

celyn

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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- SNP Bye-Election Triumph!
- Oranaiche, Croileagan is Catalog
- Breizh, Demonstration for Devolution
- Welsh Language Act Must Change
- Conradh Campaign to Protect Irish
- Kernow - The Silly Season
- Manx Government Sell-Out Slammed
- EU Battle Groups - Regiments of the EU Empire!



ALBA:	AN COMANN CEILTEACH
BREIZH:	AR KEVRE KELTIEK
CYMRU:	YR UNDEB CELTAIDD
ÉIRE:	AN CONRADH CEILTEACH
KERNOW:	AN KESUNYANS KELTEK
MANNIN:	YN COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE 

ORANAICHE, CROILEAGAN IS CATALOG

A reir an t-Ollamh Iain MacAonghais, sgoilear Gàidhlig ainmeil, gun robh an leabhar "Songs of Gaelic/ Gàidhlig Scotland" a' gabhail sealladh anabarrach farsaing de saoghal aig òrain Gàidhlig.

Chan fhaca duine riamh cail sa Gàidhlig cho math ris a seo ... se euchd barrachta a tha ann...agus a' deanamh leabhair air leth.

Agus seo agaibh an dearbh fhirinn. Gun teagamh sam bith tha ionmhasan orain feadh an t-saoghal cho tearc tearc ris ar n-orain Ghàidhealach Albannach.

Thrus Anna Lathurna NicGilleleosa òrain Gàidhlig as gach cearn bho laithean nam bard nan ceuda bliadhna air ais gus an latha an diugh. Corr is ceithir fichead òrain!

A' tionndadh nan duilleag chi thusa còlach oirnn, mar sa chiad caibideil (Muir is Mánran)...Mhic Iarla nam bratach bana... Cumha, Iain Gaibh Mhic Gille Chaluim Ratharsair... Guma slàn do na gilleen...Fear a' bhàta...Ceacail a' chuain... agus faisg air dà fhichead eile.

San darna caibideal (Cinneadh is Comhrag)... bho 'Phìobaireachd Dhòmhnaill Duibh gu Horo 'illean ...is corr is fichead òrain eile.

Anns an treas caibideal tha òrain againn a "Cànan nan Gàidhealig gu 'Chaidh moill air mo leirsinn agus a risd, corr is fichead òrain eile cuideachd. Anns an Ceathramh caibideal (Gaul is Gràdh) tha corr is dà fhichead òran an deidh "Am bròn binn" gu "Breisleach" mar an ceudna. Thoisich an caibideal mu dheireadh (Spors is Suirghe) le 'Maighdeannan na h-àirigh agus dusan òrain eile gu "Bàs an eich".

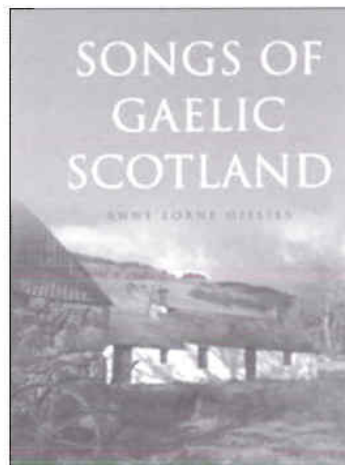
Rinn Anna chòir an ceòl agus na facail sa Ghàidhlig 's Bheurla air son gach òran agus mineachadh barraichte an deidh sin mar eisimpleir... Mhic Iarla nam Biatach bana.....duilleagan 6 gu 7... 'In its present form this song probably dates back at least, to the seventeenth century, while containing echoes from praise poetry of an even earlier period. We can only guess who the earl's son was (whether of Scots, Norse or Irish origin) but the description of the ship is typical of the hyperbole commonly found in Gaelic/Gàidhlig songs of this genre... the power of the nobility was measured in terms of the capacity of their fleets of birlinn or galleys.

Seo agaibh sàr rosg taitneach, sgoilearach, agtus furasda a leughadh. Chan fhaca duine òranaiche cho clùiteach ris a sin, foillsichte

le Birlinn, DùnEideann EH9 IQS www.birlinn.co.uk

Chi sinn leis an òranaiche seo mar a tha uiread de culture air cumail air leth a mhòr chuid de phoball na h-Alba bhon a tha na sgoiltean a' teagasg troimh'n Bheurla. Ach thig an latha nuair a bhios a h-uile sgoil ann an Alba a' teagasg troimh'n cànan Albannach...se sin ri ràdh troimh'n a' Gàidhlig! Tha sinn faighinn air adhart matà.

Seo agaibh cuspair eile, mu Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich (www.gaelicworld.co.uk) 53 Sràid na h-Eaglaise, Inbhir Nis IV1 1DR. Ma bhios tu deònach a bhì nad oileanach no fear/bean teagaisg air aon de na trì cursachan a tha aca. An sin, fòn Caitriona air 0141 226 5222.



Tha a' chiad cùrsa air son bruidhinn ri leanaban eadar a' bhreith aca agus naoi mìosan a dh'aois d'am b'ainm ALTRUM: an darna fear eadar naoi mìosan is ochd mìosan deug .. agus am fear mu dheireadh ochd mìosan deug gu trì bliadhna a dh'aois. Aig trì bliadhna bhiodh an leanabh a' dol don chròileagan.

Agus san cuspair mu dheireadh, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, 2? Sràid Achadh a' Mhansa, Glaschu G11 5QP...fòn 0141 337 6211, facs 0141 341 0515 agus p-dealain fios@gaelicbooks.net no sales@gaelicbooks.net. Dh'fhoillsich iad catalog d'am b'ainm 'Leabhraichean Gàidhlig' sa bhliadhna 2002. Ged a tha cosgais a' catalog seo trì nota bithidh e an asgaidh nuair a cheannachas duine leabhar. Ach an deidh 2002 bithidh leabhraichean ùra ri fhaotain air www.gaelicbooks.net

Summary

In Songs of Gaelic Scotland by Anne Lorne Gillies, published by Birlinn of Edinburgh we have arguably the finest anthology of Gaelic songs of all time. This is a considerable feat, considering that Gàidhlig Scotland is one of the world's great treasure houses of song.

The musical notation is given for its songs along with the words in the original along with a translation followed by the song's history and commentary. This is followed by the news that CNSA (Gàidhlig playgroups) have devised the level most appropriate for children under; nine months, then that for those from nine to eighteen months and finally for those of eighteen months to three years when they enter the playgroup.

Lastly, the Gàidhlig Books Council, as shown in the text has a catalogue "Leabhraichean Gàidhlig" 2002 for three pounds but free on ordering a book. After 2002 one has to search www.gaelicbooks.net to see what's in stock and to buy- sales@gaelicbooks.net

It may be of some interest to note that prior to the mid sixteenth century the name of Gàidhlig when speaking another language - in English 'Scottish' in French 'Ecosais' etc. One could say this is a usage worth reviving, after all, the language of Poland is 'Polish' not Polish Slavonic!

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich no Mac a' phearsain

Gaelic School Progress

Work commenced in April on the building of Inverness Gaelic primary school with a ceremonial cutting of the first turf by Highland education director Bruce Robertson, education committee chairman Andy Anderson and Mata MacIomhair, chairman of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The school will open in August 2007.

Parents in the city have been campaigning for a stand-alone Gaelic school for many years arguing that such a development would increase pupils' fluency and confidence in the language. To date, as is typical of the national situation, Gaelic-medium education in the Highland capital has been supplied in a unit within an English medium school.

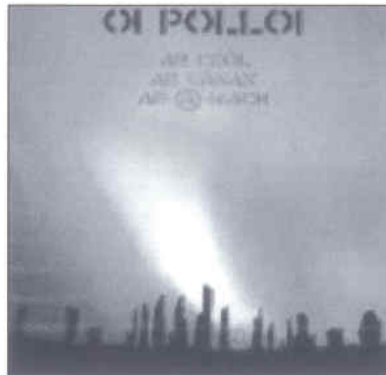
Inverness Gaelic Primary School will be Scotland's third all-Gaelic school, joining Glasgow's Gaelic primary school, opened in 1999, and the tiny Staoinebrig primary school in South Uist which is to be officially designated an all-Gaelic school. This August will see a further advance for Gaelic education when Glasgow Gaelic Primary School closes and a stand-alone Glasgow Gaelic campus opens providing nursery, primary and secondary education for Scotland's largest city.

First Gaelic Rock Album Released

Gaelic music has been dragged kicking and screaming into the twenty first century by the first ever full-length Gaelic rock album. *Ar Cànan, Ar Ceòl, Ar-a-mach* ('Our language, our music, [our] revolution') by veteran Edinburgh band Oi Polloi blends heavy anarcho-punk music with highly politicised lyrics. Topics covered in the album feature anti-capitalism, anti-fascism and the destruction of the British state.

This follows the first ever all-Gaelic EP which was released by Skye based punks *Mill a h-Uile Rud* in 2004.

While traditional Gaelic music is very popular, there is no contemporary Gaelic music scene. So linked have Gaelic and traditional music become in the public mind that some



traditional music fans feel contemporary music to be intrinsically "un-Gaelic". Similarly, many contemporary music fans

feel that English is the only appropriate medium for modern music due to the perceived old-fashioned and unfashionable image lent to Gaelic by traditional music.

Until recently, the only band performing contemporary music through the medium of Gaelic were pop-rockers Runrig. While Runrig are a very popular and influential band, they have now been together for over 30 years and have been making less and less use of Gaelic in their recordings in recent years. Their style is also considered too 'middle of the road' by many younger Gaelic speakers.

Links:

Oi Polloi: www.myspace.com/oipolloialba

Mill a h-Uile Rud: www.millahuilerud.com

GAELIC ACT

A feature of the reaction to the Gaelic Act passed by the Scottish Parliament has been the sour carping and what could best be summed up as an attitude of begrudgery in some of the comments in Carn and to some extent elsewhere.

This Act goes along way to bring Gaelic near the position in Ireland and Wales and perhaps even a little more distantly to Catalonia. Peter Peacock, the minister responsible for introducing the Act, has made it plain that he will not tolerate tokenism on the part of local authorities and other public bodies he has stated that he is prepared to take executive action if there is any foot dragging on their part. It is being asked what the sanctions for these bodies are if they shirk their responsibilities about presenting Gaelic Plans or meeting other obligations under the Act. Foremost they can have their grants withheld, which is a very palpable sanction.

The table of key events in Gaelic in Carn 132 follows too short a time frame for the arc of improvement for Gaelic. This should start in the late sixties with the establishment of the Gaelic Books Council and through the seventies with the foundation of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the other elements that have made for the evolution of a coherent system of Education in Gaelic.

To hear some of the things said about the Gaelic Act you would think that it was the 1918 Scottish Education Act with its weak permissive (unlike the strong mandatory ones of the 2006 Gaelic Act) provisions which seemed to be framed to facilitate evasion. By all means be critical but be generous and celebrate the very real breakthrough that has been achieved for Gaelic.

It is also worth noting that life-time campaigners for Gaelic, like John M. Bannerman, would have been overjoyed had they lived to see the passage of such a measure.

Seamus Filbin

Gaelic Broadcasting Progress

The establishment of a digital Gaelic television channel as part of an integrated broadcasting service is one step closer following an agreement between BBC Scotland and *Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig* (Gaelic Media Service).

Following months of discussion, the organisations have formed a partnership which will work together to create a new digital service for the Gaelic community. This will enable planning to commence on the establishment of a digital television, radio and internet service which it is hoped will begin broadcasting next year. It is understood that a budget of around £16.8M per year will be available.

Despite progress, however, concerns remain amongst the Gaelic community. The funding currently available is only likely to be sufficient to allow the screening of around 1.5 hours of new Gaelic television per day. It is also unlikely to be enough to allow the channel to be broadcast on both digital terrestrial television (Freeview) and on digital satellite. Unless the service is available on both platforms, a large number of Gaelic speakers will miss out.

The controversial issue of where the headquarters of the new service should be based will also have to be addressed. At present, the centres of Gaelic broadcasting are Glasgow, Inverness and Stornoway.

Màrtainn MacLeòid

SNP BYE-ELECTION TRIUMPH

The SNP scored an outstanding triumph in winning the Scottish Parliamentary bye election in the Moray constituency, brought about by the death of the much loved and respected incumbent, Margaret Ewing.

The winning candidate Richard Lochhead increased the SNP majority by more than a thousand and increased the Party's share of the vote, which was in fact bigger than the vote for the Tory who came second. Labour was humiliated, gaining fourth place in a line up of five candidates.

The Labour result was particularly ironic in that their candidate was a local councillor, of which he made a great deal, to the extent of resorting to the silly gimmick of sending Richard Lochhead a map of the area. The idea being that the latter was some sort of a blow in.

This splendid result was achieved in the face of a bigger expenditure of both money and dirty tricks by the Unionist parties. There has



been a tendency recently in the face of some disappointing electoral results for these Parties to write off the SNP. However, the SNP is now back in contention for a good result in next year's Scottish parliamentary Election.

Seamus Filbin

THE RIBBENTROP CONNECTION

Europe in the late 20th century was a mess born of war and imperialism. Blame for this was generally projected onto the Axis regimes, but in actual fact, the seeds of fascism were already sown in most of Europe before the conflict. They probably could have taken root almost anywhere. Sympathisers in the allied countries generally 'got off the hook', while in Germany, proposed 'denazification' was little more than Americanisation in the west and Russification in the east. Austria, Hitler's homeland, was left untouched, and hence it is now home to Haider. The guilt of other countries in the affair has been much underplayed, including Baltic and Ukrainian SS members. France's 'Vichy Republic' was really born before the invasion, according to some figures. Even Jersey & Guernsey had their fair share of collaborators under occupation. Britain was hardly innocent, being described by one US commentator as "The most race conscious [country] in Western Europe until the Nazis came to power in 1933" (1). 1920s London clubs had 'colour bars', and of course Britain invented the Concentration camps for Boers. (2)

Fascism's success in Europe was partly on the back of extreme anti-Communism, and a latent racism, not to mention a divided left. The Brits like to think they had no part in it, but of course they too did. It found a voice in the so-called Anglo-German Fellowship of the 1930s. The members had little interest in most German culture of course, but forming Aryan bonds. An English aristocrat described one of the chief members as a "delicious real live Nazi". Many British aristocrats saw fit to cavort with this man until the war came; a major figure in the Nuremberg trials, he was to be hanged by the neck for his crimes. Joachim von Ribbentrop was not a true street thug like many Nazis, but a climbing aristocrat. As the German ambassador he was to delight British nobility, frequently dining with them, and even spending time on Lord Brockett's Knoydart estate (3) Brockett's grandson is the 'charming toff' who recently appeared on I'm a Celebrity, get me out of here. Even Blair himself admitted in '97, "The first Lord Brockett bought the title from Lloyd George, the second was one of Britain's leading Nazi sympathisers and the third Lord Brockett is serving five years for fraud." The second Lord Brockett did more than just sympathize, he attended Hitler's 50th birthday party, and doubtless gave some of the rent from his crofting tenants to "worthy causes". The ones he didn't clear off of course.

Lord Oswald 'Tom' Mosley is one of the best-known examples of the phenomenon; a former government member, ex-Tory & ex-



Labour, he came of the old English nobility. Fortunately, he was a notorious womaniser, and made the mistake was of importing Italian Fascism wholesale. Orwell had said that if Fascism were to rise in England that it would do so under the Lion and Unicorn, rather than swastikas and fasces. He also alienated the aristocracy by continually changing his politics. A more successful Anglo-Fascism may have been more like Japan's; a puppet monarchy heading the state religion, and a corporate government below. Everything would have been dealt with genteelly and not discussed in front of the children, no doubt.

Another big question has to be asked. Why did Hess fly to Scotland rather than Southern England? Ribbentrop's friends in Scotland might have been a factor. Did he think they'd prefer total war on the eastern front? Some think Hess believed the aristocracy here was more powerful than it actually was. He landed a mere 15 miles from the Duke of Hamilton's home at Dungavel, near an airstrip and hangar, suggesting a return trip. His words on capture are said to have been "My name is Alfred Horn. Please tell the Duke of Hamilton I have arrived." The Duke wasn't at home. According to the slightly unreliable Double Standards: The Rudolf Hess Cover up "a leading group of young Conservatives' most of whom were Scottish" (4) supported some kind of peace pact with Nazi Germany, allegedly including Alec Douglas-Home, Kenneth Lindsay MP and Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton. Perhaps the Scottish aristocracy were more pliable, they had become 'Anglo-Saxons' with ease after all, and would have perhaps started to imitate the Germans and exchanged London for Berlin.

Recent programmes on C5 and BBC 2 such as Reputations have tended to play down these connections, notably those of the

English Royal Family, but the ugly stories and rumours continue to emerge. One FBI file released recently supposedly claims that Wallis Simpson had dated Ribbentrop and had sex with him seventeen times. Papers released by the Public Record Office in 2003 show the Foreign Office verdict that Hitler was distressed by the abdication "since he had looked upon the ... King as a man after his own heart and one who understood the Fuehrerprinzip and was ready to introduce it into this country". (5) The "Brit" media is not clean. On 27 January 2003, a Jewish Socialist group held a protest at the offices of the Daily Mail. The Daily Mail may no longer voice support for Mosley, Hitler and Mussolini or against Jewish refugees, but it still whips up xenophobic fervour in many of its articles against asylum seekers and continentals - not to mention Scots (you won't find these in the "Scottish" edition of course!). In the words of the late Joe Strummer, "If Adolf Hitler were here today, they'd send a limousine anyway."

The British elite has never taken responsibility for the Nazi sympathisers in their midst. Generally in the build up to war, many changed sides and were forgotten about. But it is important that we don't forget, or let them forget. I'll end with a quote from the poet, Murchadh MacPhàrlain; it could be about Brockett himself,

"Hitler gheall e Lebensraum
Dha shluagh ma gheibh e bhuaidh;
Cha b'ionnan sin 's na Hitleran
A bhris spiorad mo shluaigh;
Na Hitleran breun Breatannach
A mhurt mo thir mu thuath
Gu lebensraum do chaoraich
Is na daoine sgiurs' thar chuan"

(translation)

Hitler promised Lebensraum
To the people if he won
It wasn't the same with the Hitlers
Who broke my people's spirit;
The foul British Hitlers
Who murdered my northern land
to lebensraum for sheep
& the men driven over the ocean

Notes

- 1) Socialist Appeal (NY) 25/08/39 - CLR James
- 2) An estimated 20-70K Boers died in these from disease and starvation.
- 3) See "Knaydart: A Desolation created by two centuries of Capitalist failure" - Iain Robertson (SWR, '00). The von- prefix is equivalent to the double-barrel here.
- 4) Double Standards also say a Hess look-alike took the stand at Nuremberg, so its reliability must be questioned!
- 5) Sunday Times 12/01/03

Ray Bell

Breizh

UR GUMUNIEZH EVIT AR C'HEMBRAEG: CYMUNED

E-pad an hañv 2001 eo e voe savet ar gevredigezh "Cymuned" ("Kumuniezh" e kembraeg) evit stourm evit ar c'hembraeg. E orin ar grouidigezh-se e voe disleriadurioù Seimon GLYN, kuzulier-kontelezh Gwynedd a-berzh *Plaid Cymru*, a-enep ar saoznekaat e Kembre. Diskuliet e voe pergen enbroerezh ar Saozon e kornvroioù eus Kembre a oa chomet ar c'hembraeg kreñv a-walc'h c'hoazh, hag a laka en arvar stad ar c'hembraeg eno. Liammet gant an enbroerezh e voe ivez diskuliet kresk prizioù an tiez evit Kembreiz. Ersavioù taer a savas neuze, a-berzh ar Strollad Labour da gentañ, a damallas Seimon GLYN bezañ gouen-

Riezoù-Unanet e Genève diwar-benn ar bihanniveroù, e anv *Cumuned*, Jerry HUNTER, lenner e Skol-Veur Kembre, ha n'eo ket Kembre a-hend-all, genidik eus Cincinatty (Stadoù-Unanet) ma 'z eo, hag a geñverias ar c'humuniezhoù yezhel bihan gant an trevvaù bresk gourdrouzet. Tamm-ha-tamm avat eo deuet *Cymuned* da vazañ taeroc'h, pa chome bouzar ar penadurezhioù ouzh he goulennnoù habaskañ. Renet eo bremañ an emsav-se, bodet bep bloaz en un Dael vloaziek abaoe 2002 peurluviañ e-kerzh miz Gouere (e Harlech e 2003, e Porthmadog e 2004...), gant Aran JONES.



A message for all incomers in Welsh speaking Wales – applicable to all Celtic language speaking areas!

nelour, a-berzh strollad Seimon GLYN ivez, *Plaid Cymru*, aon ganti rak ersavioù he dilennourion saozneger. Neuze e voe savet *Cymuned* gantañ hag gant un nebeud stourmerion all, evel Seimon BROOKS, rener ar gelaouenn *Barn*. Daoust d'an tamaloù-se e voe sellet da gentañ ouzh *Cymuned* evel un emsav gant doareoù "sioulloc'h" eget *Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg*, dre ma sache tud koshoc'h ha "furoc'h". E Mae 2003 e komzas, en ur gendael aozet gant Aozadur ar

Stourmadoù bras o deus merket obererezhioù *Cymuned*, evel an hini a-enep *Unitary Development Plan* (UDP, "Steuñv Diorren Unvan") kinniget gant Kuzul Kontelezh Ceredigion hag e gadoriad frankizour-demokrat Dai Lloyd EVANS, e sell da sevel 6 500 ti nevez, a oa da grediñ e c'hellfe al lodenn vrasañ anezho bezañ prenet gant saoznegerion. Evit enebañ ouzh Dai Lloyd EVANS e teuas *Cymuned* a-benn da lakaat d'aozañ e miz Mae 2004 ur poblatters er

gontelezh evit divizout krouidigezh ur stael *maer* Ceredigion, en defe gellet reiñ lamm da z/Dai Lloyd EVANS hag e steuñv daonet. Ur wezh ouzhpenn e voe gwelet an dizemglev a oa etre *Cymuned* ha *Plaid Cymru*. Dre m'en doa ar strollad-se galvet da vouezhiañ a-enep krouidigezh ar stael maer e voe ar poblatters ur c'hwitadenn. En dilennadeg evit ar c'huzul-kontelezh, er Miz Mezheven da c'houde, e teuas Frankizourion-Demokrater Dai Lloyd EVANS a-benn da virout ar galloud a-drugarez da skoazell ar gannaded dizalc'h, daoust da b/*Plaid Cymru* bezañ ar strollad niverusañ, hep kaout ar muianiver dreistel avat, emichañs abalamour da eneberezh stourmerion 'zo droug enno.

Kinniget en deus ivez *Cymuned* steuñvoù yaus evit ar c'hembraeg. Evel-se e kinnigas, da geñver ul lid e Machynlleth dalc'het d'an 23 Here 2004, un "Diskleriadur gwirioù Bro Gembraeg", o termeniñ anezhi evel an takadoù dezho ar boblañs a c'hell komz kembraeg amparet da vihanañ gant an hanterenn eus ar boblañs c'henedik eus Kembre, hag an drederenn eus ar boblañs a-bezh.

Stourm *Cymuned* ne blij ket d'an holl, hep mar. D'ar Meurzh 4 Ebrel 2006 da noz, un nebeud deizioù a-raok Dael vloaziek *Cymuned* e Pennrhyndeudraeth ar Sadorn 8, e voe lakaet tan da garavanenn *Cymuned*, warni al lugan "Deskit hor yezh", a oa e Caernarfon...

Rafael URIEN



Kampagn skoazell Diwan evit dazont ar skolioù

Appeal for the Breton language.
All contributions welcome,
however little.

**HEP BREZHONEG BREIZH EBET,
SANS LANGUE BRETONNE PAS
DE BRETAGNE**

**THERE'S NO BRITTANY
WITHOUT BRETON**

Cheque to be sent to:
DIWAN BP 147 29411
LANDERNE BRITTANY
<http://www.diwanebreizh.org/>

Roazhon: 5000 demonstrators for more devolution

Ar Kuzul Sevenadurel Breizh (KSB) had called at its AGM in the first weekend of May, held in the symbolic city of Karaez, for a huge demonstration on the 3rd of June. 5000 demonstrators involved in cultural and political lobbies answered the call and joined KSB, in Roazhon. In so far as the right wing did not take part in the demonstration it was mainly the leaders of the left wing as well as the cultural leaders, who were in the front line, behind the slogan *Live & decide our culture e-Breizh*.

At KSB's AGM in Karaez, Yann-Berr Thomin (PS) representing Jean-Yves LEDRIAN (PS), Breizh-Council President had shown the strong will of the breton president to improve the situation and underlined the fact that the letters sent to the president J. Chirac about Karta-Europa for lesser spoken languages or Breizh reunification had not yet elicited a single answer. At the end of the AGM feelings were running high among the leaders of the KSB against the state powers. Patrick Malrieu, KSB's president stressed in his speech, in Roazhon, the necessity to transfer powers and money to Brittany, particularly in areas where Breton demands are continually made such as the Breton language, education and social life.

The French dogma is that of a single culture, a single language and the negation of other identities than the unique French one. This dogma is organised by a centralised system, totally deaf to the population and their local elected representatives. Having dealt with the language, the media, cultural life and the reunification of Breizh Patrick Malrieu spoke about the fact that the French state denies democracy and urged the state to ratify fully the



Conventions on Human Rights as well as Human Rights for children and E.U.'s conventions on respect for minorities. KSB demands more devolution, and will organise meetings towards these goals aiming towards the next presidential and legislative elections, in 2007.

In the language field different organizations from the south of the French state (Occitan, Basque,...) showed their solidarity with the Breton people.

The demonstration began behind a well-known slogan: *Live and decide our culture e-Breizh*. Side by side with KSB you had a lot of organizations like Diwan, Dihun, Divyezh, CUAB, now called Breizh-United. Yann-Berr

Thomin and his socialist friends as well as UDB and the Green party, all in charge of the Breizh-Council.

The Breton Party was also present, as well as political parties from Occitania. We had the pleasure to notice a few flags from the Celtic nations. At the end of the day KSB won this first challenge before the 2007 elections. The game is not over because as no one mentions a devolution budget with a budget of 20 billions euros, like in most of the European regions. In 2006, Breizh-Council has a regional budget which is under 1 billion euros...so it is a long way to go.

Gi Keltik.

Breton-medium Catholic schools: Yannig Baron ends his hunger strike

On the 10th of May, after 22 days of hunger strike, Yannig Baron, the president of Dihun-Breizh, fully satisfied with the promises made by the Catholic schools general directors of Breizh-four-départements, decided to bring his hunger strike to an end. Dihun-Breizh started in the nineties and now have more than 3800 pupils in the various levels from primary schools to the Bac (= A-level). The yearly increase has been regular, but last year the Catholic schools general directors, as well as the schools directors on the ground, were opposed to opening new classes or new schools. They argued that they was no demand from parents, or that it was impossible to change the teachers' organizations in schools. This year (2006/2007) the situation was going to be worse. Therefore Yannig Baron sent documents to those general directors to explain Dihun's parents' point of view. The traditional Catholic leaders in charge of the



Yannig Baron, President of Dihun-Breizh (right) with colleagues. (Courtesy Dihun-Breizh).

situation do not care about the Breton language in the schools. They don't care about human rights like the rights of the Breton population. They still believe that French is the best for the kids. They do not care that in the days of the Internet every single European needs to speak American fluently. They do not care about Breton roots. In 1996, when the Pope John Paul II came to Breizh, to St Anna/Alre, they were opposed to the Pope recognising the Breton people as a nation in their own right with their own Celtic culture.

Last year, Yannig Baron wrote a book about *Yann-Paol II e Breizh* (1996) in which he explained the bishops' views. During more than one year of organizing before the event, they refused to use the word 'Breizh' and tried to promote the concept of 'West' in order to hide the separate national identity of the Breton people and their traditions. In his book Yannig Baron creates the new concept of 'Westiti', that is to say people from the West. It's also very close to the word *ouistiti* ('marmosets'), which are a type of monkey. Feelings were running high, last year in the Catholic world.

Anyway, time is moving on and more and more families want to see their kids being multilingual, in order to be connected to the real world in this 21st century. After ending his hunger strike Yannig Baron said that "the progress looks significant enough for us to go back to work. We have got 80% of what we were looking for." The general directors of the Catholic schools agreed to open six out of the seven schools demanded all over Breizh. One of them is already in trouble, in the city of Pornizh (Pornic). In Liger-Atlantel *département*, the Catholic schools' leaders did a u-turn against the wishes of the parents. Everywhere else the demand for bilingual schools from parents has been much stronger than expected by Dihun-Breizh. CAEC (the *Comité Académique de l'Enseignement Catholique*) has decided to organize a charter for increasing the number of bilingual schools over the next five years. This agreement will be signed by CAEC-Breizh, Dihun-Breizh, and Breizh Council. Yannig Baron's aim is for the opening of 45 new schools up to 2010, that's to say 100 bilingual schools in the Catholic school system. Breizh Council's goal is 20,000 pupils in 2010 (cf. Carn 133). More good news is that the general directors will be sending a letter asking the local schools directors to welcome all the parents asking for a bilingual education for their children.

At the end of the day, Yannig Baron, achieved a lot with this sixth hunger strike. The success was all the greater because the media, and therefore the population, considered the Catholic bishops and schools general directors to be under heavy pressure. Yannig Baron gave special thanks to the leaders of the Celtic League for the pressure they put on various embassies. The game is not over, so every one must keep in contact in order to achieve further progress for the future of the people of Brittany and of the Celtic nations

Gi Keltik

EFA is 25 years old

Members of the European Free Alliance, EFA, met on the 11th of May in Brussels, in the plenary room of the European Parliament, to hold their annual General Assembly in the morning, and then, in the afternoon, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Alliance, with more than 500 delegates representing 33 political parties involved in the promotion of self-government or independence for their nations.

EFA General Assembly

After accepting the minutes of the previous General Assembly organised in Roazhon/Rennes, Brittany, by the Breton Democratic Union, some former observer members became full EFA members: Ålands Framtid, who represent the Swedish speaking population of the Åland Islands in Finland, Etnota Lista, who represent the Slovenian minority in Austria, and Moravaně, who represent the Moravian population in the Czech Republic. Omo Linden Pirin, who represent the Macedonians in Bulgaria, became an observer member.

Some changes were made regarding the central organisation of the group, and the budget for 2007 and the programme of activities were also agreed. It was decided that the next General Assembly would take place in the Basque Country, at the invitation of Eusko Alkartasuna. Several resolutions were adopted. One about European social issues was presented by Nelly Maes, EFA Chairwoman and a member of SPIRIT, a Flemish progressive party. A second one about human trafficking was presented by Jill Evans, Plaid Cymru MEP. A third one about the future of EFA was presented by Bernat Joan, Catalan MEP, representative of Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya, and Vice-chairman of EFA. A last one about subsidiarity was presented by Neil MacCormick, former SNP MEP. During this General Assembly, Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, spoke in favour of a wider Europe and the little nations. Begoña Lasagabaster, Eusko Alkartasuna politician and EFA Secretary, reminded the delegates that EFA have often supported the rights of Basques to self-government. The Assembly gave its support to the current peace process in the Basque country.

The celebration of the 25th anniversary

For the anniversary ceremony the plenary room was filled by delegations of EFA member parties from 14 countries. Some delegations (Plaid Cymru, South Tyrol Union, SPIRIT) were quite numerous with many young delegates.

EFA was created in 1981 as a co-operative association of nine political parties defending the rights of the regions and nations. In 1994 EFA became a federation of parties. In



*Nelly Maes, EFA leader
with Yves Jardin at the celebration.*

October 2004 it was officially recognized as a European political party in the European parliament. It includes 33 parties speaking 25 languages, among them the Breton Democratic Union (UDB), Mebyon Kernow, Plaid Cymru, and the Scottish National Party. EFA is defending the project of a Europe of free and sovereign peoples, based on the principle of subsidiarity.

The celebration was opened by Ian Hudghton, SNP MEP, and leader of the EFA group in the European Parliament, and Nelly Maes. Then, the author Mathieu Van Haelewyn presented the book "The European Free Alliance: Voice of the peoples of Europe. The first 25 years (1981-2006)".

A panel discussion about the history of EFA took place with the participation of Max Simeoni, former MEP from Corsica, Camilo Nogueira, former Bloque Nacionalista Gallego MEP, Eva Klotz from South Tyrol, and Jaak Vandemeulebroucke, former Volksunie MEP and former EFA Chairman. Then another panel discussion took place about the future of EFA with speeches delivered by Geert Lambert, SPIRIT Chairman, Bernat Joan, Tatiana Zdanoka MEP of the ForHRUL party (*For Human Rights in a United Latvia* - a party representing the Russian speakers of Latvia), and the EFA Youth Chairman.

The celebration was concluded by Begoña Lasagabaster and Nelly Maes mentioning that self-government is also a concern of other peoples outside the EU like the Kurds and Sahrawis. The sessions were followed by a reception with an EFA film presented to the public.

Yves Jardin

Cymru

Cyfieithu'r Beibl i'r Gernyweg

Cyhoeddwyd y Testament Newydd yn Gernyweg yn 2002, yn y ffurf o'r iaith a elwir yn Gernyweg Unedig Adolygedig neu UCR, wedi'i gyfieithu gan N. Williams, a chyhoeddwyd cyfieithiad arall yn 2004 yn *Kernewek Kemmyn*, a chynhaliwyd seremoni arbennig i nodi'r achlysur. Mae'r Testament Newydd Gernyweg wedi cael ei ddefnyddio yn fynych ers hynny, gyda chymeradwyaeth yr Eglwys, mewn oedfaon cyhoeddus. Ond mae nifer o lyfrau'r Testament Newydd ar gael yn Gernyweg Unedig hefyd, ac, wrth gwrs, rhannau bach yn Gernyweg Diweddar yn dyddio o'r adeg pan oedd y Gernyweg yn iaith fyw gymunedol.

Mae'r gwaith o gyfieithu'r Hen Destament yn parhau. Erbyn mae 10 llyfr wedi'u cyhoeddi, a rhyw 12 arall yn agos i fod yn barod. (Kernewek Kemmyn ydyw'r ffurf o'r iaith sydd yn cael ei defnyddio - nid dyna hoff orgraff pawb.) Ecclesiasticus ydyw'r llyfr diwethaf i ymddangos, wedi'i gyfieithu gan Yowan Parker, ac mae ar gael oddi wrth Kesva an Taves Kernewek. Mae'r wefan www.bibelkernewek.com yn rhoi hanes a chefnidir cyfieithu'r Beibl i'r iaith agosaf i'r Gymraeg. Mae'r Beibl yn Gernyweg yn rhannol ddealladwy i Gymro - mae'n werth edrych arno.

(The translation of the Bible into Cornish is progressing.)

Buddugoliaeth ym Moireibh

Enillodd Plaid Genedlaethol yr Alban yr is-etholiad am sedd Moireibh (Moray) yn senedd Caeredin ym mis Mai. Achoswyd yr is-etholiad gan farwolaeth cyn-amserol Margaret Ewing ASA a oedd wedi bod yn aelod seneddol Moireibh dros yr SNP ers sefydlu'r senedd ym 1999, a chyn hynny yn aelod yn San Steffan dros yr etholaeth ers 1987. Richard Lochhead ydyw'r aelod seneddol newydd, ac aeth mwyafrif yr SNP dros y Torfaid, yr ail blaid, i fyny o ryw bum mil i dros chwe mil, sydd yn deymged i boblogrwydd Margaret Ewing. 'Roedd Richard Lochhead yn aelod yn y Senedd o'r blaen - yn aelod rhanbarthol yn rhanbarth y Gogledd Ddwyrain, ond bu raid iddo ymddiswyddo o'i sedd rhanbarthol er mwyn sefyll yn yr is-



Margaret Ewing, RIP.

etholiad. Gwnaeth ymgeisydd y Torfaid, Mary Scanlon, yr un peth, ond gan nad enillodd yr is-etholiad mae hi allan o'r senedd. Cymerwyd lle Richard Lochhead fel aelod rhanbarthol gan Maureen Watt o'r SNP, felly hi yn anuniongyrchol ydyw'r aelod newydd sydd yn cymryd lle Margaret Ewing. Pan gymroedd ei llw o deyrngarweh wrth ddechrau, Maureen Watt oedd yr aelod seneddol cyntaf i wneud hynny yn yr iaith Sgoteg, mamiaith rhan helaeth o ogledd ddwyrain yr Alban, er bod amryw wedi cymryd y llw yn yr Aeleg o'r blaen.

(The SNP retained the Moray seat in the Scottish parliament in the bye-election following the death of Margaret Ewing MSP)

English-only forms for government scheme:

Every child born since September 2002 receives a £250 voucher for the opening of a Child Trust Fund account (to be kept until the child turns 18). A special investment account has to be opened for paying in the voucher, and none of the limited number of financial institutions that offer these accounts provides a Welsh version of the application form so it is not possible even for those who wish to benefit from this government scheme to do so in Welsh. Another clear example of the need for a New Language Act to extend language rights into the private sector.

Welsh Language Board response gives further confirmation of the need for a new Welsh language Act

The Welsh Language Board announced on the 24th May their response to the Consultation Paper regarding the union of the Language Board with the National Assembly. Their response emphasises that the Dyfarnydd that will take the Board's place is a body of insufficient status and power.

Catrin Dafydd of Cymdeithas yr Iaith's Welsh Language Act Group said subsequently:

"This proves once more the need for a new Welsh language act, in order to avoid the confusion and ambiguity which will follow the creation of the 'Remnant Body' in the interim period which will be put in place for years after the dissolution of the Welsh Language Board. The expert government body on the Welsh language has criticised the government's intentions regarding this dissolution. It is the government's duty to pay attention to their response.

"Significantly, the Welsh Language Board has stated in their response today the need for an 'independent regulator' to oversee Language Schemes. It is only through a new Welsh Language Act that it will be possible to appoint a Commissioner such as the Board is calling for.

"The present consensus is undeniable. The government stand alone in terms of their refusal to accept the need for a new Welsh language act. A language act which would ensure a series of language rights for the people of Wales. An act which would give the Welsh language official status and would create a role of Commissioner to regulate effectively."

This response came two weeks before Cymdeithas yr Iaith's New Welsh Language Act Festival in Aberystwyth on the 10th of June, where famous Welsh men and women stated their support for further legislation for the language. In the Festival, there were statements by Assembly opposition leader Ieuan Wyn Jones AC (Plaid), Eleanor Burnham AC (Lib. Dem.), Lisa Francis AC (Conservative), and representatives of national organizations, alongside bards, bands and rappers, all of whom supported the call for a new Welsh language act.

Robat ap Tomos

Language Act must be changed to give Welsh and English speakers equal rights - Plaid

Hywel Williams, Plaid MP for Caernarfon, called on the 23rd of May for the full emancipation of the Welsh language and the full emancipation of the individuals and communities that speak it.

Mr Williams had secured a debate on the Operation of the Welsh Language Act in the Commons, and whereas Parliamentary restrictions do not allow members to call for new legislation, he said that the current act must be changed in order to assure the equality of both languages. Mr Williams declared:

"The 1993 Act is concerned with Welsh and English being treated on the basis of equality. But that equality is qualified in the Act itself by being subject to being reasonably practicable and appropriate in the circumstances. Now, I have a basic difficulty with qualified equality as a concept anyway - we are equal or we are not - but the current Act seems to echo Orwell; as he put it: 'All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.'

"It is by now abundantly clear that Welsh and English are not even being treated on this qualified 'basis of equality', let alone being treated equally. My argument today is to the contrary - Welsh and English are equal. Welsh and English speakers should have equal rights to use either or indeed both languages as they choose. I call for nothing less than the full emancipation of the Welsh language, and the full emancipation of the individuals and communities that speak it."

Earlier in May Mr Williams spoke about the news that British Gas was cutting its Welsh language services to business customers. British Gas is a former public utility now in the private sector, and they are not subject to language planning at all. According to the 1993 Act, where the private sector is excluded, unless private sector utilities enter into a voluntary agreement with the Welsh Language Board, there is no requirement on them to offer services through the medium of Welsh. In their correspondence with Mr Williams, British Gas Business said: "...it may be the case that further legislation compelling energy suppliers to provide a fully bilingual service to business customers is necessary to reverse this decision."

Mr Williams added:

"Let us be clear, they will only provide a Welsh service if the law compels them to do so and this is the stance for this self-proclaimed 'number one supplier of energy to the commercial sector in Britain'. Their attitude is perfectly explicable given the current Act. The Welsh language may count for something as far as their private

customers are concerned, but it has no place in the real world of business - as per the Act.

"I have no doubt at all that were British Gas as a responsible employer faced with a case of discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, race, or perhaps even age, they would act, but the language rights of Welsh-speakers and Welsh-speaking communities are somehow seen to be different, and this is traceable back to the deficiency in the Act.

"The message is clear. The 1993 Act must be changed, and that change must be based on full emancipation, on full equality and on equal rights for Welsh and English speakers alike."

At the end of May, Hywel Williams said that he was disappointed with the reluctance of the trade union UNISON to respond to Welsh language correspondence. In their letter to Mr Williams, UNISON Cymru / Wales had written:

"For your information, UNISON is not a bilingual organisation and is unable to correspond in the Welsh language."

Mr Williams said:

"Yesterday I was speaking in the House of Commons about the shortfalls in the Welsh Language Act of 1993, and here is another example. UNISON is Wales's largest trade



Hywel Williams, Plaid MP

union, and advertises itself as 'fighting for equality, social justice and democracy in our communities'. It brings me back to the point raised in the debate - that the Welsh language must have full emancipation across the sectors, so that Welsh speakers and Welsh speaking communities can have equal rights to access services and communicate with organizations in their preferred language.

"I am obviously disappointed with UNISON's stance on the Welsh language, but I believe this is a problem that needs to be tackled centrally, rather than one organization at a time."

R ap Tomos

MEP backs institute for promotion of Welsh for adults

Plaid Cymru MEP, Jill Evans addressed a conference in Aberystwyth on May 22nd in order to discuss the future of teaching Welsh to adults and to compare the situation in Wales with other countries in Europe.

Mrs Evans - who is Deputy President of Plaid Cymru - will share her experiences in the field as a member of the European Parliament and discuss the situations in countries such as Catalonia, Latvia, Galicia, and Brittany. She will also be supporting the call to establish a body to promote the teaching of Welsh to adults.

According to Jill Evans:

"Language policies vary widely from place to place but this does not mean that we cannot learn interesting and useful lessons from other countries' experiences.

"What is vital is that there is a commitment on the part of the government, good will from the people and the necessary resources made available in order to initiate the changes that must be made. Here in Wales, I see no sign of any commitment from this present government and that is currently the most damaging factor.

"We need to establish a specialist body in order to promote the teaching of Welsh to Adults - an institution that would be able to target resources according to need and co-ordinate provision. Without such an institution

I fear that there will be no national focus on efforts to teach Welsh to adults and therefore no way of promoting growth in this key sector."

WELSH SKELETONS WELCOME BANK HOLIDAY VISITORS:

Large signs bearing the web address www.Wales4Sale.com were placed on or near the 'Croeso i Gymru /Welcome to Wales' signs where the main roads the A55, the A5, the A44, and the M4 cross the border from England into Wales, by Welsh 'skeletons' in an attempt to draw the attention of visitors to Wales to the damage done when non-Welsh speakers move to live in Welsh-speaking areas. The website, which belongs to the anti-colonisation movement Cymuned, welcomes visitors while at the same time asking them to consider choosing not to move to live in Welsh-speaking areas without learning and using the Welsh language. Pictures of the 'skeletons' placing the signs are available at www.cymuned.net/sgerbydau.html.

The Welsh Football Association – Last Bastion of the Welsh-Not

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Society) have strongly criticised the Secretary General of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), David Collins, and the FAW Council, for their anti-Welsh English-only language policy, another prime example of the need for a New Welsh Language Act.

John Pritchard, Secretary of the Caernarfon and District League, recently replied to a letter from the FAW in Welsh, and to his great surprise, received the following response from David Collins:

"I can inform you that the Football Association of Wales conducts its business in English... it will remain the policy of the FAW that all communications are conducted in English."

John Pritchard was also refused permission to speak in Welsh in two separate hearings with the FAW, and they refused to pay for any translating facilities, forcing John Pritchard to speak in English. John Pritchard said:

"During this time I requested several times, that the FAW, which represents football throughout the whole of Wales, communicate through the medium of Welsh. My request was turned down more than once. The replies suggest that the decision to refuse was made by the Secretary General, who despite having an important sounding job title, is still an employee of the Association and I doubt, has the power to rule on such a significant issue."

John Pritchard strongly believes that he was discriminated against by the Football Association on account of not being allowed to communicate in any form with them in Welsh.

He requested a guarantee from the FAW that they were willing to discuss adopting a full bilingual policy, but received no further reply from the FAW. He has therefore sent a complaint to the Legal Department at FIFA. He believes that the FAW have broken FIFA Statutes 3 which states:

"Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person, or groups of people, on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics, or any other reason, is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion."

And Statutes 8.2 which states:

"It is the responsibility of each member



John Pritchard

association to translate into the language of their own country"

As well as gaining the support of Cymdeithas yr Iaith, John Pritchard has also the support of the MP for Caernarfon Hywel Williams and local Assembly Member Alun Ffred Jones (both Plaid), who will be writing to FIFA on his behalf. Catrin Dafydd, chairman of Cymdeithas yr Iaith's New Welsh language Act campaign said:

"This is a perfect example of the need for a new Welsh Language Act. An act that would make the Welsh language an official language in Wales. An act that would create a Commissioner to regulate such matters. An act that would give all Welsh people Welsh language rights."

Cymdeithas yr Iaith have also received many complaints from its members regarding the FAW's English-only policy, and their English-only website, and are fully supporting John Pritchard and urging their members to complain to the FAW and FIFA regarding the matter.

Robat ap Tomos

Chain Protest

On the 4th May nine members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith were arrested after chaining themselves to the main door of the Wales Office building in Cathays Park, Cardiff. They had acted to draw attention to the need for a New Welsh Language Act.

Cymuned Information Stands

Cymuned are setting up a series of information stalls throughout the Bro Gymraeg (Welsh-speaking areas) that will spread the message against colonization of the Bro. They operate in public places like high streets on a temporary basis, such as the first at Nefyn show in April, or be semi-permanent stalls of which the first is in Caernarfon.

R ap Tomos

LEARNING THE LESSONS OF CATALONIA

Cymdeithas yr Iaith, holding their Annual General Meeting on March 25th in Aberystwyth, were given evidence from overseas that underlines the importance of language legislation in the task of revitalizing a minorized language. The AGM's guest speaker was Alexia Bos Solé from the Ciemen Institute in Barcelona, who led a session entitled 'Language Legislation Making a Difference – The Catalan Experience'. Ciemen is an international institute that has been working in the field of linguistic minorities, across Europe and beyond, since the early 1970s. It was the body responsible for developing and promoting the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights presented to UNESCO in 1996. During this presentation Alexia Bos Solé stressed the importance of such concepts as official status and language rights, concepts that have proved a basis for language policy and legislation in Catalonia for over two decades. In addition she said that securing strong status and rights are essential in order to facilitate wider use of a minorized language. Such arguments provide further support for Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg's ongoing and growing campaign for a Welsh Language Act. The 2006 Annual General Meeting, as well as discussing matters related to the need for a New Welsh Language Act, also heard from Cymdeithas's other campaigns in fields such as education, housing, and planning. Various motions were discussed reflecting the Society's wide-ranging campaigning activity over the past twelve months.

**DY IAITH
DY HAWL!**

*"Deddf iaith yn Gwneud Gwahaniaeth:
Profiad Catalonia"*

**Siaradwraig Wâdd: Alexia Bos Solé,
Ciemen, Barcelona**

Dydd Sadwrn Mawrth 25ain, 2.00pm
Canolfan y Morlan, Aberystwyth

**Deddf iaith
DYMA'R CYFLE!**

Éire

Fórsaí an Mhargaidh an Namhaid Comónta

Aithnítear le fada gur bunchuspóir é ó thaobh teanga a chaomhnú agus a athbheochan tacú leis na pobail atá ag labhairt na teanga sin cheana féin. Uaireanta, bíonn teannas idir riachtanais na bpobail sin agus an mórchuspóir athbheochana ach d'ainneoin sin dirítear ar an gcuspóir sin mar thosaíocht.

Sa Bhreatain Bhig, le blianta fada anuas, agus anois in Éirinn freisin, áfach, tá fadhbanna ar leith ag teacht ar aghaidh a chothaíonn deacrachtaí móra ó thaobh an bhunchuspóra sin de. Tráth den saol, ba é a tuigeadh le tacú leis na ceantair Ghaeltachta in Éirinn ná fostaíocht a chur ar fáil iontu chun go bhféadfadh muintir na háite fanacht ina gceantar féin agus nach dtífeadh na pobail Ghaeilge sin as a chéile. Tá a fhios againn anois, áfach, cé go mb'fhéidir gur éirigh leis an geur chuige sin roinnt de na pobail sin a neartú ó thaobh na fostaíochta de, nach léir gur imir na monarchana a bunaíodh aon mhór-ról ó thaobh an teanga féin a chaomhnú agus go mb'fhéidir gur chuireadar dlús leis an meath ar shlíe eile.

Dar ndóig, tá roinnt de na pobail sin i bhfad níos láidre anois ó thaobh geilleagair de ach i bhfad níos laige ó thaobh na teanga de. Ní hionann sin is a rá go raibh an chéad straitéis tacaíochta sin lochtach, níl ann ach gur léir nár leor in aon chor i chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin iomadúla a bhaineann le beartú forbartha teanga. Ar shlí, is sampla maith é den straitéis bhacach leathchoise a bhí ag an stát Éireannach riamh ó thaobh na Gaeilge de – gníomh a dhéanamh agus ansin an cúram a fhágaint.

Tá an cur chuige ceannann céanna le feiscint ó thaobh chur cinn na Gaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Fágadh obair iomlán na hathbheochana faoin gcóras oideachais agus ansin teitheadh! Anois agus an Roinn Oideachais go hiomlán galldaithe agus an Ghaeilge á díribt de réir a chéile as gcóras oideachais féin (céim mhór eile sa treo sin a bheadh sa bhfeallbheart atá beartaithe ag Fine Gael), tá na gael scoileanna (lena gcuid fadhbanna iomadúla féin) agus roinnt múinteoirí dílse anseo is ansiúd fágtha ina n-aonar ag seasamh an fhóid dúchais. Pé scéal é, chríochnaigh iarrachtaí an stáit ag geataí na scoile riamh. An mhaitheas a deineadh laistigh den scoil ar feadh blianta scoile an dalta, caitear san aer é ansin cheal polasáí

athbheochana a bheith ag an stát lasmuigh de na geataí sin.

Tá na fadhbanna céanna, a bheag nó a mhór, le fáil sa Bhreatain Bhig freisin. Tá an brú láidir gan stad atá curtha ar na pobail leanúnachais Breathnaise ag creimeadh na bpobail sin agus ag tabhairt dúshlán mór do ghluaiseacht na Breathnaise. Dar le *Cymuned*, an eagraíocht tacaíochta pobal, gur riachtanas doshéanta anois é tacú leis na pobail sin go hiomlán nó gurb é an bás atá i ndán dóibh. Ba mhaith leosan go n-aithneofaí *Y Fro Gymraeg* mar cheantair ar gá idirghabháil iomlán a dhéanamh iontu chun teanga an phobail a chosaint. San áireamh ansin, tá idirghabháil a dhéanamh i margadh na maoine (bó naofa thacadóirí an mhargaidh ar fud an domhain "fhorbartha") – praghsanna tithe a smachtú, tosaíocht a thabhairt do mhuintir na háite ó thaobh seilbh a fháil ar thithe, teorainn a chur le tithe saoire, srl. Peaca marfach é seo in aigne lucht rachmais agus, cheal cumhachta, ní léir conas a bhainfear an



Cymuned/Plaid – Tuairmí éagsúla!

cuspóir seo amach, cé go maíonn *Cymuned* go bhfuil an chumhacht ag na húdaráis áitiúla chun an chuid is mó de na bearta riachtanacha tarthála a chur i bhfeidhm.

Dar le *Plaid Cymru*, is i mbaint amach sochaí dhátheangach do mhuintir na Breataine Bige go léir atá an slánú le fáil. Áitíonn Colin Williams agus roinnt taighdeoirí aitheanta eile go bhfuil contúirt mhór ag baint le dóchas na Breathnaise a cheangal le pobail atá faoi bhrú agus leosan amháin. Dar leosan go bhfuil an brú atá ar na pobail tuaithe sin chomh hollmhór sin ó gach treo go bhfuil an baol ann go n-imeoidh siad de dhroim an tsaoil.

Cinnté, ag féachaint ar luas na n-athruithe atá ag titim amach sna pobail ársa tuaithe sa dá thíre, is deacair a fheiscint go dtiocfaidh siad slán sa riocht ina rabhadar leis na cianta cairbreacha. Tá an t-athrú

cultúir suntasach cheana féin. Tráth den saol, bhí an Béarla sa bhaile mór, na mílte soir ón tigin ceann tuí. Anois tá sé i ngach seomra sa teach ceithre sheomra leapa – ar an teilifís, ar an raidió, ar an idirlíon, ar na fístéipeanna, ar na cluichí ríomhaire, sna leabhair agus sna hirisi a léann gach duine sa teaghlach, agus míle áit eile, gan trácht ar roinnt mhaith de na comharsana nach bhfuil Gaeilge/Breathnaise ar bith acu agus ar cuma leo fúithi.

Is cuma cá leagtar an tosaíocht i bhfeachtas caomhnaithe nó athbheochana na Gaeilge nó na Breathnaise, beidh na naimhde céanna le treascart – fuarchúis an phobail i gcoitinne, cur i gcéill polaiteoirí agus fórsaí an mhargaidh. Is léir ar iompar náireach na bpolaiteoirí áitiúla sna Gaeltachtaí le déanaí nach ón gcóras oifigiúil a thiocfaidh an slánú, rud nach bhfuil na Breathnaigh dall air ach an oiread.

D'ainneoin obair iontach *Menter a Busnes* fórsaí an mhargaidh a oiriúnú go háitiúil agus feachtas misniúil *Cymdeithas Yr Iaith* na fórsaí sin a smachtú le gníomhaíocht dhíreach, tá teorainn lenar féidir a bhaint amach sa réimse sin. I ré seo an Aontais Eorpaigh, tá ceannas iomlán ag lucht an mhargaidh ar fhorbairt na sochaí agus tá beagnach gach gníomh de chuid na rialtas in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain faofa ag na fórsaí sin.

Is insan chath le fórsaí an mhargaidh a chinnteofar cás na dteangacha Céilteacha don todhchaí. Ní léir gur féidir na fórsaí sin a chloí ach is féidir dul i ngleic leo. Ach, ina theannta sin, b'fhéidir gur míthid *dul san iomaíocht leo*. Ar chóir comharchumainn tithíochta a bhunú sna ceantair leanúnachais teanga, mar shampla, a thacódh le cainteoirí Gaeilge/Breathnaise a dtithe féin a thógaint nó a thógadh lárionaid tithe agus árasán lena ligean le cainteoirí na teanga dúchais? Ar a laghad, bheifí ag cinntiú cóiríochta ina gceantar féin do phobal na háite agus ag buaú na dteangacha dúchais ina gceantair féin. Maidir le stad a chur le forbairtí oscailte sna ceantair sin, mura féidir le stát 'neamhspleách' a theanga féin a chosaint in aghaidh fhórsaí an mhargaidh, cén seans atá ag na Breathnaigh?

Caoimhín Mac Raghnaill

Summary: *This article discusses the effect of market forces on Celtic language communities in Ireland and Wales and the different strategies proposed by Welsh groups, some, like Cymuned, linking language with community while others, like Plaid, emphasise a national bilingual policy. The author suggests the development of housing cooperatives in the Celtic speaking areas to counteract market forces.*

Conradh Leads Opposition to Fine Gael Irish Policy

At the Fine Gael (main opposition party in Republic) annual conference in June the party adopted the controversial policy floated earlier in the year by their leader, Enda Kenny, in relation to the status and teaching of Irish in second level education. This policy would make Irish a subject of choice for the final examination, the Leaving Certificate, instead of a necessary subject. This would have a serious effect on the standing of the language and is likely to lead to reduced numbers taking Irish when it is timetabled with other subjects of choice which must be taken to follow certain professions for example. Fine Gael intends to promote this policy in the context of the forthcoming general election of 2007. The Labour Party (Fine Gael's partner of choice for an alternative coalition to the existing Fianna Fail /PD coalition) leader, Pat Rabbitte, has stated in a letter to a constituent that such a policy will do damage to Irish. Whether this attitude will have any bearing on coalition is yet to be seen but clarification sought on this led only to the statement that the Labour were reviewing their policy on Irish and it w

could emerge sometime during the summer.

On 22nd May at a press occasion outside Dáil Éireann, Dáithí Mac Carthaigh, president of Conradh na Gaeilge expressed An Conradh's disappointment at the Fine Gael decision.

He said this decision was against the values of the party, was anti - Irish, anti academic and anti-European. He said that An Conradh would be ensuring that thousands of voters at the next election would give their votes to those who supported Irish being retained as a subject which all second level students should take. These votes could make a big difference, particularly in constituencies where Fine Gael hoped to win a seat.

He said that An Conradh had taken up the invitation of Fine Gael to debate the position of Irish at second level but was surprised and disappointed that no cognisance had been taken of the opinions of An Conradh, teachers and students and language experts. One only had to look at the experience in England with the severe decline in those taking languages since they became optional subjects at Key Level 4. If the Fine Gael proposals are implemented the same will occur here with regard to Irish. Certainly the teaching of Irish in the educational system has to be reviewed but there is no sense in the Fine Gael policy.

An Conradh demands that the following proposals be put into effect:



**Dáithí Mac Carthaigh,
Uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge**

- ♦ That every primary school teacher should spend a year of their academic course on immersion education in an all-Irish college learning about immersion education through immersion.
- ♦ That a subject other than Irish be thought through the medium of Irish to all primary school pupils. Dr. John Harris, Trinity College, has confirmed that about 30,000 pupils receive Irish medium education now and that a further 116,000 are taught an additional subject through Irish. Dr. Harris proposed that this system of partial immersion was effective in English language schools in a system which by and large was failing to give fluency to pupils.
- ♦ That two syllabi be developed at second level; *Irish Language* and *Irish Literature*. The competence of students in speech, comprehension, reading and writing, based on the common European Framework, would be examined in *Irish Language* and every student could take that exam. *Irish Literature* would be taught in the Irish medium second level colleges and as an 'extra subject' to students in other schools who had a special interest in or aptitude in Irish much as applied maths is taught now to students who have a special interest in or aptitude in maths.

An Conradh's plan to make Fine Gael's Irish policy a political issue in the next election has been questioned by the Irish language Ezine BEO, although they agree on the extreme adverse effects it would have. They question as to whether it is being handled in a strategic enough fashion and see a risk in the event of Fine Gael being part of the next government. If they do achieve government it is unlikely to be on account of their Irish policy but they will be able to say it was on their programme for government and it is certain that they will implement their marginalisation of Irish. It might be better to

focus on other parties who might share power with them.

An Conradh's approach would seem to mirror that of Máirtín Ó Cadhain, the Irish language activist, author and republican, who wrote a pamphlet in the 1960s, *Irish above Politics*, in which he espoused the need for Irish speakers to put their allegiance to Irish above that to a particular political party and to target particular constituencies in an attempt to sway parties to adopt policies to promote Irish. In the event it seems this policy was ignored by most Irish speakers and supporters at that time. If An Conradh is to make an impact they must be able to demonstrate that and to ensure that they will. It will probably be a case of whether An Conradh can or has the will to organise effectively in marginal constituencies and whether it can actually muster the considerable person power and financial resources needed to engage in effective canvassing of voter opinion, especially Irish speaking voters and sympathisers.

Sinn Féin to Gaelicise Party



**Aengus Ó Snodaigh,
Sinn Féin spokesperson on Irish.**

The Sinn Féin executive has ratified a new policy which will seek to make Irish the first working language of the party by 2016. The motion came from the Culture Department whose head is Séanna Breathnach. There will be a 7-10 year plan to bring Irish into use in every realm of the party's work by 2016, modelled on that of the Basque party Batasuna. Between 1992 and 2000 Batasuna turned their party from a Spanish speaking one in favour of Basque to one where all the work of the party is done through Basque.

The plan was developed after a visit to Euskadi by a delegation from Sinn Féin's Dept. of Culture and a series of meetings around the country. Party leaders will be targeted first with the aim of giving them fluency in the language and a proportion of candidates for election should have fluent Irish. The plan foresees the issuing of bilingual statements and the use of bilingual or Irish election material. Irish will be brought into the party's major publicity events and campaigns.

Proposal a Betrayal of Gaeltacht

In mid June An Bord Pleanála (Planning Appeals Board) refused planning permission for a large housing development just beside the Gaeltacht village of An Spidéal, in the Conamara Gaeltacht. The granting of permission by Galway County Council had been appealed by Airdeall, the Irish Language protection group operating under the auspices of Comhhdáil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, and Coiste Ghlór na nGael, An Spidéal. The development was one of the largest yet proposed in the area and would have consisted of 24 semi-detached houses, 3 detached houses and 24 town houses on a site north of the village. Upholding the appeals An Bord said the scale of the development was excessive given the infrastructural deficiencies in the village. It also found that the scale, form and layout of the proposed development would be suburban, piecemeal and disorderly in form, inconsistent with the established pattern of development and would militate against the environmental amenities of the village.

More importantly An Bord also found that the development would be contrary to the protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht as provided for in the Galway County Development Plan 2003-2009. This case is an unfortunate sign that despite a number of rulings by An Bord which support the language provisions adopted by the Council greedy developers who do not give a damn about the effect of their proposals on the linguistic integrity of the Gaeltacht will continue to make such inappropriate applications.

Earlier in the month another ruling of An Bord upheld concerns raised by Airdeall that no percentage of Irish language usage was set for a housing development in Na Forbacha (the Furbo area, between An Spidéal and the edge of the still westward growing Galway City). They ruled that outline permission for nine houses, three apartments with retail development and parking should include a condition that Irish language usage be set at 66%.

Airdeall has urged Galway County Council (CCG) to apply 'clear language conditions when granting planning permission for developments in the Gaeltacht'. Unfortunately even where it has been enforced on appeal it seems the conditions are not being abided by. A development in the same area for nine houses, six apartments and offices had been appealed by a local man, Páid Ó Donnchú, on the grounds that the Co. Council did not apply language conditions. An Bord ruled that 60% of the houses should be allocated to Irish speakers. The land was sold on to a construction company, Cordil Construction, who began construction without making a legal

agreement with the County Council in regard to the language percentage condition laid down. Representations made to GCC elicited the response that the matter would be investigated!

Airdeall also stated 'It is even now more important than ever that Gaeltacht County Councillors take a stand for the future of the Gaeltacht. It called on them to resist pressure to make changes to the Galway Development Plan that could be detrimental to the Gaeltacht as an Irish speaking district.

Unfortunately it seems that this call is being ignored as Gaeltacht County Councillors met and proposed significant changes to the Irish languages conditions. The 4 Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael, 1 PD councillors and surprisingly, the one independent Seosamh Ó Cuaig, have apparently agreed to seek changes which would do away effectively with the language condition in the strongest central parts of the Gaeltacht while retaining it in only in the coastal strip from an Tulach (some 12km west of An Spidéal) to Galway. One can only suppose that this is the usual alliance of business and political interests which dominates local politics in Ireland which has led to this betrayal though some of those councillors deny this. Their proposals would mean that anyone with a connection to an area (even if they are not fluent Irish speakers) could buy houses without any language condition and in the few remaining places where the condition would apply the rule the house could not be sold on for 10 years would be reduced to 7.



**Independent Conamara Galway
County Councillor, Seosamh Ó Cuaig.**

Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh of Comhhdáil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge and Airdeall said that the death of the Gaeltacht would be the result of attempts to weaken the Irish language conditions. He continued 'this is being called development when in fact it is destruction. If this proposal is accepted there will be no

Gaeltacht. Developers will target areas in the heart of the Gaeltacht, such as An Ceathrú Rua, where no language condition would apply under these proposals'.

To date the Development Plan of Galway County was the strongest in protecting the Irish language in the Gaeltacht, other counties such as Kerry, Donegal and Cork were being called on to emulate Galway. Now any positive movement in those counties is likely to be forgotten about if these proposals are accepted. Another nail in the coffin of the Gaeltacht.

The latest at time of writing is that a Planning Forum has been proposed by Minister Éamonn Ó Cuív to discuss the language condition. Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh said that Airdeall were agreeable to a forum that would bring developers, Udarás na Gaeltachta, County Councillors and community groups together with the aim of ensuring proper protection for the language in the Galway County Development. In the meantime he said the Conamara Councillors should withdraw their ill considered proposal.

EU Constitution Charade

A year after the French and Dutch people in fair, free and democratic referenda voted to reject the EU Constitution the EU political and media elite refuses to accept their decisions even though, according to law, all EU states must vote yes before a treaty is adopted.

In June the EU's heads of state and governments disagreed on the wording of a draft communiqué on the constitution attempting to set a 2009 deadline for agreement.

Ignoring the law States remain split on whether the constitution can be introduced in full or whether it should be amended following its rejection by the French and Dutch in referendums last year. Instead of concentrating on the constitution EU leaders decided on a softly softly twin-track approach to focus on concrete projects claimed to bring value to citizens and create the right conditions for a future institutional agreement.

However, the proposal to place a deadline for the ratification and implementation of the EU constitution was opposed by several states, including Ireland. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern, said there was no agreement that this period was finite. "But I think people understand that European elections in 2009 is the outer limit." This was not a deadline, he said, 'but things have to be dealt with by then if possible.' Denmark and Britain have decided not to hold referenda until a new way forward is decided by the EU states.

Fianna Fáil goes North (Again?)

With the withdrawal of the charismatic leader, John Hume, and their increasingly cantankerous deputy leader, Séamus Mallon and the failure of the replacement earnest energetic successor, Mark Durkin to achieve that most effervescent of statures – acceptability as leader in the eyes of the population – the SDLP have become increasingly rudeness.

What do they stand for (except anti Sinn Féin nationalism)? No one is sure. They are accepted fraternal delegates at Labour Party conferences in England and in the Republic though their initial organising and financial impetus came mostly from Fine Gael activists in Dublin 4. John Hume would have tried to project them as post-nationalist members of the west European family of Christian Democrats; Séamus Mallon as an old Irish Home Rule Party with muscle; Mark Durkin more to the 'L' root which finds it harder to embed itself in the 6 counties because it lack organisation at ground-level. There is increasing frustration at the delays and / or failure to get political institutions in operation, an anxiety taking expression in more and more disgruntled and ex-members of the SDLP asking that they switch modes and affiliate with Fianna Fáil or ask Fianna Fáil to extend its organisation through out Ireland.

Fianna Fáil has successfully projected itself as the natural party of government losing power occasionally through inertia, inefficacy or antagonising significant interest groups (as they did the first time they lost power in the forties, when they foolishly took on the teachers' unions) or the attraction of a credible alternative.

Fianna Fáil was born in the twenties, splitting from Sinn Féin, which remained a 32 county organisation, while Fianna Fáil has been steadily, even steadfastly, a 26 county party ever since. Fine Gael was born in the thirties from an amalgam of Cumann na nGaedheal which was the victor side in the civil war (and party of Government until replaced by Fianna Fáil in the early thirties) and the Blue Shirts under General Eoin O'Duffy (our home-grown fascists); the Centre Party which was the remains of the old Redmonite Home Rule Party (effectively side lined in the 1918 election sweep by Sinn Féin) and a few 'Southern Unionists' abandoned by Carson and Co. at Stormont and opting in to the political life of the 26 county state. And Fine Gael never looked over the border as an organisation.

Labour has a better track record but no significant numbers to render them important in the play for power in the 26 counties.

The idea of Fianna Fáil – a populist party,

as the late Dick Roche described and analysed it in his book, *Géarchéim in Éirinn*, – has been tempted to put toe in water before. Though it was said that the 'cóiriú' or constitution of the party precluded it from organisation in another jurisdiction branches have been formed and lasted however fleetingly in Scotland and in Cambridge University. With these as precedent and affiliation application forms from some groups across the border some party activists tried repeatedly when Jack Lynch was president of the Party, to have the party committed to extending itself formally into the 6 counties. By procedural fudge and time wasting (so that significant time didn't remain at successive and fleascanna to debate motions of such significance) Jack Lynch (to mix sporting metaphors) successfully kicked the topic into touch, into the indefinite future of another Ard Fheis some time in the future.

The difference now is that while most of the players then were from the 6 counties they were resident in the 26 and party activists there. The present other appeals are from non-party people within the 6 counties.

Lynch had no feeling for the Six Counties and was not well informed or well advised. Berite Ahern is probably wiser in his generation and a better stroke player on uneven ground and could surprise many by taking up the disappointed SDLPers' invitation.

P Ó Snodaigh

Social Partnership or Social Inequality?

The benefits of the partnership deal concluded for 2006-16 have been challenged by Kieran Allen, head of the School of Sociology in University College, Dublin and the author of the book *Celtic Tiger: the Myth of Social Partnership*. He has called for the deal to be rejected and a better one negotiated which reflects the contribution workers have made to the Celtic Tiger.

His has been one of the few voices raised in criticism of the agreement but two of the three teachers unions have already voted against, however one of the much larger unions Impact has voted in favour and it seems likely to be ratified by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

K. Allen said that, despite the hype, workers will not be receiving a 5 per cent rise for each of the coming years. In the public sector there will be a pay freeze until December; phased increases then will only amount to 4.03% per annum which barely covers the official rate of inflation. Nor does that official rate of inflation adequately cover rising house prices. Workers are now being asked to give extra productivity just to keep up with price increases. If there is not compliance with a host of new measures they will be denied a pay rise.



Kieran Allen, School of Sociology, UCD.

Workers are asked to accept widespread forms of outsourcing, which can be pursued if management claims it is necessary to 'avoid delays in delivery of services'. Trade Unionists are also asked for agreement to the idea of 'shared services'. This would mean that public sector bodies would expand public-private partnerships and have work shifted to many non-union firms.

The basis of this philosophy is that the

private sector is the thriving dynamic section of the economy; however this mythology conveniently ignores how the public sector subsidises it with an educated healthy workforce and how it benefits from an enormous level of 'corporate welfare' as the state taxes it at rates that are significantly lower than those the average worker pays.

The agreement disparages the idea of a nine to five job and weekends of work, under the guise of 'modernisation'; instead it demands that public sector workers either voluntarily agree to work evenings and weekends - with no extra overtime - or allow management to recruit those who will do so.

Pensions are also a key issue. Pension coverage is falling and nearly half of all defined benefit schemes have been closed to new applicants yet the proposals do not compel employers to pay into a pension schemes. They do not even stop extremely profitable companies like the Bank of Ireland throwing new employees out of its defined benefit scheme.

K. Allen sees the proposals as resting on a fundamental imbalance between two partners claiming to be equals. Workers cannot claim extra ability to pay from companies making huge profits while employers can claim inability to pay wage increases if they can point to 'loss of competitiveness'.

Irish Language Rights Charter

The country's first ever Irish Language Rights Charter was launched at the end of June to coincide with the visit of representatives of the Oireachtas joint committee concerned with Irish language issues to the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga in An Spidéal, Co Galway. An Coimisinéir Teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, had heralded the launch of the Charter during his opening address to a major international linguistic conference held in Galway in mid June. "It is my hope that in finding space for the display of this charter in their public spaces, state organisations will create a place and space for the Irish language in their own endeavors," An Coimisinéir Teanga. Seán Ó Cuirreáin, told delegates at the 10th biennial conference the International Academy of Linguistic Law in NUIG.

The launch was timed to be in advance of the 14th of July when all the provisions of the Official Languages Act will come into force. Many of the provisions have already been introduced on a gradual basis over the past three years but a specific clause within the Act ensures that any measure not already introduced by ministerial order will come into effect automatically on the third anniversary of its signing into law by the President.

The bilingual charter in poster form outlines clearly the rights of Irish speakers in their dealings with state bodies and the services that they are entitled to receive through the medium of Irish. The Charter will be distributed to all state organisations, schools, libraries and other public buildings.

Mr Ó Cuirreáin told the conference of the International Academy of Linguistic Law that much of the criticism of the Official Languages Act in elements of the media is based on a misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the Act. The Act places obligations on 650 different state organisations and agencies and An Coimisinéir Teanga told the conference that it should be perceived as a shield not a sword as it protects Irish language rights without taking away from English language rights.

Describing the Official Languages Act as a practical and pragmatic piece of legislation, An Coimisinéir Teanga told the conference that it does not require or compel any individual citizen, or any individual public servant or civil servant, to do anything in relation to the Irish language: "It does however challenge the management of state organisations to put systems in place to provide certain basic levels of services through Irish for anyone who wishes to



**An Coimisinéir Teanga,
Seán Ó Cuirreáin.**

conduct their business through Irish with the State." He said that the real objective of the Official Languages Act was to create a space for Irish in the public life of this country and would require "change management" on the part of the state organisations.

This is the first time that this major linguistic conference has been held in Ireland (previous conferences have been held in Beijing, Havana, Pretoria, Puerto Rico, Montreal and Hong Kong) and up to 100 experts from 25 countries (including USA, China, India, Russia, Turkey, Finland, Canada, Ireland, etc) presented papers in English, Irish or French on aspects of the theme "Language law and language rights – the challenges of enactment and implementation."

Beo! Five Years Old

The Irish language Ezine is now in its fifth year. Their aim is to provide material in Irish to a worldwide audience. The magazine has regular articles on current affairs, on arts, on historical matters, Irish language issues, an interview of the month and contributions from overseas contributors. Editor Éamonn Ó Dónaill said that *Beo!* attracts 4,000 visits each week and between 15,000 to 20,000 every month. On average visitors read four articles. Most readers come from Ireland, Britain, the USA, Canada and Australia. There is, it seems, no shortage of writers submitting material. The layout is attractive with hyperlinks to articles which generally contain a list of translations of key phrases or words. The magazine is produced with a grant of €70,000 a year from Foras na Gaeilge.

EU seeks Irish Translators

The European Commission is advertising for 30 Irish translators to work at EU Institutions when Irish becomes an official language on Jan 1st. next. They are undertaking a recruitment competition which will involve each candidate taking an admission test and interview. Candidates must have a perfect knowledge of Irish and one other official EU language. They must also have a third level qualification in any course of at least three years' duration. Interpreters for the EU must usually have a third level qualification of interpretation in a particular language but no such qualification exists in Ireland. However University College Galway has introduced such a course in Irish this year.

BRITISH COLLUSION WITH LOYALISTS PROVEN

Papers uncovered by the Derry-based Pat Finucane Centre and the Justice for the Forgotten group show that the British government, as far back as the 1970s, was informed of the highest level of widespread collusion between the Ulster Defence Regiment and loyalist paramilitaries. This was revealed in an article published in the Belfast based Irish News in mid June. The article was written by one of its senior journalists, Steven McCaffrey.

A 1973 document entitled 'Subversion in the UDR' reported: 'It seems likely that a significant proportion (perhaps 5 per cent – in some cases as high as 15 per cent) of UDR soldiers will also be members of the UDA, Vanguard service corps, Orange Volunteer or UVF.' Documents uncovered from the archives also disclosed that in 1975 the then British prime minister, Harold Wilson, and the then Northern secretary, Merlyn Rees, briefed the then Conservative leader, Margaret Thatcher, about the concerns of collusion involving the UDR and RUC with the paramilitaries. British military intelligence in the early 1970s reported that the 'best single source of weapons, and the only significant source of modern weapons, for Protestant extremist groups was the UDR.'

It expressed fears that the UDR was loyal to 'Ulster' rather than 'Her Majesty's Government' and had information that UDR weapons were being used in the murder of Catholics. Some of the papers also revealed how there was serious suspicion that some UDR soldiers were assisting loyalists to conduct raids of UDR armouries, particularly as many, many more weapons went missing from the UDR than from the regular British army arsenals. SDLP justice spokesman, Alban Maginness said the British government must now answer serious questions about the statements in the 1973 document. The British army and Northern Ireland Office would make no comment on the disclosures.



Kernow



Nowodhow Dhiworth Alban

ESEL NOWYDH A WRUG LIA YN ALBANEK A-DHERAG SENEDH ALBAN



Maureen Watt, esel nowydh Senedd Alban, a wrug lia dhe'n 19ves a vis Ebryl 2006 dhe Senedd Alban. An kynsa MSP dhe lia yn yeth Albanek yw hi ! Hi a dheu dhiworth rannvro Aberdeen hag Albanek yw hy yeth genesik. Hi a vynn avonsya an yeth albanek. Esel ha kannas an SNP rag Alban an Vorlewen yw hi.

Res yw dhyn perthi kov bos res yw dhe'n MSP lia kyns kemmeres aga esedh y'n Senedd. Res yw dhedha lia yn Sowsnek wostallet mes y hyllons lia yn Gwydhelek Alban, Albanek po yeth arall wosa henna ! Lies esel re dhewisas lia yn Gwydhelek Albanek avel yeth nessa hag onan yn Katalanek ! Maureen Watt yw an gynsa dhe lia yn Albanek !

Hag Alban re waynyas skoedhyer a'n yeth Albanek gensi mes soweth Alban re gollas ynwedh skoedhyer pur boesek an yethow Alban gans mernans a-dhiwedhes Margaret Ewing, esel geryes da an SNP...

Summary: Maureen Watt, member of the SNP, sworn in the 19th April as a Member of the Scottish Parliament. She is the first to take the parliamentary oath in the Scots language. She intends to promote the language as she is a native speaker. We must remind that the oath must be taken first in English but may then be repeated in Gaelic, Scots or any other language. While Scotland has gained a new supporter of its native languages, Scotland has lost another very important one with the death of Margaret Ewing, the famous member of the SNP.

SKOEDH RAG SKOL YN GWYDHELEK ALBAN

Kerens re ordenas petyshyon war linenn rag ri spas dhe skoedhyoryon an Gwydhelek Alban ha yethow nebes kewsys dhe skoedhya kaskyrgh rag profya skol Sleat war ynys Skye dhe dhos ha bos oll Gwydhelek.

Kres pur boesek rag gonisogeth gwydhelek yw Sleat. Res yw dhyn perthi kov yma yn Sleat kollji gwydhelek kenedhlek a Alban



henwys Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Rann vrassa studhyoryon an kollji a dhysk dre Wydhelek. Kerens a vynnsa gweles Sleat profys avel skol oll-gwydhelek rag skoedhya godhvos ha kyfyans yn Gwydhelek ha rag krevhe an yeth y'n gemmynieth.

Pur boesek vydh diwedh an kusulyans ma rag an yeth ha rag displegyans adhyskans dre Wydhelek yn Alban. Henn a via sel rag settya gwir dhe vos adhyskys yn Gwydhelek yn rannvroow gwydhelek a Alban avel yn rannvroow gwydhelek Iwerdhon po rannvroow kembrek a Gembra !

Soweth yma tus yn enebieth gans towlenn an gerens rag profya kollji Sleat avel kollji oll-gwydhelek, ytho res yw dhyn skoedhya an gerens ma ha sina an petyshyon war linenn dhe'n drygva ma : www.petitiononline.com/sleite/petition.html po pella derivadow war wiasva Comann nam

Pàrant Shleite : www.cnampshleite.org.uk

Summary: Parents calling for the designation of Sleat primary school on the Isle of Skye as an all-Gaelic school have launched an online petition to give supporters of Gaelic the opportunity to back the campaign. This would support pupils' ability and confidence in Gaelic and strengthen the language in the community. It would bring Scotland in line with the Irish Gaeltacht and strongly Welsh speaking areas of Wales. Alas campaigners face a difficult task as a vocal pressure group has been established to oppose the plans... So they need our help !

José CALVETE

BYWNANS KE

Dhe wertha lemmyn yma dyllans an gwari henwys Bywnans Ke. Skrifys veu adro dhe gres an hwetegves kansblydhen, mes kellys heb oel erna veu kevys yn 1999 yn mysk paperow an penndyskader Caerwyn Williams warlergh y vernans, yn Kerdydh., Kembra. Denvyth ny woer fatla nag a by le y teuth dhe vos ganso.

Gwari diwedhes yw hag, yn rannow, fest arnowydh y semlant, awos oll y hen destennow . Kynsa rann yw istor bywnans Sen Ke ha'y brevi der an tebel vyghtern Tewdhar, selys war vywnans-skrifow bretonek. Hogen y wriansow yw stegys fast orth rannvro y blu, Lannsege, dre golmennow orth henwyn ha hwedhlw teythek.

An nessa gwari (po rann) a dheriv istor Arthur (*Arthur Gernow*), Gwynnnuwer ha Modres. Yma bresel meur yntra Arthor ha'n emperour Romanek , Lusi. Kales yw dhymm krysi nag o an kasow a 1497 ha 1549, orth myghternyow Tudor, yn brys an skrifer (Soweth ny wodhon y hanow).

Darvos reydhel

A-der an breselyow ha galarow an sans, yma, dhe'n kynsa prys y'gan gwariow-mir, dew 'dharvos reydhel', hag yn mysk lies ger nowydh-aswonys yn kernewek yma onan 'dogluthi' a hevel styrya an ger 'f' mar vourgerys gans an sowson.

Res o studhya dour ha hir an mammskrif drefenn bos meur a galetter, yn kynsa le, unnweyth y redya .

Dasskrif yw ha lies namm ynnò, neb a omdhiskwedh kemmys yn linennow sowsnek, frynkek ha Latin, hag y'n kernewek.

Dr Ken George a geskusulyas gans lies huni may fo an dyllans ma mar dha dell allo bos, ha dyllys yw yn tri versyon, skrif a mammskrif sywyes dre dreuslytherennans yn kernewek kemmyn ha trelyans yn sowsnek.

Ny vynn ev leverel y vos an 'diwetha ger' , mes, wosa hwegh blydhen, pub den-oll a yll redya an pyth yw heb mar keworrans a vri dhe'n dresorva a gemnewek.

Bywnans Ke... The Life of Saint Ke

It is with delight that an edition has been printed of a long-lost Tudor Cornish play. Readers may now find the original text plus a rendering in 'kemmyn', the most widely used orthography today, accompanied by an English translation. The manuscript is in places defective and there is a large body of vocabulary unique to this play. However, the bulk of the play is firmly established and very entertaining.



Dr. Ken George

'Discovered' in Cardiff in 1999, amongst the papers left by Professor Caerwyn after his death, we have been awaiting a printed edition of this play, *Bywnans Ke*. It is a difficult manuscript, in places obviously mis-copied, and missing a few pages. Still, it is very hard to forgive a scholar who 'sat on' such an important addition to the Cornish literary heritage. Not only did he never mention its existence but left no information on its provenance.

The A4 publication contains the text in its original spelling, a version in Kernowek Kemmyn, a translation to English, scholarly notes on the text and copious other notes and appendices.

Bywnans Ke, Ed. Dr K George, Pub. Kesva an Taves Kernowek, Price £11 + post & packing.

Available from: Gwynn ha Du, 4 The Arcade, Lyskerwys/ Liskeard, Kernow/ Cornwall pawl@gwynnhadu.fsnet.co.uk
Tel: 01579 347373

For God and St George...

*Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.*

So goes the last verse of Jerusalem, the 'English National Anthem', written by William Blake and put to music by Hubert Parry in time to raise flagging spirits in the Great War. It was intended to help make sense out of the senseless carnage of the trenches, to say that fighting the war had some purpose, some meaning, because it was all part of England's national purpose.

Blake was saying that the people of England should strive to create a nation to act as an example to the world just like God's chosen people, the Jews. Coming at the apex of empire, England's national identity had been based on the belief that it had a divine mission to spread civilisation in the world by conquering and subjugating other peoples. However, the same year that Jerusalem was first sung, the Irish decided, after centuries of war, repression, massacres and starvation, that they had had enough of being 'civilised' and rose in the 1916 Easter Rising exactly 90 years ago last Easter.

The subjugation of Ireland was a direct result of a national identity based on a belief in possessing a divine mission to conquer and dominate others. It might be said that the First World War was too, Germany resorting to military confrontation with Britain and France as it was being humiliated in its own efforts to establish an empire.

Imperialistic national identities, therefore, are extremely dangerous and, worryingly, a number of nations still have them. Some nations, such as Germany and Japan, have been compelled by military defeats to shed theirs completely, but England has not. William Hague once remarked: "English nationalism is the most dangerous of all forms of nationalism"; small wonder there are growing concerns that government efforts to strengthen English identity is helping the rise of the far-right BNP (whose official anthem, funny-old-thing, is Jerusalem) and that the World Cup will be marred by English soccer hooliganism.

But what about an identity for Cornwall whose history has been defined, like Ireland's, by a defensive struggle for freedom? What is our role in this troublesome world?

It is not easy being considered a 'country bumpkin' just because of your accent, surviving on the national minimum wage or the dole, never owning your home while so



Andy Phillips is a Cornish Anglican priest and secretary of Fry an Spyrys, the campaign for a Church of Cornwall.

many houses stand empty, living in expensive and uncertain rented accommodation, your kids suffering the indignity of being denied their history, ethnicity and identity at school, the call for the return of historic freedoms ignored. Ian Bradley wrote in his ground-breaking book, *The Celtic Way*:

"It has been said there are two kinds of people in history – those who do things to others and those who have things done to them. The Celts as a race indisputably belong to the second category. Their story is one of oppression, suffering and progressive marginalisation – the way that was trodden by Jesus in his time on earth."

The pacifistic docility of small nations like Sweden, Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland acts as an example to those who believe that might is always right, that their nation has a God-given duty to subjugate others by economic power or military muscle.

Surely this is a role for Celts in this divided world, to know the way to the cross trodden by Jesus that first Good Friday and to challenge those who make us and others walk it. It would mean being a Ghandi or Martin Luther King, not a Che Guevara or Nick Griffin; not responding to subjugation with hatred, but with pity; yes, it would mean seeking justice with firmness, but without malice. It would mean seeking reconciliation and embrace, not vengeance and exclusion.

It may not seem a very attractive identity in a world of power-politics, but it is the correct and only Christian response to this ever-more crazy and unjust world. And it is one we could be truly proud of.

Andy Phillips

Contact: www.freethespirit.org.uk

THE SILLY SEASON

Dydh da, ha gwella gorhemmynaddow rak oll poble Keltiek.

(Good day and best wishes to all Celtic peoples)

Once more the English try to win a world cup, once more the fanatics ride through our country waving their blood bespattered butcher apron from the windows of their cars, unconcerned that we were not all born Anglo Saxon, unconcerned at the offence this mindless act of misplaced loyalty to a largely invented nation, causes to a large section of indigenous Cornish people. An act even endorsed by the Prime Minister of the so-called *United Kingdom of Greater Britain* that includes the Scots, the Welsh, some of the Irish, and Manx as well as ourselves, many of whom, like us, have a rather strong desire to see their football team defeated as soon as possible.

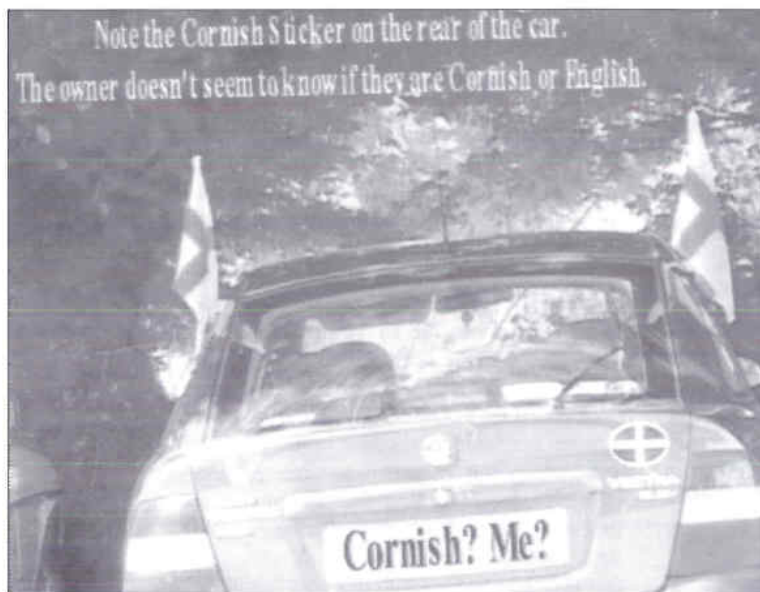
I say a large section because as the accompanying photo shows, many of our own people are duped into supporting them, but why? The English nation has come into our country on more than one occasion and slaughtered our ancestors in enormous numbers. How can any self-respecting Cornish person wave their flag for them?

The answer lies in their propaganda machine manifested in the Central state education system, Central Broadcasting system, and the England football supporters club who promote their team by hawking England football memorabilia in all our local shops, with the emotive excuse of "We must support the lads", no one ever asks why, and the supermarkets and other largely English owned businesses comply, whilst local businesses and people feel somehow unpatriotic if they don't. Such is the subtlety of this anglo state that Cornish school children are denied access to their own culture and the truth of Anglo historical aggression in Kernow. Of course, our children have no idea of the ongoing battle by the few to bring Cornish human rights problems before central government or the EU.

Historically it took centuries for education of the common man to gain a measure of acceptance by central government who were rather busy building themselves an empire with the use of an army that was very heavily composed of Celts, and a Navy that I estimate was composed of about 60% of

Cornish people not to mention Celts of the other nations. Look at the names on historical navy lists.

However; suddenly they became aware of the propaganda benefits of inculcating innocent school children with English cultural values. I may be wrong but I believe that the Benedictine order used to say: "Give



us a child for its first seven years and we will return a dedicated Catholic for life". They were astute long before the anglo empire cottoned onto the value of such a system. *(NB I myself was brought up a Catholic, no disrespect implied to the Benedictines).*

It must be remembered that to an innocent child, the teacher is some sort of demi-god with knowledge they can never hope to equal, moreover, teacher is always right. If teacher asserts that Cornwall is nothing more than an English county, then that is a fact the child will bear forevermore. Few indeed are the children who question this anglo teaching, and when they do they are castigated and punished for it. I personally know the family of one young girl who was kept in detention for insisting that Cornwall was a separate country. And if required I can produce the evidence. I am also led to believe that she was not the only one either. What hope do a minority Celtic people have in the face of this usurpation of historical fact by the proponents and applicators of a state governed education authority run by the Central government?

What hope do they have when the media, even the local media, push England and its culture at us at every opportunity? Ask the average English teenager to give the name of an English hero and the answer you are likely to get is Wayne Rooney. As a Scottish child and you'll likely get Wallace, The Bruce, or

one of the many Scots who resisted English domination. Ask a child of the Welsh Bro the same question and you'll hear of Llywelyn ap Gruffedd, or Owain Gyndwr. Ask one of the decreasingly few, aware Cornish children, and you'll get An Gof, or Humphrey Arudel. A marked contrast to the almost monarchical position accorded by the English to their football heroes. I think one is entitled to ask...What has the England football team ever done for the nation? They are over paid, over-subsidised, and as English as Sven Yoren Ericson. Such is the ability of the Anglo State and its sports minister and council, to engender a mass national fanaticism over what after all, is supposed to be a game not another world war. This is cultural domination being pushed upon many who don't want it.

I could go on and on and on, quoting incidents and occasions when central authority through both outright misinformation, and political underhandedness, has and is doing its best to inculcate the children and adults of the Celtic nations, into a false anglo culture.

They seem to reliably forget, and certainly do not tell our children that this Island was once peopled by Brythonic speaking ancestors from the

Shetlands to Cornwall. They conveniently forget, that their Celtic Christian ancestors were driven out by a horde of uncivilised, illiterate, berry eating barbarians from the bogs of Bavaria. Those same barbarians now presented to our children as peaceful peasant farmers.

Nothing could be further from the truth, read their own (Saxon Chronicles) accounts of the invasion. Why, when they obviously met with Celtic resistance did they feel no need to fortify their conquered lands in the south East against the Celts? They'd driven them out to the North and West, that's why. This same convenient forgetfulness is applied to the teaching of Cornish school children when the state education curriculum board instruct that our children learn of: Romans, Anglo Saxons, and Vikings.

Anglo Saxon didn't begin occupy our country until after William-the-conqueror. The Romans left around 410AD, what happened to the almost 600 years of history in between? Half a millennium of Cornish history, of enlightened education, literacy, and language, monastic colleges, illuminated Christian manuscripts, conveniently forgotten in the name of conformation to an anglo state.

As for me the sooner England are defeated in the world cup, the better, I'll be cheering on any nation against whom they play.

Sue Bowen



Mannin



Yn Impirolaghys Reesht

Foastagh, t'eh ynsit da dy chooilley pheiaigh, bunnys, dy row yn Impiraght Romanagh ny red yindyssagh ass towse. Ren ee cur lesh, t'eh grait, shee, oardrailys as ardeenid. As ren ee geddyn rey rish corvaal barbaragh. Rish keeadyn dy vleecantyn, va'n Raue reill harrish yn impiraght eek ayns shee as ardeenid myr soilshey gial y teihll. Agh eisht, ny veggan as ny veggan, hooar ny Barbaree niart as ren ad stroic as spooilley yn Raue hene. Huitt yn Impiraght Romanagh veih my cheilley, va'n ardeenid caillt as haink ny Eashyn Dorraghey rish. Va'n Oarpey cummal ayns barbaraght gys jerrey ny Eashyn Dorraghey, tra haink y Renaissance, yn Aavioghey, rish, as hooar ny Iddaalley ynsagh as ardeenid y teihll classicagh ass y noa.

Nish ta possan dy scoillaryn as sleih elley gra dy vel shoh oolley boghtynid. Ta daa lioar, myr sampleyr, gra shoh. Y chied lioar, shen 'The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain' liorish Neil Faulkner (Tempus Publishing Limited, 2004). Y nah lioar, shen 'Barbarians' liorish Terry Jones as Alan Ereira (BBC Books, 2006). Va'n nah lioar currit magh marish strane-chellveeish er BBC2.

Ta Neil Faulkner gra dy nee 'roosteyrys lesh raghlid' va'n Impiraght Romanagh. She ny Shenn Ghreegee va gymmydey'n fockley 'barbaragh' hoshiaght, t'eh jeeaghyn. Peiaigh erbee nagh row Greagish echee ny eek, she 'barbaragh' v'ayn. Cha row chengey chiart oc - v'ad goll mygeayrt gra 'bar-bar-bar' car y traasyn ynyd jeh loayrt ayns Greagish. Myr shen, she 'barbaragh' gagh peiaigh nagh row ny Ghreegagh, dooyrt ny Shenn Ghreegee sonnaasagh. Va ny Shenn Ghreegee er mullagh y teihll tra nagh row ny Romancee agh jeh beggan scansh. Agh sy jerrey, haink ny Romancee dy ve ny smoo niartal as ny smoo scanshoil na ny Greegee. Nish, she ny Romancee va gra 'barbaragh' rish persoon erbee nagh row ny Romanagh ny gaghtey as loayrt goll rish Romanagh.

Ayns lioar Neil Faulkner, t'eh soilshaghey yn agh va'n impi Romanagh Claudius bunnys eginit soie er y Vretyn ayns 43 AD. Kyndagh rish sorch dy lhag-haghyrt va Claudius ny impi, as begin da gagh impi Romanagh noa cosney gloyr as poar liorish soie er cheer nagh row syn Impiraght foast, marroo ram jeh ny cummaltee as geid bee as argid voue son y Raue. Casley rish sooder-folley agglagh, va'n Raue eginit cur tooilley

cheeraghyn fo chosh. Er yn oyr shen, hoie Claudius er y Vretyn. Sy toshiaght, haink eh lesh ny Romancee. Lhiant ad rish nyn bolasee cadjin: Romanaghey ny fir-toshee ynydagh, eisht cur orroosyn gurneil y cheer son y Raue - polasee feer speeideilagh son y chooid smoo. Agh sy jerrey hooar ny Romancee magh nagh row eh er ve feer cheeallagh dy heet gys y Vretyn. Son shickyrys, v'ad speeideilagh dy liooar sy jiass. Agh sy twoaie va caggey-guerilla boirey er ny Romancee ny smoo as ny smoo. Myr ta Faulkner gra, 'Hooar ny Barbaree Twoaie yn varriaght.' Dy firrinagh, cha dod ny Romancee cur y Vretyn fo chosh as cha daag ad monney ny lurg oc tra v'ad eginit immeeaght magh ass d'endeil nyn jeeraghyn sy Cheer Vooar.

Cha row ny Romancee cur lesh ardeenid as resoon. Son y chooid smoo, v'ad cur lesh tranlaase, roosteyrys, dunverys as torchagh. Feer vennick, va ny smoo ardeenid ee ny 'Barbaree' na v'ec ny Romancee. Er agh ennagh, va ny Romancee goll rish colught-dellal y laa t'ayn jiu. Mannagh dod ad cosney argid, jarrood eh. Dy firrinagh, sy jerrey cha dod ad cosney argid sy Vretyn as va'n Vretyn nane jeh ny buill s'jerree phrow yn Raue dy chur fo chosh. Ghow yn Impiraght Romanagh toshiaght dy ghoill sheese y liargagh lurg shen.

Sy lioar 'Barbarians' ta cabdil ny ghaa mychione ny Shenn Cheltice sy Vretyn as ayns Gaul. Ta ughtaryn y lioar soilshaghey nagh row ny Celtice (as 'Barbaree' elley) 'barbaragh' er chor erbee. Hrog ad raaidyn roish my row shen jeant ee ny Romancee, va cooinaghyn oc as yeeagh ad da ny Romancee yn agh dy gheddyn airh ass y thalloo. Chroo ny Celtice Feaillere Coligny, feaillere va foddey ny share na red erbee va ricau ee ny Romancee. Dynsee ny Celtice da ny Romancee yn agh carriadsyn as fainee mie y yannoo. As va baljyn stoamey ee y sleih ayns Gaul roish my varr ny Romancee millioon ny ghaa jeh ny Gaulee. Cha nel scoillaryn as sheanseyrn er n'eddyn magh paart jeh'n stoo derrey blein ny ghaa er dy henney. Ny smoo as ny smoo, ta shin toigall dy dinsh ny Romancee breagyn moarey ta sleih er chredjal rish keeadyn dy vleecantyn. Boayl erbee va currit fo chosh ee ny Romancee, red ad nyn gooid share dy gheddyn rey rish y chultoor ynydagh dy bollagh. Cha dod ad jannoo rish red erbee nagh row Romanagh. Ren shen goaill stiagh yn agh va ny Shenn Cheltice dellal rish mraane. Va cairyn ee mraane Celtiagh: cha row cairyn erbee ee

mraane Romanagh. Agh heill ny Romancee dy row ny Celtice ny smoo 'barbaragh' foast er y fa dy dod ben Cheltiagh scarrey rish dooinney va bwoalley ish, myr sampleyr.



Ken Loach

Ta impiroilee foast gymmydey 'gloyr y Raue' dy chur nyn impirolaghys hene er e hoshiaght. Sy nuyoo cash jeig, va impiroilee Sostnagh kinjagh cur yindys er yn Impiraght Romanagh as gra dy row ad geiyrt er ny Romancee as ad cur ardeenid da ny 'lesser breed' liorish yn 'Pax Britannica'. Ta sambyl jeh shoh ry gheddyn ayns Niall Fergusson, y fer-shennaghys Goaldagh t'er n'eddyn startey mie ayns Ollooscoill Harvard ayns America. Nagh abbyr dy bragh dy dooar eh yn startey shen er yn oyr dy row eh ayns foayr jeh Impiraght Americaanagh. Va strane-chellveeish ee Fergusson ayns Sostyn as eh moylley impiraghtyn. Agh t'eh mollit ee ny Americaanee - t'ad er vailleil: cha nel ad er ve lajer dy liooar dy ve nyn impiroilee kiart.

Va'n impirolaghys ry akin reesht tra hooar Ken Loach yn Palme d'Or ayns Cannes son y fillym echee 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley.' Shoh fillym mychione caggey ny Yemee son seyrnsys as y caggey eddyr lught y Steat Seyr as ny Pobblaghtee mysh kiare feed blein er dy henney. Ta Thoreeyn Sostnagh corree erskyn towse er y fa dy chossyn Ken Loache yn aundyr shoh. She 'fillym scammyltagh' t'ayn ta 'noi-Hostnagh' as myr shen foast. T'eh jeeaghyn nagh vel ny bonkany shoh er nynsaghey veg. Cha nod ad jannoo lesh yn irriney. Sleih nagh vel Pobblaghtagh noadyr, t'ad gra dy nee fillym mie as cairagh t'ayn. Agh t'eh foast orrin myr Celtice dy ve noi'n impirolaghys boayl erbee t'eh ry gheddyn.

Summary

There's growing realisation that the Roman Empire was not the Good Thing generally presented to us. But for a long time, imperialists have held up the Roman Empire as a shining example to be imitated. Imperialism is still alive and well, as seen in the recent reaction in England to Ken Loach's prize-winning film 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley'

Brian Stowell

Mec Vannin slams Manx Government Sell out

Mec Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Party, held its AGM in May. The following officials were elected for the coming year: President: Bernard Moffatt, Chairman / PRO: Mark Kermode, Secretary: Verity Gorry, Treasurer: Cristl Jerry, Editor: Alan Comish

The meeting paid tribute to the memory of Freddie Cowle / Jamys y Cowle, the Party's Cultural Officer and leading Manx speaker who died earlier this year.

The meeting approved the following position statement:

Mec Vannin is the only enduring political party in the Isle of Man to offer consistent policies, a viable alternative vision and opposition to an ongoing policy of selling-out the Manx people in the guise of bringing economic prosperity. For over forty years, our predictions of failure have been vindicated, our warnings of marginalisation materialised and, on the few occasions where some crumbs of our policies have been half-heartedly used, the feasibility of our alternatives proven. During that same time, a host of single issue groupings, reactionaries and self-interest groupings have come and invariably gone.

A central crutch for ongoing government policies is the myth of deprivation counterbalanced with a simplistic and distorted representation of pure economic success. One hundred years ago, Mannin's poor were no poorer than the poor of England. The same applies two hundred years ago. Indeed, the first whole-sale flood of economic immigration from the mid-19th century on also coincided with the highest rate of Manx emigration, proving that trickle-down economics is a lie peddled by those who gain from it. It is proven to be a lie from the economic figures that demonstrate that as the wealthy get relatively wealthier, the poor become relatively poorer.

Despite viciously prosecuting the sell-out over the past 20 years, the government still faces overspending leading to cut-backs to prevent bankruptcy. This is against a backdrop of sustained world-wide economic success that has known no parallel in the past 100 years. It is impossible to think of anywhere in the world that has not improved economically, except in the face of military conflict and natural disaster. The government in the Isle of Man cannot claim successful policies in this environment; far from it.

Pensions and health care are being steered away from the state system and towards private enterprise. Other services will undoubtedly follow.

Despite being repeatedly warned about

over-reliance upon the finance industry, those who have claimed to represent the Manx people over the past decades have allowed the finance sector to become not simply economically over-dominant but dangerously politically powerful too. The several former civil servants who have migrated seamlessly into consultative roles in the finance sector lends credibility to the belief that private enterprise has a dangerously strong "handle" on elements of a civil service that seems to dictate policy to politicians rather than the other way about. Imagine if the same effort had been applied to the likes of agriculture, an industry that is racing headlong towards oblivion. We should all remember that we can't eat money.

Some of the cultural nationalists seem to have become so blinded by the cynically tokenist gestures of support from the government that they have lost any sight they may ever have had of the bigger picture. Mec Vannin has a broader remit.

Increasingly, MHKs are electing to fulfil an administrative rather than political role; simply going through the motions of heading government. Is this because too many are now graduates of a Local Authority system that knows no more than administrative functions, or is it because the politicians are too weak to make and implement policy? No matter which, the result is the same; the government in the Isle of Man consistently acts as nothing more than a glorified Local Authority. There seems to be an entrenched inability to appreciate national economics; that it can never be cheaper to pay to import something that can be sourced from within.

With this policy of importation comes the policy of immigration. In 1962, the arbitrary figure of 75,000 people was declared the "viable" population figure. With that figure left far behind us, the government wants more. It will never be satisfied because the immigration policy is fundamentally flawed and will never deliver the economic goods. Mec Vannin said this 40 years ago and we were right. We say this now and we are right.

Protocol Three and the Custom and Excise Agreement were short term solutions of political expedience and become increasingly damaging to our ability to manage our own affairs. Mec Vannin said it at the time. We say it now. We will say it in the future.

The Manx people are now so marginalised that the government believes that their views can be ignored. Irrespective of whether Mec Vannin seeks representation or not, we have an absolute right to challenge government policy. We know that this government is incapable of dealing with any criticism and relishes in a newspaper monopoly that asks few questions. Indeed, there is an acceptance



of monopolies without regulation that, yet again, casts doubt over the political integrity of government in the Isle of Man.

Mec Vannin recognises the need for human rights legislation, as does the civilised world. The government in the Isle of Man was pressured into passing such legislation only to find an excuse to leave this legislation unimplemented: Actions speak louder than words. Conversely, if some arm of the international finance industry contrives an argument that claims "rights", the government bends over backwards to avoid confrontation. The Isle of Man gives companies more rights than its people, thus revealing the true motives of the policy makers.

Mec Vannin does not tinker with its fundamental policies. It does not flip-flop or prostitute itself in the pursuance of popularity. It does not water its policies down to become palatable to the people who would act against our objectives. Mec Vannin is not disingenuous. We do not forget that the government in the Isle of Man is a British government, bound by oath and constitution to the British Crown and subservient to the UK government. We do not forget that the many failings of the government in the Isle of Man, including incompetence, corruption and disingenuousness are equally failings of the UK government that has sat idly by and watched.

A degree of despondency amongst our population is understandable, as the Manx people dwindle, as the government continues its high-handed, anti-social policies, as all the positive aspects of our quality of life are trampled to keep the government in pocket and in the pockets of vested interest, but Mec Vannin is every bit as relevant now as forty years ago and will continue to be relevant in the future, whether we participate directly in a government proven to be corrupt and unconstitutional, or whether we are on the outside, ungagged and unfettered by a system that cannot tolerate even the tiniest dissent from within. That is our right.

Mark Kermode
Chairman / Publicity Officer
Mec Vannin

Secondary Education through Manx?

In July 2007 the first small group of children who have been receiving their education through Manx at Bunscoill, will be leaving to begin secondary school the following September.

It is hoped that they will be able to take some subjects through Manx, but there is uncertainty as to whether or not the feeder secondary school is willing to make the necessary provision. Historically, some secondary schools have been less than helpful in timetabling Manx for students who opt to take it as an extra curricular subject.

Parents of children at Bunscoill have shown a great deal of commitment and I know in some cases did much soul searching before sending their children to a Manx medium school in the English speaking world that surrounds them. I'm sure that they would all agree that they made the right decision and any doubts they had were soon dispelled. From my observations and feedback, education for them has been a positive and happy experience. There are now 45 pupils at Bunscoill age range 5 to 10.

These children represent real hope for the future restoration of Manx as a community language. Their rights must not be denied.

C.J.K

"Cáirde le Chéile!"



"Cáirde le Chéile! The stunning progress made on the Isle of Man was celebrated recently when 40 Irish speakers visited. Christy Evans of Coláiste na nGael said ' We visited Tynwald and found out about the growth of Manx medium education. The three day gathering mixed lectures, scenic walks and good food. Skeaal, the acclaimed Manx group performed and the Irish speakers left the Isle of Man with a clear sense of the progress that can be achieved. Photo: Christy Evans with teacher, Paul Rogers, and pupils of Bunscoill Ghaelgagh (The Manx Language Primary School).

The Voice of Scotland in Europe

The Leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party, Alex Salmond, visited the European Parliament in May to speak in front of a gathering of over 500 delegates from regionalist and nationalist parties from across Europe.

The assembly was in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the European Free Alliance (EFA), the parliamentary group and organisation of nationalist and regionalist political party members from throughout

Europe, including nationalist parties from Alba, Breizh, Cymru and Kernow

In his speech, Mr Salmond said that Scotland was an old nation waiting to be part of a new Europe and that the SNP was looking for equality of status for Scotland within the EU. Since the 2004 enlargement a total of 14 EU states are smaller than Scotland and are more influential at a European level.

Additionally Montenegro, with a population of fewer than 700,000, became the latest

European state to emerge from an outdated and old European order (to which it could be argued the United Kingdom and France still belong), when its population voted for independence from Serbia in a referendum on May 22nd 2006. Milo Djukanovic, the Prime Minister of Montenegro, argued that his country was in a stronger position in terms of its economy and the possibilities it had of joining the EU sooner, than if it stayed connected to the Serbian state.

In his speech to the EFA Assembly Alex Salmond strongly echoed the sentiments of Mr Djukanovic, when he said:

"If anyone suggested that Ireland's interests in Europe would be better served by being represented by London and the UK, they would be laughed out the room. And yet, remarkably, in the current Scottish Executive, they still believe that Scotland should stay silent while British ministers take the lead...

The SNP has a proud history of engagement with Europe led by Madame Ecosse herself, Winnie Ewing. It is my determination to build on this tradition, so Scotland not only wins friends across the European Union, but begins to enjoy the full benefits offered by this great partnership of nations."

Rhisiart Tal-e-bot



Alex Salmond addressing delegates at the European Parliament.

Celtica

FÉILE FIDELMA 2006!

Sister Fidelma's World at Cashel

Ireland's international best selling fictional detective celebrated in a weekend convention by her 'hometown'

September 8, 9 and 10, 2006

Cashel Palace Hotel, Cashel, Co Tipperary, Ireland

'We defy anyone picking up a Sister Fidelma mystery not to be hooked on these superbly written historical thrillers.' - **RTÉ (Book Programme)**

'The detail of the books is fascinating, giving us a vivid picture of everyday life at this time... the most detailed and vivid recreation of ancient Ireland.' - **Irish Examiner**

'Tremayne has created a great character in Fidelma and brilliantly conjures up the world she inhabits... This is masterly storytelling from an author who breathes fascinating life into the world he is writing about.' - **Belfast Telegraph**



Sister Fidelma, fictional sister to King Colgu of Cashel, is not only a religieuse but a qualified advocate of the Brehon Laws in 7th Century Ireland. She made her first appearance in short stories in 1993 written by Peter Tremayne, the fiction-writing pseudonym of a Celtic scholar. *Absolution By Murder*, the first novel featuring this remarkable crime-solving sleuth and her partner Brother Eadulf, an Irish-trained Saxon monk, was published in 1994. With 16 titles now published in the series, she appears in ten different languages from seventeen publishers throughout the world. The stories have been read on Irish and Canadian radio, appeared in dramatised form on German radio and have now been bought for developing as a television series.



Peter Tremayne the creator and author of the Sister Fidelma series is, of course, no stranger to the Celtic League. Under his own name, Peter Berresford Ellis, is the well-known for his works of non-fiction about the Celts and aspects of Irish history. Peter is a long-standing member of the Celtic League and was once chairman of the League. In 2003 he was made an Hon. Life Member of the Irish Literary Society (founded in 1891 by Nobel Literary Laureate W.B. Yeats) whose current president is the Nobel Literary Laureate Seamus Heaney.

Cashel Arts Fest has organised the three day symposium for the devotees of the books. It is hoped that it will be one of the most important literary events in the Cashel calendar. A talk on 'Fidelma's World' given by Peter Tremayne will open the 3 day programme. Other speakers, all prominent in their fields of study, will cover topics which will broaden participant's knowledge of the historical setting of the novels. Dr Scaggs will evaluate the impact of Sister Fidelma in Irish Crime fiction and Hans van den Bloom will cover aspects of translating the Fidelma novels. The weekend promises to be informative and entertaining with a good social calendar.

Details of the event and how to book can be found on both <http://www.sisterfidelma.com> and <http://www.cashelartsfest.com>
Email: Emily Kirwin on info@cashelartsfest.com or write to: Emily Kirwin, Cashel Arts Fest, Cashel Heritage Centre, Old Town Hall, Main Street, Cashel, Ireland.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE: An Overview and Guide

Author: Darerca Ní Chartúir
(2002). New York: Avena Press., 146 pp.
ISBN 0-9670778-2-6

For those of us who have not grown up in an Irish-speaking environment but who work hard at the dream of becoming Irish speakers, this little gem of a book is both informative and encouraging. It is a relatively small tome filled with a great deal of information and would likely be a wealth of information for the Irish speaker as well.

The early chapters provide a history of the Irish language - Archaic Irish (4-5th centuries, A.D.), Old Irish (700-950 A.D.), Middle Irish (950-1350 A.D.), Early Modern Irish (1350-1650 A.D.) and Late Modern Irish (1650-present). The author walks us through the different areas where Irish made its mark during the language's rise, decline and renaissance. These areas include the early poetry, place names, mythological writings, biography of the saints and the annals of the fourteenth through seventeenth centuries. The author also comments on the Viking and Anglo-Norman invasions and what that meant for the Irish language.

Another chapter explains the political processes that caused the decline of the Irish language, and how English became the language of the powerful. In some cases the only two formally educated persons in a town or village were the priest and school teacher and it was not unusual for neither to have a knowledge of Irish. Nonetheless, the Irish people went to amazing lengths to preserve their language and culture. Ní Chartúir also shares a striking fact about Irish speakers, "...in 1824 more than two million people commonly used the Irish language, three quarters of whom spoke no English." It is also noted that in the New York of 1851 over fifty percent of Irish immigrants spoke Irish. For this reader, these numbers really challenge the stereotype of Irish as a frail and weak medium even as early as the 19th century. A major blow to the language was the potato blight because by far it was the poorer, Irish-speaking population who were the victims.

As early as the last decades of the nineteenth century, a linguistic consciousness was growing as demonstrated by a grammar and an Irish language periodical that were in print. With the turn of the century, publications in Irish increased including novels, plays and a new Irish-English dictionary. The author points out the numerous battles that the Gaelic League fought to establish the Irish

continued on page 23

language. One battle was against the National Bank that would not process checks written in Irish; another was against the National Railways that opposed the posting of train station signs in Irish. There is also some discussion about the place of Irish in, or separate from, the political struggles going on in Ireland. Perhaps the author could have focused more on this controversial aspect of the language. Ni Chartúir also provides descriptions of the best of Irish literature through the decades of the twentieth century. Unfortunately, she does not give translations of the book titles that are discussed. She also cites several examples of linguistic cross over, with works translated from Spanish to Irish, Irish to Hebrew, as well as a connection closer to home with a multilingual publication of poetry in Scots Gaelic, Irish and English. This particular chapter leaves the reader with a clear idea about the rich and varied availability of novels, poems, plays, books for children and literary criticism available in the Irish language. The student of Irish is given another reason to learn Irish: clearly there is a great deal of interesting and modern written material for the reader of Irish.

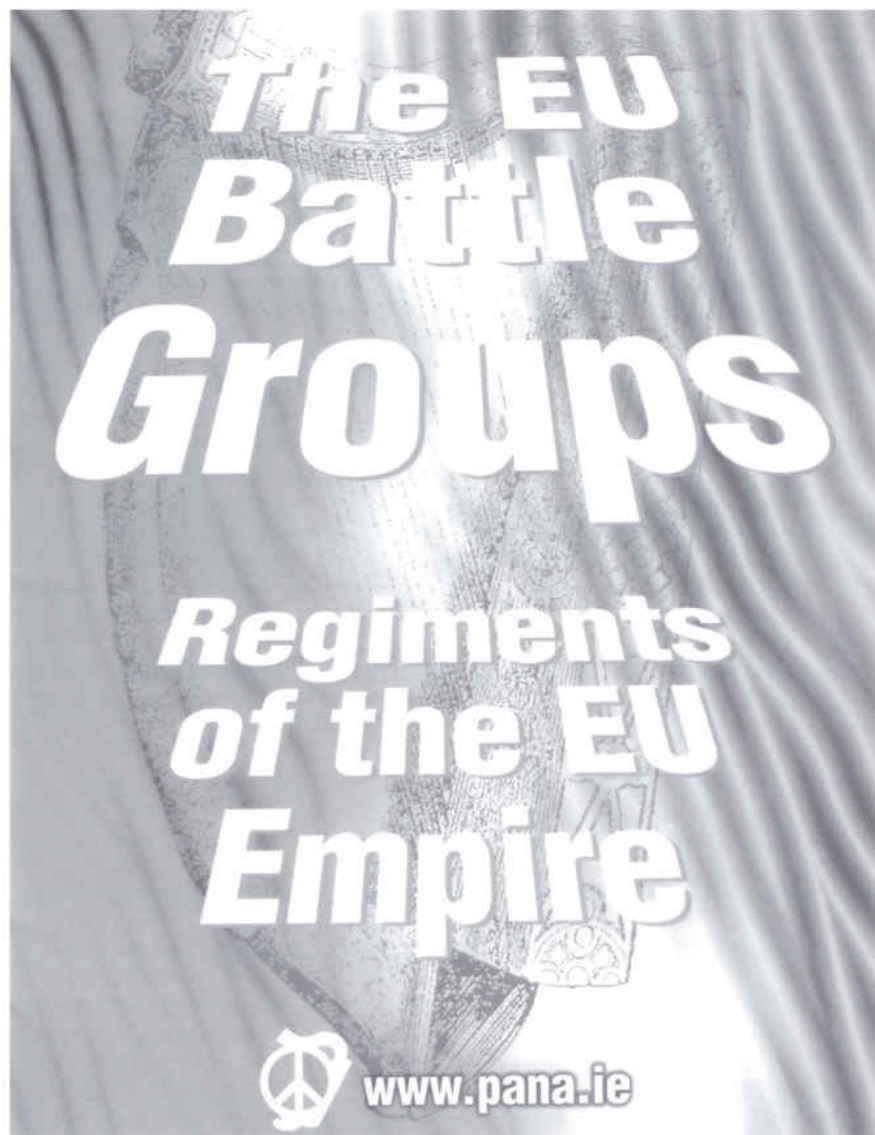
From here the author sets the Irish language in a physical context speaking about where it is spoken and how it varies by dialect, how it has been standardized and its use beyond the shores of Ireland. There is also interesting information about personal, family and place names. The author discusses gathering places where one can interact in Irish outside of the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking region). There is also a wealth of information about newspapers, radio, television festivals and theatres that use the Irish language. There is also a number of websites that are provided.

Chapter 5 provides a description of the language that is quite helpful for the student. It informs us about different parts of speech and some of the unique features of this language. This chapter also provides an annotated bibliography of learning materials for the student of Irish. Just a few years ago, it would have been hard to study Irish just anywhere but with the rich variety of resources provided, certainly it is good news for anyone interested in learning more about the Irish language, regardless of where they reside.

The book finishes with testimonials of Irish language students who have taken the plunge of studying in the west of Ireland during the summer. Their observations are stirring and their experiences in several different Irish-speaking communities made a big difference in their gaining further mastery of this lovely language.

In summary, this book takes an informative as well as an inspiring approach to the Irish language. It leaves the reader feeling that there are numerous resources at hand, many that were not available a few years ago, and that learning Irish is certainly possible with all the books, tapes, CDs and websites that are now available for the task.

Terence P. Hannigan



"We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies to be sovereign and inalienable." - 1916 Proclamation

"Are we all clear that we want to build something that can aspire to be a world power?" - EU Commission President, Romano Prodi, 13/2/01

In 1916 the Irish people were given a choice: support the Irish Volunteers of the Irish Republic or the Regiments of the British Union and Empire, a choice between Irish Independence or Imperialism. In 2006, as the Irish Defence Forces are about to be integrated into the EU Battle Groups, the Regiments of the European Union and Empire, the Irish people are again being offered a choice between Imperialism and Irish Independence. The decision of the Government to have 200 Irish soldiers join the EU Battle Groups is just another step in the process in the destruction of Irish Independence, Irish Democracy and Irish Neutrality. The integration of Ireland into an Imperial, militarized neo-liberal European superstate allied to the US will ensure the full and active participation of all of Ireland in the resource wars of the 21st century. The defeat of the EU/US axis is the only inevitable outcome of these wars.

The Peace & Neutrality Alliance advocates another choice - a United Independent Irish Republic - as part of a democratic Europe, a partnership of Independent, democratic states, legal equals without a military dimension. We believe a reformed United Nations is the institution through which Ireland should pursue its foreign policy and security concerns. The choice for the Irish people is clear, and it is the same as it has been for generation after generation. The choice is either the Republic or Imperialism.

Roger Cole, Chair of PANA

Rebuilding the Celtic Languages / Diarmuid Ó Neill

First comprehensive attempt to apply the Fishman GIDS scale to the Celtic languages. The aim is not only to explore the strengthening of existing Celtic language communities and Celtic-speaking networks in the six Celtic countries but also to explore how the Celtic languages can be re-established on a much wider scale than is presently the case.

Edited by Canadian Diarmuid Ó Neill and includes contributions by prominent Celtic sociolinguists including Colin Williams, Marcel Texier, Pawl Birt, Kenneth MacKinnon and Brian Stowell. Foreword by Joshua Fishman.

This book will be available for sale in the Celtic countries in new year, in the meantime it can be purchased from Y Lolfa's Online Shop for £14.95 at <http://www.ylolfa.com>

Rebuilding the Celtic Languages

Reversing Language Shift in the Celtic Countries

Diarmuid Ó Neill
Foreword by Joshua Fishman

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: 23.00, Sterling £13.50, Europe (airmail) £17.00, Outside Europe £20.00, US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank).

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

ALBA. Iain Ramsay, 22 Denholme Gardens, Greenock, PA16 8RF, Scotland

BREIZH Jakez Derouet, 10, Ar Verouri-Nevez, 29700 Plozeilh (Plomelin), Breizh/Brittany.

CYMRU Robat ap Tomos, 11 Heol Gordon, Y Rhath, Caerdydd, CF2 3AJ.

ÉIRE Pádraigín Mylevreeshey 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath. Tel- Éire (0) 14589795

KERNOW Mike Chappell, Kessenyans, Little Water, Goonhavern, TRURO, Kernow/Cornwall TR4 9QG

MANNIN Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel. Tel: UK (0) 1624 843869.

ENGLAND BRANCH Florence Kenna, 72 Compton Street, London, EC1V 0BN.

USA Margaret Sexton, c/o P.O. Box 20153, Dag Hammarskjöld Postal Centre, New York, NY 10017.

INTERNATIONAL BRANCH Mark Lockerby, 12 Magherdonnag, Pony Fields, Port Erin, IM9 6BY, Isle of Man.

GENERAL SECRETARY & P.R.O. Bernard Moffatt, 11 Cleiy Rhennee, Kirk Michael, Mannin. Tel - UK (0) 1624 877918

EDITOR Ms P. Bridson, 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.
E-mail: patriciabridson@eircom.net

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E-mail General Secretary:
jb.moffatt@talk.com

E-mail Assistant G.S.
macdhiarmuid@manx.net

American Branch Internet Site

www.celticleague.org

International Branch Internet Site

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