one pair that nests in Galloway. It is thought that the Galloway choughs went there from Mannin, thereby providing a link between the two countries. Single pairs also nested on Jura and Mull until recently. The population of choughs in Alba is now about 80 pairs. Choughs are more widespread in Cymru, with at least 200 pairs, but most breed in the west. Likewise, although there were more than 900 pairs in Eire in 1992, they were found mostly in the west, especially in Cork, Kerry and Donegal. I do not have an up-to-date figure for Breizh, but there were fewer than 40 pairs in 1988, and most of those were in the far west, except for some on Belle Ile.

As a Manx enthusiast for the chough, I like to point out that the species occurs in a higher population density in Mannin than in any other country in Europe (except for Andorra). However, I am happy to concede that the strongest historical and traditional link with the species is with Kernow. That said, when I wrote about the chough in *Dhooraght* a few years ago, I lamented the fact that it was extinct in that country. On a visit to Kernow in 1982, I bought a fine little book by T.O. Darke called *The Cornish Chough*, published by D. Bradford Barton Ltd. of Truro. In it, Mr Darke described the history of the chough in the country, the disappearance from the south coast in the 19th century, the eventual extinction in the north, reasons for the decline and prospects for a return of the species to Kernow, which he regretted were nil. However, even at the time of my trip to Kernow, Paradise Park in Hayle had been working for several years towards releasing choughs that they had bred in aviaries. This scheme was not supported by the ornithological establishment, including the Royal

Society for the Protection of Birds, not least because they felt that the reasons for the chough's extinction were not fully known and, it was claimed, had not been corrected.

As a Celt, the extinction of the chough in Kernow concerned me for many years. I have always been very interested in wildlife, and one of the animal books that I had as a young boy contained a photograph of 2 young choughs on a cliff in Kernow, but the last Cornish chough died in 1973, when I was 15. Much of the research on the ecology of the species during the last 30 years or so has concerned the effects of changes of agriculture. Grazing by livestock and rabbits is very important, but so is some arable farming, like grass and grain growing. Stubble and newly mown grass fields often attract large flocks of choughs in areas where there is a sizeable population. The importance of mixed agriculture is probably best illustrated in the far S.W. of Mannin by the two farms of Cregneash (Church Farm) and Shennvalley (Sound Farm). With all due respect to Manx National Heritage, Shennvalley has almost always attracted the largest numbers of choughs of any farm in Mannin, including the best ever spring count, 86 on 22nd May this year. This was not just an isolated event; the area is consistently good for choughs.

Another factor that contributed to the decline and eventual extinction of the Cornish chough was persecution by man. The concentration on agricultural changes seems to have underestimated the effects of the collection of eggs and chicks, and the killing of adult birds. In Mannin, a decrease in the chough population in the mid 19th century was preceded by the likes of the visit by one Sir William Jardine in 1827, who wrote of acquiring "nearly thirty specimens in a forenoon." Reading *The Cornish Chough*, it is clear that egg collectors from England must take some of the blame for the extinction of the Cornish chough, offering Cornishmen what must have seemed like large sums of money to risk their lives taking clutches of eggs from the caves, fissures and mines where the nests were placed. Fortunately, humanity's attitude towards our fellow creatures has improved greatly since the days of Sir William Jardine and his like, but some persecution of choughs still taken place. With the increased numbers of choughs in Mannin, some are nesting in places that are much more accessible to people, resulting in an increased risk of accidental disturbance. However, some pairs of choughs are very resilient to quite high levels of human activity near their nests, with the females sitting tight on the eggs, for example.

I visited in Kernow in 1982, and stayed in Tregowris, near St Keverne. One day, I went for a very long walk, south to



Republicans to participate in British direct rule of the six occupied counties in the north of Ireland. Adams and his purloined posse are swapping semtex for summer homes, guns for governmental positions, and they are cementing over arms dumps to secure their status as second class citizens in their Loyalist controlled state – not what George and his compatriots had in mind when they set about their clandestine weapons quest.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention George's support of freedom movements worldwide. Of George it was said, "Never met a revolution he didn't like.", and to paraphrase the old ballad, "God grant you glory, old George, and open heavens to all your men, the cause that called you may call tomorrow in another cause for the Green again."

**Thomas McGrath,**  
**Celtic League American Branch**

George Harrison was not in the street sense a Centrist. He was not an Irish language scholar such as his fellow Irish republican Martin O'Caer. Nonetheless, his life should serve as an example to those of us who seek to establish an ethnic or cultural identity that extends beyond the borders of one particular country.

Although born in the small west of Ireland village of Shammer, County Mayo, George viewed the Irish people's struggle for national and cultural identity in a global setting. He saw parallels to the cause of Africans oppressed by the apartheid regime in South Africa. This affinity was most clearly evidenced when David Ndaba of the African National Congress testified as a character witness at his trial.

George took great pride in detailing the role of the IRA in the fight against fascism in Spain. He time and again expressed his solidarity with the Basque people in their efforts.

George was truly as he was described by Ruairi Ó Brádaigh in a message to the Michael Flannery dinner in his honour "A rebel without a pause" but never without a purpose and a goal.

Those of us who wish to attain Pan-Celtic unity would do well to follow the transnational vision of one of the sincerest and courageous men it has been our privilege to know.

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# Britonia: camiños novos

**SIMON YOUNG**

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Paperback 167 pages (March 2002), (140x215 mm)

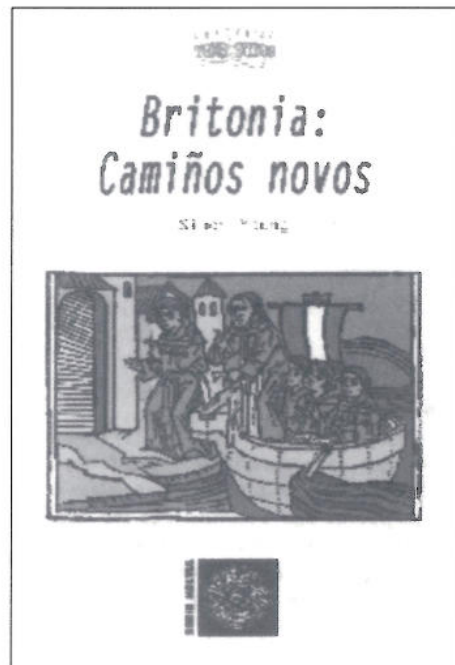
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**Publisher:** Editorial Toxosoutos, Serie Keltia. **TOXOSOUTOS**, is a recently established Galician publishing company covering medieval Galician history and language and also Celtic studies and Galician literature. The Keltia series has very interesting titles dealing with the Celts in Galicia as well as with the Celts in general. Visit their website at [www.toxosoutos.com](http://www.toxosoutos.com)

**About the Author:** Simon Young is 31 years old. This young English author is now living in Italy. He became interested in the early Middle Ages (400-1000) and especially the British Celts in this period at university, ten years ago. Since then he has written 3 books and many articles both academic and freelance on the theme and, at the moment, he is in the middle of a doctorate at Florence University where he is cataloguing «*The Insular Peregrini*» (Columbanus and others). This April 2005, **Wedensfield and Nicholson** will be publishing his latest book «*AD 500*», which is a kind of travelogue describing a trip around Britain and Ireland. His interest in Britonia (the British Celtic colony in Spain) began many years ago when an undergraduate at Cambridge. As a freelance journalist he has written on European minorities and the right of self determination. In 2001, he received the «*Premio Historia Medieval de Galicia*» (Galicia Medieval History Prize) for his book «*Britonia: camiños novos*».

### Book Description:

This book covers a subject seldom covered by Celtic scholars and little known among British Celts. Galicia has always claimed a Celtic past. But this Celtic past is not only pre-Roman as most people think. Like Brittany, though on a smaller scale, Galicia received British Celtic immigrants during the Dark Ages, fleeing the «*Saxon fury*» as Gildas told us in his «*De Excidio Britanniae*». These colonies of Britons on the shores of the north-western corner of the Iberian Peninsula, in what is now Galicia and Asturias are much less well known than those in Brittany. Few scholars have dealt with this subject as few scholars have had enough competence in Celtic studies and also in Galician medieval history. **Simon Young**, using the works of **Pierre David** and **Antonio García y García** was determined to put down the basic foundations for future researchers, something that was totally lacking in studies up to that time, studies that



tended to be woolly or full of folklore considerations. The book is divided into three parts. Part one looks at the traditional sources on the settlements. Part two shows us new sources of study. And part three is a provocative interpretation of parts one and two of the book. It also contains a very useful and interesting appendix dealing with place and personal names linked to these British settlements. The history of these British Celtic settlers in Galicia and Asturias is fascinating. The first mention of these British Celtic colonies is found in 572 in the acts of the second Council of Braga, stating that «*Mahiloe Britonorum ecclesiae episcopus hic gestis subscribitur*» which means «*I, Maeloc, bishop of the Church of the Britons signed this act*». Some 10 place-names directly connected with the British Celtic colonies of the Dark Ages are still to be found in Galicia and Asturias, among them the famous «*Bretonia*» near Mondoñedo. I would like to recommend very warmly this excellent and very interesting book which would merit an English translation in order to make it accessible to English-speaking readers. It would be also worth reading by British Celts and Celts in general...

**Simon Young** also hopes to publish in English a series of articles expanding chapters of this book. In fact, the first of these has now come out and appeared in **Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies** in 2003 «*The Bishops of Britonia*».