

# CARN

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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



# ALBA

## Geur-Leanmhainn Nuadh na Gàidhlig? le Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig ... Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich

Seachdain no dhà air ais agus an sgrìobhaiche a' gabhail sràid ann an Gàradh Naomh Catrìona a tha gu ìre bhig *tropical* eadar àrainn nan taighean-osda agus baile Funchal san eilean Madeira.

Agus cò thachair e faisg air lùchairt an riaghladair ionadail ach duine na dheise dhubh.

"Se Sasunnach a tha annaibh?" arsa an duine, a' coimhead air fhèileadh bheag an sgrìobhaiche.

"Chan e! Carson?" fhreagair an t-Albannach.

"Bhruidhinnidh sibh a' Bheurla Shasunnach!"

"Tha Fraingis agam. Chan eil mi nam Fhrangach... Je parle français. Je ne suis pas Français... Tha Phortagaileis agam. Chan eil mi nam Phortagaileach... Falo português. Nao sou português! arsa mise.

"Chan e idir, idir, idir," arsa am Portagaileach na dheise dhuibh... Nao! Nao! Nao!"

Stad an comhradh gu h-obann.

Chaill am Portagaileach an argamaid, oir bha i cearbach. Bha e a' mìneachadh nach robh ach a' Bheurla Shasunnach aig an Albannach mar a' chànan mhàthaireil, agus cha do chuala e gun robh cànan eile againn — a' Ghàidhlig.

Ceart gu leoir, theiridh leughadair. Tha Gàidhlig againn agus tha i daonnan a' dol am feabhas! Ach chan e sin an fhirinn idir.

Fad deich bliadhna chunnaic sinn mar gun robh adhartas gu leoir a thaobh na Gàidhlig ach tha sinn air ar mealladh.

Carson? Chan eil sgoil gu tur sa Ghàidhlig againn idir! Ach chan eil ach aonadan Gàidhlig ann far a bheil na sgoilearan ag ionnsachadh tre na Gàidhlig. Leis a sin, cha bhith creideas aca agus

bithidh iad a' faireachadh gum bheil iad air leth air luchd na Beurla.

Rud fada nas miosa, bhac luchd-sgudaidh nan sgoiltean (HMI) teagasc tre na Gàidhlig gu tur sna h-àrd-sgoiltean agus tha e coltach gum bheil Micheal Forsyth, Rùnaire na Stàite ag aontachadh riutha. Le sin 's ann a tha agaibh cnap-starraidh eadar na bun-sgoiltean agus na colaistean agus na h-oilthighean agus teagasc tre na Gàidhlig an sin.

Ach le sin, chì sinn gum bi e na obair mhòr mhòr gus am bi ar cànan air a h-uile bile feadh Alba uile gu leir. Ach ciad bliadhna air ais cha robh ach aon fhear (d'am b'ainm Ehud Ben-Yehuda) beò aig an robh Eabhra mar a chànan mhàthaireil ach an diugh bruidhinnidh a h-uile Iosralach Eabhra gu fileanta feadh Iosrael uile gu leir.

Còrr is ceud bliadhna air ais bha Seiceis (Czech) a' dol leis an t-sruth. Bha co-labhairt mhòr ann air son aiseirigh na Seiceis air a chumail. A reir aithris nan tuiteadh mullach-an-taighe a-steach thairis ar na daoine a bha 'san talla, bhiodh Seiceis cho marbh ri sgadain! Ach tha Seiceis air a h-uile bile feadh Poblachd nan Seacach (*the Czech Republic*).

Gun teagamh is e suaicheantas nàisein a chànan!

Nàisean gun chànan... nàisean gun anam.

### Summary

*This tells of a random exchange of somewhat caustic words on the premise that the possession of a distinctive language could bring recognition of nationhood and although every effort was being made to contain and restrict our Scottish (Gàidhlig) there were other nations which had won through against much greater odds.*



## ... DunEideann

Chuala a h-uile neach mu "Cothrum na Féinne"...mata...tha cothrum na Gàidhlig air tighinn fa-near do Ghàidheil Dhùn-Eideann...

Air Di-luain 24 Og-mhìos 1996 thadhail ceithir cheud dhuibh Gàidheil DhùnEideann aig 24 Drumsheugh Gardens a tha 'na thaigh àlainn mór Victorian ann an taobh an iar DhùnEideann, àite grinn de'n bhaile.

Abair gum bheil e 'na thaigh mór mór air sia ùrlair agus brat-ùrlar spaideal nuadh

air gach staidhre is ùrlar, agus thuig iad far gum biodh clasaichean Gàidhlig, taisbeanaidhean, céilidhean, ceòl is bàrdachd, bùth leabhraichean, leabharlann, café/bar, cròileagan, còmhdhailean, teagaisg dannsaidh, piobaireachd, clàrsaireachd, sgrìobhadh leabhraichean, agus mar sin air adhart, freagarrach air son an cumail ann.

Ach ge milis am fion, tha e searbh ri phàigheadh!... Cìmar a phàighear am pìobair? Mas téid e an uidheam cosgaidh a h-uile cail £800,000. Shir an luchd-stiùiridh leth mhillean not on Bhòrd Crannchur Nàiseanta. Thog iad dà fhichead mìle not cheana, ach bithidh mìltean is mìltean not ri fhaotainn fhathast!

An cuidich sibh Taigh na Gàidhlig ri fhaotainn? Tha iomadh doighean a thaobh cuidichidh... mar eisimpleir, tha 500 taidhlichean (*tiles*) ri fhaighinn. Coisgidh gach aon £25 (no \$40) agus ma cheanaicheas duine fear 's urrainn dhà sgrìobhadh fichead litreachan air choireigin air, gu h-àraidh ann an cànan Ceilteach sam bith agus cuiridh iad na taidhlichean air balla a' chafé/bhar.

Bithidh doighean eile air aigrid a thogail agus an fheadhainn agaibh a tha ag iarraidh fiosrachadh chì sibh a-measg aig bonn 'na litreach ann am Beurla seoladh an fheadhainn a tha 'na cheann.

'S ann as a bheagan a thig am móran... Ged nach cuireadh gach duine agaibh ach not — aig a cheann thall thigeadh e gu móran agus bheireadh e misneachd do'n fheadhainn a tha an ceann a' ghnòthaich. Tha iomradh againn air aon duine as aithne dhuinn fhéin a thug seachad cóig ceud not agus b'e Gaidheal e ach duine a dh'ionnsaich a' Ghàidhlig ann am baile Dhun Eideann fhéin.

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich  
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

### Summary

*The Alba Branch of the Celtic League have organised a 15 mile sponsored walk through the Pentland Hills on Sunday 29th September in aid of Taigh Na Gàidhlig. Any enquiries contact Risnidh Mag Aoidh (Alba Branch Secretary, addr pg 24) for more details. Donations would also be greatly appreciated. Cheques or P.O. should be made payable to "C.L. Taigh na Gàidhlig".*

# LANGUAGE MATTERS

## Gaelic Medium Secondary Education Under Threat

At the end of April, Michael Forsyth the Secretary of State for Scotland published his long awaited response to the School Inspectors Report on Gaelic Education. The 1994 report to which Forsyth was replying praised Gaelic medium primary education but stated that secondary education through the medium of Gaelic was "neither feasible nor desirable". This decision provoked an uproar amongst speakers and friends of Gaelic at the time, leading to a large petition, numerous letters to the Secretary of State and a demonstration outside the Scottish Office.

After two years of uncertainty, and despite the opposition of all the Gaelic groups which he consulted on the matter, Forsyth has decided to accept the inspectorate's recommendation against the extension of Gaelic medium education to secondary level. Instead of the teaching of a wide range of subjects through the medium of Gaelic, there are to be tokenistic and ghettoistic Gaelic medium modules about Gaelic culture - probably only around an hour a week. Forsyth's response did however provide two welcome developments: an increase of £200,000 per year in the Government Specific Grant for Gaelic and the development of a new national Gaelic resource centre.

Forsyth's report has been universally condemned by the Gaelic movement who believe that Gaelic medium secondary education is an absolute right which Forsyth has no right to withhold. While the government have said that the decision was caused by "significant practical difficulties" there can be little doubt that the real reason has been the desire to save money. If it was not practical to teach through Gaelic then Gaelic nursery, primary and further education would not be available. The government already supports Welsh high schools and has recently announced that it is to support the Irish medium high school Meánscoil Feirste in the six counties. Gaelic deserves equal treatment.

There are currently around 2,500 children in Gaelic playgroups, 1,500 in primary school units and 130 in high school units. To ensure that Gaelic secondary education remains available to them it is important that as many people as possible write to MPs, MEPs and to Forsyth demanding that he does not stop Gaelic medium secondary education. More importantly than this, it is vital that people continue to support the existing playgroups and primary units. The more children that

enrol in Gaelic medium education, the more difficult it will be for "Mental Mickey" Forsyth to deny them high school units.

Write to: Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, The Scottish Office, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, Alba/Scotland.

## Gaelic Radio Expands

Much of the North-East of Scotland is now once again able to receive Radio nan Gàidheal. This follows a campaign for the restoration of Gaelic radio which involved students of the Aberdeen University Celtic department and their professor Donald Meek. As of the first of July the extended Radio nan Gàidheal service has been available on 990 medium wave in the Aberdeen area. This service can be received within a 20 km radius of the city. Large areas of the country including the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway are still without any Gaelic broadcasting however. Please keep up the pressure for a national service by writing to: James Boyle, Head of BBC Radio Scotland, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow G12 8DG. You might also write to Rev. Norman Drummond, Chairman of the National Broadcasting Council at the same address.

## Bail' Ùr Ostaig

Bail' Ùr Ostaig the proposed world centre for Gaelic and Gaelic culture on the Isle of Syke (Carn 93) has failed to gain funding from the Millennium Commission. Plans for the centre, which is being promoted by Sabhal Mór Ostaig, are to continue however. The college now hope that the Bail' Ùr can be funded through the University of the Highlands and Islands project of which Sabhal Mór is part.

## Cùrsaichean Ùra Gàidhlig

Several new Gaelic related courses are to start in the 1996/97 session. Clydebank college which already offers a course in Media Studies & Gaelic is beginning an immersion course this year; the first in the central belt. Inverness College, which already offers an immersion course in Fort William to establish another in Inverness this session. Sabhal Mór Ostaig are starting a new HNC in the Gaelic Arts and plan to expand their HNC Gaelic & Communication Skills into an HNC/HND course. Sabhal Mór have also been working

with Comunn na Gàidhlig and the University of Paisley to develop a "Gaelic Economy" option as part of the Paisley University BA in Business Economics. This course is to be taught partly through the medium of Gaelic. In the medium term, the college hope to offer a bridging course between Irish and Scottish Gaelic for Irish speakers interested in undertaking the Business Economics course.

## Official Status

Gaelic promotion groups led by Comunn na Gàidhlig are to step up their efforts for official status. At a conference held in Inverness in June it was announced that a draft bill aiming to give Gaelic the same legal standing as Welsh is to be prepared before the end of the year. The conference also heard that it was vital to gain an important place for Gaelic in the setting up of the Scottish Parliament.

Alasdair MacCaluim

## Stop Press...

A couple of excellent books are on the market that can teach you our Scottish language given that you pluck up the courage and the unquenchable determination to master the language!

The most recent is Hugo's **Scottish Gaelic in Three Months** by Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh with Iain MacAonghuis as consultant, both of Edinburgh University ISBN 0 85285 234 7 Stg£4.95. It is snappy and colloquial leading one into so many speech patterns and phrases used by native speakers that one's command of the language must be convincing. A pack of the book and two cassettes is highly recommended.

Following hard on its heels is Hodder & Stoughton's **Teach Yourself Gaelic** by Boyd Robertson who teaches the language at Jordanhill and Iain Taylor who made his mark at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ISBN 0 340 55923 3 Stg£7.99 it is also available in a book/cassette pack. Both books and packs complement each other. This one gives a great insight into placenames and introduces one to the culture of which the language is part.

Gilleasbuig

# The Myth of the Jacobite Clans

by Murray G.H. Pittock ISBN 0 7468 0715  
3 Edinburgh University Press £11.95

The title is hardly self-evident but Pittock sets out the basis of his approach when he says "... the point is not to deny that there was extensive Highland support for the Jacobites, that would be folly... I seek rather to explain the... falsity of the myth of an almost ubiquitous Highland Jacobitism particularly as it affects the Rising of 1745..."

In his first chapter he shows the motivation behind the Whig (i.e. Unionist) interpretation of the 1745 Rising as being a largely Highland phenomenon and they purposely ignore the massive support for Jacobitism from the rest of the Scottish people. The Whigs knew that to admit to the truth, that such support for the Prince came from all parts of Scotland, would demonstrate that the 1745 Rising was a national uprising, as Pittock convincingly shows that it was. But to dwell only on the Highland support for the Prince was the way that the Whigs could claim that it was only a peripheral affair by which they could reinforce a strong picture of a doomed cause with a social organisation and language unlike that of the rest of Scotland.

The author further shows that "... Both interpretations associated Jacobitism with a strongly demarcated Highland/Lowland divide..." In other words the Whig/Unionist ploy was to divide and conquer.

One might say, though Pittock does not so discuss this point, any tyrants have to differentiate a group before they can effectively persecute them and few communities on earth have been more persecuted than those Highlanders still loyal to Scotland's own language. During the two centuries following 1745 one saw them driven like cattle to the emigrant ships to people England's colonies, cleared out and at times even burned out of their homes and lands, having their language extirpated as the language of teaching from all schools and their young men callously used as canon fodder in imperial wars.

Historians and others will find this a worthwhile book not only for its contents but also for the fact that almost a quarter of its length is given over to a wealth of references showing a massive amount of research.

Sadly, the fourth and last chapter appears to be a puritanical attack on all the pretty pleasantries that sweeten Scottish life. There is a "dinging doon" of such innocent manifestations as tartan, shortbread wrappings, "Highlander — the Crisp of the Clans" and even the

illustration on the packet of "Scott's Porridge Oats", etc. A pity, but the dour ghost of Calvin still seems to haunt the Scottish soul!

Archy Macpherson  
(Gilleasbuig Lachlann 'Illeasbuig)

## Am Bodach Beag Annasach

(singing with the wee auld man) by Ellen Jack and Donald R. Macaskill  
£6.00 plus 50p Gaelic Cassette.

I would like to express my extreme delight on this remarkable cassette. My four year old son attends the Gaelic nursery school at Tollcross in Edinburgh. I bought the cassette with the hope that my son would sit down for two minutes to actually listen to it, being the active little youngster that he is. On many occasions I bought cassettes, put them on only to discover that I am the only one listening to it as my son has veered off to watch Spiderman. This cassette has changed all that. My son asks me to put the cassette on and he sings along. The TV and computer have been abandoned to listen to the Gaelic nursery rhymes. In this day and age with technology, I would say that this is a real achievement.

I have heard some of the Gaelic nursery rhymes before but I have never heard them performed in such a spectacular way. The musical accompaniment gives real credit to the songs. Jim Gaitens play guitar, Olivia Ross plays violin and viola and also Bob Pegg who plays all the other instruments. They all show real talent. I would also like to add that they all contributed to the cassette voluntarily which shows real commitment to the Gaelic language and gives us all real inspiration.

Some of the songs included are: Tha mi ruith ars an rabaid, cuibhlichean a'bhuis, Uilleam òrdag, Tha Domhnall mòr a-staigh and fabhaidh mi le ceuman beaga. There are plenty more songs as this cassette contains 23 songs altogether, which is incredibly good value for money.

Do not be put off either if you do not have children. These songs are excellent for the Gaelic learner in a very tuneful and addictive way. Very highly recommended.

Contact: Croileagan Inbhir Pheofharain, An Taigh Gàidhlig, Old Academy Square, Tulloch St., Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9JZ.

Ladhaoise Nic Leòid

## What's in a name?

Two names for the same thing can have quite different meanings. Take the name Wales which comes from the Old English word for Land of Strangers, and then consider the Celtic version *Cymru* which means Land of Brothers.

Gael, a name for Scotlander and Irelander derives from the Welsh *Gwyddel*, latinized *Scotus*, Englished Raider. Since the word Scot is simply a translation of *Gàidheal* we should not be surprised when Robert De Bruce talks of *Alba* and *Èire* as being the two Scotias. Rather amusingly Lallans enthusiasts using the term "Scots" (the English dialect never spoken in all Scotland) are unaware the word is simply a translation of "Gaelic".

Scotland has three names, two of which are Celtic. Apart from Scotia, there is Caledonia named after a tribe who long daunted the mighty Roman empire. Alba has two possible origins, "White (is)land" or "Appleland"; it's related to Albion which the English have hijacked.

As for England, the Celts saw where the real power was and named the country after the Saxons (*Sasunach*, *Saesneg*). On the other hand the Gaelic tongues demonstrate their inferiority complex by naming English *Beurla* (the language). Fortunately there were several other words for "language" in the Gaelics.

Whilst etymology may be the subject of arcane, dusty book-shelves I hope that I have shown that it can certainly shed some light on the real meanings of the names we call people.

Iain C. Uallas

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# Stone of Destiny to be returned

John Major announced to a puzzled House of Commons on the seven hundredth anniversary of its forcible removal that the Stone of Destiny, Lia Fail, is to be returned and housed permanently in Scotland. The exception being its use at coronations of future monarchs in Westminster Abbey.

This political gambit came in a week when the British Labour Party has endured seven days of unremitting criticism of its leader, Tony Blair, who arbitrarily interfered in its settled policy to deliver a tax raising Scottish parliament within a year of being elected in a British general election.

The Stone of Destiny was stolen by Edward I in 1296 along with many Scottish state archives and relics after his subjugation of the nation prior to the rising led by William Wallace, Andrew de Moray, Robert Bruce and Bishop Wishart the following year. It was the crowning seat of Scottish kings since Pictish times and should have been returned by the Treaty of Edinburgh/Northampton in 1328.

After resting in London for all those centuries it became a bone of contention when students daringly reclaimed it for Scotland in 1950. Their plans had not reckoned with the weight of the stone which had, unbeknown to them, been split in two by a suffragette attack on the coronation chair earlier this century in Westminster Abbey. The repaired stone was returned over 100 days later as King George VI lay dying. For so long it has remained as a symbol of London's domination of the Scots.

Speaking after Mr Major's offer the man who organised the successful 1950 raid, Ian Hamilton QC said "Mr Major is giving us back a shadow. What we should be looking for is the substance. What every other nation in Europe, and indeed in the world, has is its own parliament to rule itself at home and to represent itself abroad. Without that the symbol of the Stone of Destiny is so much meaningless masonry."

Nationalist MPs consider the stone to be only one on a list of Scottish property which should be returned to Scotland - other items such as the illuminated Book of Deer, which is housed in Cambridge University is a case in point.

An argument has developed as to where the Stone should be housed. Its rightful place is Cone in Perthshire, but Secretary Forsyth suggests Edinburgh Castle. Ian Hamilton told *The Scotsman* that it should never be overlooked that it is a Celtic symbol and he would not like to see it placed in Edinburgh, the most English part of Scotland.

Unlike Mr Major's symbolic gesture Mr Blair shocked home rulers with his insistence that the Scots must first vote yes in a referendum before he would legislate for devolution in the houses of parliament. His plan includes a second question seeking Scottish views on the tax varying powers for the assembly which the Labour leader seems increasingly interested in dropping.

Cynics suggest that he is mirroring closely the Tories on so many policies that he could easily drop devolution which was painstakingly negotiated in the Constitutional Convention with Labour's partners, the Liberal Democrats, trade unions and churches. Others believe he has buckled under the "tartan tax" jibe which Tory Scottish Office Minister Michael Forsyth has been hurling at Labour's plans for a year.



SNP Leader, Alex Salmond

SNP leader, Alex Salmond, said of Mr Blair: "Tony doesn't give a XXX for a Scottish parliament". Meanwhile Labour's Scottish front bench spokesman on the constitution, John MacAllion MP for Dundee East, has resigned his post. He refuses to back the referendum pledge insisted on by Mr Blair as he was assured only two days before the Labour leader's announcement that no such plans existed.

Labour's nerves are shredding visibly as they unveil more and more proposals that put their policies closer to the Tories and Labour activists grow more and more uneasy about diktat from London. While Labour still commands 50% of the Scottish vote (with the SNP at 25%, Tories 15% and LibDem 10%), in England the Tories have climbed above 30% for the first time since Blair succeeded John Smith as Labour leader.

## Duke of Sutherlands' Statue - Update

On 10th May the Sutherland area planning committee of the Highland Council rejected Sandy Lindsay's plans to remove the statue of the Black Duke who was responsible for the clearances of thousands of Highlanders from their homes. It did however approve interpretative panels, car-park and signage in connection with the 100 foot high statue and plinth on Ben Bhraggie.

At the same time another application was lodged for an alternative monument on a neighbouring hill, Cagar Feosaig, (which overlook Dunrobin Castle, the seat of the Sutherland family) to commemorate the victims of the Clearances and correct the monumental tyranny of the statue erected in 1838 which has been accepted by locals in nearby Golspie as part of their landscape but hated by anyone sensitive to the enormity of the Duke's policies on his huge estate.

A ten minute slot on the July 4th BBC2 TV history series "One Foot in the Past" gave a balanced view of the spectacular site, the size of the statue and the arguments put on both sides. Footage of monster statues of Lenin crashing to the ground in Albania and Moscow illustrated the way that other peoples have made a judgement on the built heritage of their countries. Book of Bhraggie Campaigners are considering an appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland in order to raise the issue of guidelines made by Historic Scotland, the government quango which advises planners as to the treatment of listed historic buildings.

The symbolic nature of the Duke's, statue highlights the continuing frustration felt by so many Scots at their exclusion from having any rights of ownership of their own land. Developments will be reported in due course.

Rob Gibson, has just launched a book entitled "Toppling the Duke - outrage on Ben Bhraggie?" published by Highland Heritage Books, 8 Culcainn Rd., Evanton, Rosshire. Alba price £6.50

Rob Gibson

# BREIZH

## Ar vistri oc'h ober o reuz

**D**a heul ar reuz c'hoarvezet a-hed hag a-dreuz ar C'Hwec'h Kontelezh en eil sizhunvezh a viz Gouere ez eo chomet mantret ar re a hiraeth d'ar peoc'h en Iwerzhon, hag a-bell ez int an niverusañ, ne vern pe Vroadelerien/Katoliged pe Unanourien/ Protestanted e ve anezho. Evit ar poent eo koulz hag echu gant "an argerzh peoc'h".

E-pad ur bloaz hanter goude d'an IRA bezañ disklêriet ar sav-brezel e talc'has J. Major da lakaat da rakdiviz da berzhiadur Sinn Féin er c'henbrezezoù e ranke an aozadur kuzh-se dizarmiñ. An digarez pennañ: ar strolladoù unanourien ne blegjant ket da zivizout gant ur gostezenn hag a harp ar "sponterien". An IRA a nac'he dizarmañ avat keit ha ne vije ket graet emglev diwar-benn termenoù ar peoc'h. Ar gouarnamant e Dulenn a anzave e oa aner, diwirvoudek, gedal e taskorfe he armoù hep gouzout peseurt disoc'h a vije d'ar c'henbrezezoù.

Gouzout a raed e oa kevrennoù zo eus an IRA o tihabaskteriñ pa ned ae an argerzh da neblec'h. Ar mestaol er Canary Wharf, London, e miz C'Hwevrer '96 a ziskouezas pegen bresk e oa an sav. Daoust da renerien Sinn Féin bezañ kendrec'het e oa ret mont gant hent ar politikerezh, ne oant ket gouest da lakaat darn eus ar stourmerien da ober diouzh o ali.

Graet ez eus bet ragemglevioù etre gouarnamantoù London ha Dulenn da dalvout evit diazezañ ar c'hendivizoù: an Emglev Angl-Iwerzhonat, an Teul-Stern, Bonreolennoù. Anavezout a ra Dulenn ne c'haller ket unaniñ ar vro hep asant an darn vrasañ eus poblañs ar C'hwec'h Kontelezh. Ha prest eo da varc'hata a-zivout ar c'hrefen 2 ha 3 eus Breizh Iwerzhon, a zisklêr ec'h emastenn beli (n'eo ket lezenn) ar Stad Iwerzhonat war an enez a-bezh. Diouzh e du ec'h anavez London e tle bezañ diogelet ar barelezh-vri d'ar Vroadelourien, eleze e tle bezañ douget kement a vri da hengounioù ar re-mañ (religion, sevenadur, iwerzhoneg) ha da re an Unanourien. Ha dave e vefe ivez da blediñ gant kudenn an Akt a C'Houarnamant (1920), a warant d'an Unanourien e chomo ar 6-Kontelezh e

framm ar Rouantelezh Unanet. Ouzh ar mennozh-se e sav enebrezh ferv a-berzh an Unanourien evelkent. Ne fell ket dezho e vije diazezet ensavadurioù treuz-harzoù hag a roje tu da Zulenn da emellout eus lazoù ar Vroadelourien ha d'o difenn ma vez breset o gwirioù. An emglevioù-se, a gredont, zo kammedoù war-du unanidigezh Iwerzhon. Ne fell dezho klevout netra nemet a-zivout ur renkamant diabarzh.

Da briz evit kendalc'her da gaout harp digant an Unanourien e Kambur ar Gumun en doa ranket Major plegañ d'o goulenn delc'her dilennadegoù er 6-Kontelezh e dibenn Mae. Spi o doa e vefent gouest a-drugarez d'o muianiver, er Gendael (Forum) a vije savet gant an dilennidi, da bouezañ war ar c'hendivizoù a dlee deraouiñ, gant an Amerikan G. Mitchell da gadoriad, d'an 10/6/. An daou strollad broadelourien, SF hag SDLP, a oa krenn a-enep reiñ nep galloud d'ar Forum. Un disoc'h a bouez zo bet avat d'an dilennadegoù: un tamm mat muioc'h a vouezhoù a voe roet da S.F. (17%) eget na oad en gortoz. E c'hall SF lavaret ez eo kefridiet da gemer perzh er c'hendivizoù.

An daou c'houarnamant a chom start koulskoude en o mennad delc'her ar strollad-se er-maez keit ha n'en devo ket lakaat an IRA da zistreiñ d'an sav-brezel. Seul startoc'h e sav Dulenn a-du gant London er c'heñver-se ma'z eo bet anataet ez eus ur rummad stourmerien prest bremañ da dagañ polised ar Republik, pezh a oa bet difennet ober abaoe pell'zo. O lazhañ un igounier e-kichen Limerick o deus troet a-enep dezho ur bern tud hag a oa tuet-mat dezho.

Koulskoude n'en deus ket torret gouarnamant Bruton an darempredoù gant SF. Bez'ez eus atav anezho, dre hanterouriezh kargidi. Ne servije da netra kaout un disrann en IRA. Klask a reer degas an aozadur a-bezh da ehanañ da vat da stourm. Se zo deuet da vezañ kalz kalz diaesoc'h goude m'o deus diskouezet an Unanourien ne fell ket dezho anavezout ar barelezh-vri d'ar Vroadelourien, met er c'hontrol ober ar pezh a garont, plijet d'ar re-se pe nann, o kerzhet evel trec'hourien

dre o c'harterioù. Diskouezet he deus ar bolis RUC ned eo ket gouest pe dave da herzel outo. Ha gwashoc'h, mar deo gwir e oa bet lezet gant pennrener an RUC ar garg da zivizout pe herzel ouzh ar gabaduilherien pe plegañ dezho, se a oa a-berzh gouarnamant London kement ha reiñ e zilez dirak ur gudenn a leviadur politikel, neket a urzh.

Met e Dulenn e kreder kentoc'h e oa gant aotre London e voe lezet an "Orañjidi" da gerzhet dre ar "Garbhachaf" e Portadown hag evit ober hent dezho e voe bazhatet ar re a oa azezet war an hent. Koulskoude e oa bet degaset 4000 soudard gourdonet-mat da harpañ sevenidigezh an urzh a oa bet roet da gentañ da virout na dremenjant dre eno. Tamallet e vez d'ar Republikaned implij an nerzh evit lakaat o mennad da drec'hiñ hag en abeg da se ne fell ket d'an Unanourien kejañ gant kannaded Sinn Féin. Met into o-unan a ra kement-all.

Deuet eur en-dro war ribl an islonk evel ma oad en hañv 1994. An aozadurioù arvilourel pe kevrennoù 'zo anezho o deus adkroget en daou du gant o argadoù daoust ma klask atav renerien o c'hostezennoù politikel delc'her warno evit ma chomfent habask. Kalz ez eus da zoujañ e vo ur genstokadeg drastus e Doire/Derry d'an 10/8 pa "lido" an "Apprentice Boys" evel bep bloaz trec'h ar Brotestanted enklêc'het e 1690 er gêr-se rak fellout a ra dezho kerzhet war ar ramparzhioù a-wel d'ar Bogside katolik.\* Poblans Doire en tu a'r C'Hornôg eus ar stêr Feabhal/Foyle. 'Iec'h emañ ar gêr gozh, zo katolik holl war-bouez nebeut. Goulenn a ra Poellgor an Annezidi ma teuo dileuridi an Orañjidi da emguzuliañ ganto a-zivout al lec'hioù da dremen pe doareoù ar gerzhadeg. Ret eo en em glevet a-zivout an holl gerzhadegoù pe ne vo fin ebet d'ar c'habaduilhoù.

Pezh zo sklaer n'eo ket mui Sinn Féin hepken met an SDLP ivez a gred bremañ n'eus ket tu da adreizhañ Stadig a C'Hwec'h Kontelezh, na da adreizhañ an RUC evit ober anezhi ur bolis diuntuek. Ma ne fell ket d'an d-Trimble ha d'ar b-Paisleyed treuzvearc'hata ne vanko ket izili nevez d'an IRA. Siwazh, n'o deus ket diskouezet ez int furaet an disterañ abaoe an distruj graet gant o c'henwallerezh e miz Gouere.

Evit John Major, ne zellez ket nemeur a zoujañs evel stadrener...

En Irish Times e skrive Tim Pat Coogan ergentaou e tleje ar Republikaned bezañ habask, rak emañ al lav a-du ganto. Da gentañ en abeg m'emañ ar Stadoù Unanet o lakaat o galloud da bouezañ war ar Saozon. Da eil, ha se zo pouezusoc'h war hirdermen, en abeg ma vo, marteze a-barzh ugent vloaz, muioc'h a Vroadelourien eget a unanourien er C'Hwec'h Kontelezh. Ar muianiver eus ar poblañs dindan 20 vloaz zo eus familhoù katolik.

N'ouzon dare. Katolik n'eo ket atav kenster gant broadelour. Ha da c'hortoz, ar goullou politikel a c'hallfe bezañ leuniet gant ar feulster.

\*Neus ket bet kabaduilh e Doire d'an 10/8.

A. Heusaff

#### Gerioù divoutin

Lazoù : interests; kefridiet : mandated; arvilourel : paramilitary; Orañjidi (pe Oranidi?) : Orangemen.

#### Summary

*The implications of the momentous events which occurred in July in the Six-Counties are reviewed here. The supposedly constitutional Unionist parties have shown that they support the threat of violence and condone its use to maintain their supremacy, while the London government appears unable to exercise its responsibility to establish the conditions for a lasting peace in the area.*

## GWENN-HA-DU,

nationalist bimonthly in French, 28 pp. Sub. 150 F but 170 F outside State, go J. le Maho, provisionally at Atelier d'Yzeult, 64 r. Haute St. Maurice, F-37500 Chinon, France.

Nr 115 continues the publication of A.Y. Denis' Genealogical History of the Breton Monarchy, throwing light here on the rather uninspiring 10th-11th century period when feudal interests seem complete to overshadow the national ones. From Edith Perennou we have the continuation of her study of the event of the Wars of Religion (?) at the end of the 16th century centering around the adventures of the brigand La Fontenelle.

## Appeal

Jakez Kerjean would like to obtain information on any/all Breton courses being taught outside France - especially in the Celtic Departments in universities. Please contact him at: 3, Allée Joachim, Du Bellay - 93270 Sevran, Breizh/Brittany via France.

## The Menhirs of Carnac, mute witnesses to blind arrests

What does a tourist do when (s)he arrives in Carnac for the first time? (S)he hurries to the offices of the Syndicat d'Initiative and gets a map of all the megalithic sites of the area. The Maeneg/Menec alignment which stretches from Kermario to Kerleskan along the road to An Dreinded/La Trinity has pride of place. It gets rushed straightaway!

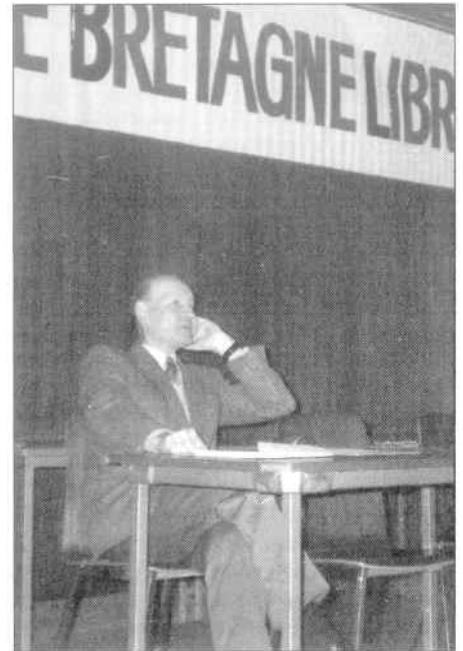
It is almost three years since, faced with the increasing invasion, the Carnac municipality decided to build a belvedere, a wooden structure made up of fences and miradors. Needless to say, the menhirs which visitors are so keen to photograph are no longer visible due to the height of the construction. The belvedere however was not destined for a long existence. Shortly after it was built, slogans appeared on it in black paint: "La Bretagne n'est pas à vendre" (= Brittany is not for sale). Then part of the structure was burnt down. Following this incident a wire fence was put around the whole megalithic site. Turnstiles were installed at various points to allow access to the alleys between the menhirs. What was the point then of having a fence?

Another structure, white and circular, located within a few meters from the alignment on the other side of the road, came into being: the archaeoscope. For the Carnac municipality, this was to be provisional, intended to be removed within eight years. "Promises!" said many of the local people. What was it for anyway? To sell postcards, miniature menhirs, booklets about Saint Cornely the protector of the cattle who one day, being pursued by the Roman army, turned around and transformed all the soldiers into the stones which are now menhirs. But let us mention that those "souvenirs" are sold in all the Carnac shops. No more than the belvedere, the archaeoscope was obviously not to the liking of all the population: in the night of November 8th to 9th last year, the quietness of the surrounding countryside was disturbed, the archaeoscope had been blown up. The damage, according to the police, was "considerable". Yet, if you ask the people, they'll say there is just a hole which takes a bit from the value of the building.

Anyway, it was deemed enough to justify the detention of a couple on February 22. Mme Mary, president of the association "Menhirs Libres", and her husband were questioned for two and a half hours by four members of the Police Judiciaire acting on order from a "Parisian" judge. Of course, culprits have to be found, but was their membership of Menhirs Libres a sufficient reason for a farming couple to be arrested? Their house was searched in their absence, there was no warrant, and nothing was found to incriminate them. It would appear that the

police were more interested in the association's files and correspondence with its lawyers than in searching for gas cylinders or explosives. A striking example again of the the "law" is imposed in Brittany.

Gw.N.



Yann Bouessel du Bourg (Courtesy of L'Avenir de la Bretagne)

## Yann Bouessel du Bourg

News of the death of our friend Yann Bouessel on May 24 reached us too late for us to give as full an appreciation of his lifelong and active commitment to the cause of a free Brittany as we would have liked in **Carn Nr 94**. He took part in founding the Menez Kamm cultural centre near Gourin, the Unvaniezh Koad Kev to annually honour the memory of the patriot priest Yann Vari Perrot murdered in 1943, also in the work of Koun Breizh, the association founded by Rafig Tullou to commemorate important events of the Breton history. (It is worth mentioning that for the first time this year Koun Breizh organised a ceremony in the Rennes-East cemetery in memory of Leon Jasson, a leading member of the Bezen Perrot shot on 17.7.46 together with another member Andre Geffroy). Y Bouessel was also one of the voluntary teachers of the association OBER which runs correspondence courses for Breton (5 levels) and also Welsh learners. He wrote an important thesis about ARVOR, the bilingual weekly published during the war by Roparz Hemon. He was a man of strong Christian convictions. Although he came from an aristocratic background, he shared the ideal of a Breton nation ruled by a commitment to social justice. He was a member of the party POBL.



# The Sons of the Ermine: a History of Brittany

by Jean Pierre Le Mat. Publ. by An Clochán, Belfast, 1996. ISBN 1 900 286 017, 100 pages, Stg£3.50, Frf.60.

**T**hanks to J.P. ar Mat and Diarmaid Ó Breasláin/An Clochán it is now possible for the English reading public to acquaint themselves with the history of Brittany in its essentials without resorting to French texts. Here is a clear presentation of its major events and developments down to the present day with a division in paragraphs of 3 to 5 pages. At the head of each of these succinct indications are given of what was occurring on the wider world stage and in the other Celtic countries around the same time.

The author does not restrict himself to recording the facts, he also assesses them from the point of view of their importance for the development of the Breton nation, a nation struggling to assert its freedom against the interference from powerful neighbours and to recover it after having been conquered. He does not subscribe to the usual admiration of Anne, the last Duchess of Brittany who, in spite of her marriage to two French kings is credited by

other nationally minded historians - like Henri Poisson and Joseph Chardonnet - as having done all in her limited power to preserve our country's sovereignty: she failed to back those who attempted to continue the fight for independence. He adduces more conclusive evidence than the above mentioned authors for the independentist positions taken by Bretons involved in the wars of the "Holy League" at the end of the 6th century and by the "Frères Bretons" in the 1718-19 Conspiracy - the latter aiming at "changing the province into a Republic". On those two occasions help was sought from but too hesitatingly given by Spain. The leader of the 1675 "Red Bonnets" Revolt, Sebastian ar Balp; meant also to seek an alliance with the Dutch.\* In seeking support from an external power at the time of World War II the Breton nationalist leaders were following that tradition. Incidentally J.P. Le Mat's statement that "the German strategists decided not to fragment the

French State" is not quite accurate, given that Alsace-Lorraine was immediately in 1940 incorporated into the "Reich" and that Hitler refused to answer repeated Vichy requests to say what plans he had for France before the war was ended.

However his observations and comments are challenging and well worth pondering over. The ten-page chapter "The Texans of Europe (1945-1995)" is a compressed version of the supplement which he wrote under the same title to the 1993 re-edition of H. Poisson's 494 page "Histoire de Bretagne", showing that Brittany is now well alive in the economic and cultural field - alive and kicking...

There are unfortunately printing errors in this book and from a language point of view more attention would have had to be given to certain expressions which are influenced by French. However, the readers will generally be able to correct the mistakes. In view of the great qualities of this work they are really of minor importance.

**A. Heusaff**

**Note** The ermine, which figured on the coat of arms of the dukes of Brittany from the early 13th century onwards (but also on many others) has come to be seen as a Breton emblem. It is represented in the top left corner of our national flag.

\* We learn here that the main leaders were rescued by a Dutch ship, after the rising had been crushed.

## National Funeral for Glenmor

**T**he popular poet and singer Glenmor died on June 18 aged 65, having been gravely ill since 1992. His burial in his native town of Mael-Karaez was attended by almost 4,000 people, old and young, belonging to the local community as well as to a wide spectrum of cultural and political organisations. Although not a practising Catholic he had "out of respect for his parents" asked to have a funeral mass which was concelebrated by Fr. Yann Talbot and six other priests, though not entirely in Breton as he had wished. Two excellent singers, Andrea ar Gouilh and Anne Aufret sang gwerzioù (ballads). The cortege to the cemetery was led by the Kemperle pipe band, with many of the participants carrying Breton flags. The ceremony ended with the singing of "Bro gozh ma zadoù", the Breton national anthem. The coffin was covered with gorse and broom flowers in accordance with Glenmor's wishes. No wreaths. He wanted thereby, as with the choice of his bardic name Glenmor (Glen = Earth as opposite to Heaven, Mor = sea) to express his close bond with nature.

His real name was Milig ar Skañv. His parents were small crofters who brought him up in Breton. They were too poor to



At Glenmor's funeral (courtesy of Bremañ)

send him to a secondary school, instead he went to a seminary to train for the priesthood but already there he manifested his rebellious character by turning anticlerical.

In the late fifties he began his singing career in Paris, distinguishing himself by the boldness and vehemence with which he proclaimed his commitment to the cause of a free Brittany at a time when hardly anyone dared to proclaim this ideal again so openly. For him singing was a political weapon: indeed he claimed he reached

more people than the Breton periodicals. He has been called a "weaker of consciences". His concerts in Paris in 1969-70 were triumphal occasions, rousing the public in communion with him. He will best be remembered for his spirited songs in Breton, "Nevenoe", "Kan-Bale an A.R.B.", "O Keltia", which Per Denez, in **Bremañ**, considers as treasures of our literature.

But his main output, by far, was in French. This may surprise coming a man who was a native Breton-speaking and



who declared in his last interview, with Radio Kreiz Breizh (Dec. '95) that for him priority in today's struggle should be given to our language, although first attention should have previously been given to spreading a knowledge of our history among the people as they would then have been better able to understand why Breton is so important. It is a pity that his gift as a poet (or as a bard as it seems he preferred to be called) and his powerful voice were not put primarily in the service of this language as the main means of expressing his ideas but he said he could not earn his living from singing in Breton and he had to use French to carry the message of Breton independence to the multitude. Although he was acclaimed in big concert halls throughout Europe, he was banned from the French radio and television. "To broadcast Glenmor on the national airways is a political action prohibited by the Constitution", warned the French minister of "Information" in a circular.

Glenmor incarnated the Breton refusal to submit, to toe the line! Four double CDs devoted to his work are to be published shortly.

A.H.



Yann Puillandre, main organiser of **Gouel ar Brezhoneg** (courtesy Combat Breton)

## Gouel ar Brezhoneg

The National Festival of the Breton Language Gouel ar Brezhoneg held on May 25-26 in Speied was a success in spite of the cool rainy weather. The concerts were well attended, the stands displaying Breton publications and publicising the work of associations drew thousands of visitors and (hopefully) buyers. The organisers were helped by a host of voluntary workers but were disappointed by making a financial loss due in part to the fact hat dodgers avoided paying entrance fees. The occasion was marred also by the presence of drunken teenagers. The festival has nothing to gain from such undesirables but the question is how to keep them away. However it got good publicity in the media.

# Words, Hopes and Hurdles

On the occasion of a three day visit in Breton Cornwall at the end of May, President Chirac spoke in favour of linguistic diversity in Europe and stated that he was, in principle, favourable to the signing by France of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. He took that position at a "republican" dinner in the Kemper prefecture attended by all the Finistère members of parliament and the president of the Rennes-Region (or Brittany-4) Council and again the next day at another dinner offered by him to 17 personalities belonging to economic and cultural circles. On the 31st when asked at a press conference about the Charter he referred to Jean-Yves Cozan saying that this deputy had done a lot for advancing the cause of the Breton language and that it was he who had brought up the subject.

"I have always been favourable to maintaining and developing the regional languages as they are the expression of cultures. I invite the other Europeans to defend energetically our languages against the risk of uniformisation due to the new networks of information. Each culture is precious. It expresses itself through the medium of a language..."

Will these fine words be put into practice? Is there more here than a personal view? All energetic promotion of "our regional" languages has so far been totally lacking. On other occasions when French presidents came to Brittany they also had encouraging words for those longing for a change in the State's assimilation policy. De Gaulle in 1969 recited a verse in Breton. Giscard d'Estaing in 1977 spoke of the Breton (collective) personality and "granted" a cultural charter - not renewed after 4 years. Mitterand, before his election in 1981, acknowledged the "right to be different" and spoke of reparations. Since then concessions won have been repeatedly thwarted or thrown back into question by the administration, any legal status being denied to the Breton language.

Chirac has promised nothing. A few days before his visit, the minister for culture told an Occitan paper he did not think that the Charter was "a good response to the expectations of Frenchmen who are attached to the status of French as the only official language".

Successive governments have taken the position that France cannot sign because it would go counter to the Republican tradition which recognises that individuals have rights only as individuals and not as members of an ethnic, linguistic or religious community. Moreover the Charter would endanger the good working of the administration.

Is it not the same as saying that France cannot adapt itself to new circumstances? Why would the French State's administrators be unable to make measures which have proved to be practicable in other countries effective also in Brittany and other areas?

The UDB urged caution towards the president's pronouncement while pointing out that if the government signed, its decision would have to be approved by the Parliament before the Charter could be implemented in any way. It was the Parliament which decreed that "French is the language of the Republic", this is now enshrined in the Constitution. The terms of the Charter, if referred to the Constitutional Court, by an opponent, could be declared unconstitutional. Combat Breton is quite definite: even if the signature is given, the Parliament will not ratify.

However there is a recognition that in the difficult struggle facing the Breton language every opportunity should be used to put pressure on the French authorities to make concessions. The Breton Cultural Council has therefore urged all the other associations concerned to write to President Chirac to ask that there be no further delay in signing the Charter.

A.H.

## AL LIAMM,

literary magazine in Breton, bimonthly. Subscription 180 F (Brittany, France), 200 F outside State but 250 F airmail, to P. ar Bihan, 16 r. des Fours à Chaux, 35400 St. Malo.

The March-April issue, Nr 295, has four poems of which a long one by Per Denez is dedicated to Lt. Lescallier who was demoted for leading a military band that took place in the 1968 Celtic Congress commemoration of the battle of Saint-Aubin du Cormier. Other main contributions are: a story by Alan Dipode about an astronaut, 100 years from now, whose fate is sealed far away in space by the inexorability of a computer; an account by Paol ar Meur of a journey in Argentina which takes him to the Welsh settlement in the Chubut valley where it seems only few know Cymraeg; an article about Yiddish by G. Pennaod; a translation by S. Amos into Kernewek Kymmyn of a folk tale collected by F. an Uhel; the end of Y. Guehenne's study of the 1675 Red Bonnets revolt.

# CYMRU

## Tynged y Llydaweg

**Y**m 1936, wedi ymchwiliad Ar Brezhoneg er Skol cyfrifwyd rhyw 850,000 o siaradwyr y Llydaweg yn y dosbarthau. Gan fod bron i draean y Llydawiaid ifainc wedi gadael Llydaw, gellir amcangyfrif bod yn y byd 1,200,000 o siaradwyr yr iaith ar drothwy'r Ail Ryfel Byd. Roedd bron i hanner y Llydawiaid hynny'n gallu darllen eu hiaith, a hynny er nad oeddent wedi'i chlywed yn yr ysgol. Yn dystion o'r cenedlaethau hyn, ym 1962, ar Gyngor y Fâtican, roedd 16 o esgobion yn siarad Llydaweg.

Yn y pedwardegau y peidiwyd â throsglwyddo'r Llydaweg i blant, boed hynny o gywilydd neu drwy waharddiad gan yr addysgwyr. Nid oedd dim yn amlwg ynglyn â'r gwaharddiad hwnnw. Tan y blynyddoedd 1860 yn Ffrainc, gellid ystried fod y Llydaweg yn hen iaith Geltaidd i'w cyn-deidiau, yn ffynhonnell nifer ddi-fesur o dermau Ffrangeg a Saesneg, ar ôl cael hyd, yn Armorique, i loches o ble na fyddai erlid. Yng nghyrol

J. Demogeot ar hanes llenyddiaeth Ffrangeg, a olygwyd yn gyson rhwng 1851 a 1886, ni phetrusa'r awdur rhag neilltuo dwy bennod i'r cyswllt Celtaidd.

Newidiodd popeth yn sgîl y polisi o purdeb ieithyddol a gyflwynwyd yn Ffrainc ar ddiwedd yr ail Ymerodraeth, yn ei hanfod fel y byddai ffin yr ieithoedd Almaenaidd yn encilio. Talodd y Llydaweg am hyn. Ym 1990, yn ôl yr INSEE (cyfriaad?), ni chafwyd yn Llydaw Isel fwy na 253,000 o siaradwyr y Llydaweg o'r crud, y mwyafrif dros 55 oed. Wedi'i chynnal mewn pedwar rhanbarth, gwnaeth yr ymchwiliad i'r ffigur hwn godi i 268,000, sef 114,000 o ddynion a 154,000 o ferched, oherwydd tuedd dynion i farw'n gynt. Roedd 73% yn byw ar aelwydydd heb fod yn amaethyddol, a 212,000 wedi gadael yr ysgol yn 14 oed.

O'r 268,000 o siaradwyr y Llydaweg o'r crud, dim ond 10,000 a ddywedodd iddynt ddilyn cwrs yn y Llydaweg. Nid yw'r

feistrolaeth dda o'r iaith ysgrifenedig ond yn fwy fyth o wyrth. Gall 143,000 ddarllen y Llydaweg, a 68,000 ohonynt yn eithaf da. Y Llydawiaid hynaf sy'n darllen orau a hwy sydd â'r gyfran uchaf o ddarllenwyr yn eu plith Gall 15% o blith y rhai 45-60 oed ddarllen yr iaith a 30% o blith y rhai sydd dros 60 oed. Yng nghyswllt yr iaith Llydaweg, i'r gwrthwyneb i weddill y byd, anlythrennedd fu ar gynnydd. Dilyniir rhaglenni radio a theledu gan 158,000 o Lydawiaid o'r crud, a hynny'n gyson gan 39,000 ohonynt.

Ar ben y siaradwyr o'r crud, ceir 381,000 o bobl nad ydynt erioed wedi dilyn cwrs yn y Llydaweg ond sydd fwy neu lai'n gyfawydd â'r iaith bob dydd. Y Ffrangeg yw eu prif iaith, ond maent wedi codi'r Llydaweg wedyn, am ei bod yn iaith hawdd ei chodi. Mae'r bobl hyn yn iau na'r siaradwyr o'r crud. Mae'r mwyafrif ohonynt rhwng 25 a 75 oed. Yma eto, nodir perfformiadau gwael y rhai iau. Maent yn deall y Llydaweg, ond nid yn dda, ac ni allant ei siarad. O blith y 381,000 hyn o bobl sydd mewn cysylltiad â'r Llydaweg, nid yw 145,000 yn gallu ei siarad ac ni all 306,000 ei darllen. Fodd bynnag, mae 124,000 yn dilyn rhaglenni teledu neu radio fwy neu lai'n rheolaidd.

Yn y pen draw, i 40,000 o Lydawiaid, addysgu fu'r prif gyflwyniad i'r iaith. Yn gyffredinol, maent yn llai na 30 oed. Mae 6,000 o'u plith yn siarad Llydaweg yn weddol dda, ac mae 10,000 yn ei ddarllen yn weddol dda. Hwyl yw dyfodol yr iaith. Yn y trafodaethau lled-gyfawyddol a gychwynwyd gan INSEE yn Llydaw isel ac a gyhoeddwyd dan y teitl "Cynigion ar gyfer yr iaith Lydaweg", sonnir am yr ychydig gysylltiad sydd rhyngddynt a'r hen siaradwyr.

## News from Wales

**Housing Tenure:** In 1991 for Wales as a whole 21.5% of household inhabitants were Welsh speaking. For social housing the figure fell to 18.6%, but was above average at 22.1% for owner occupier and 23.9% for private rented accommodation. In the most Welsh speaking county - Gwynedd - (62% Welsh speaking overall), 76.5% of social housing tenants spoke Welsh.

**Welsh are proud:** A 'National Opinion Poll' survey for the Welsh Language Board has revealed that:

- 89% think that Welsh should be available at all levels of education
- 88% believe that the language is something to be proud about
- 71% support its use
- 53% felt that the language had a future across Wales

- 50% felt that it was dead or dying in their locality
- 48% of Welsh speakers who could read Welsh had read at least one Welsh book in the past year
- 36% of Welsh speakers watched Welsh television regularly
- 21% of Welsh speakers listen to Welsh radio programmes regularly

**Welsh language publishing:** On a population basis selling 1,000 copies of a Welsh book is equivalent to a best seller in English. The most popular Welsh authors such as Marion Eames and Islwyn Ffowe Elis sell 15,000-20,000 equivalent to Jeffrey Archer's 1.2 to 1.5 million copies. Public money support per annum supports children's educational books at £2 million, £200,000 for leisure books and £50,000 for major products. In adult books there is £200,000 subsidy for leisure books and £60,000 for art books. Magazines receive £335,000 per annum. The Welsh language weekly magazine 'Golwg' sells 3,500 per week with a subsidy of £209,000, while the weekly newspaper 'Y Gymro' sells 4,250 with a subsidy of £10,000 per annum. 'Barn' receives £45,000 for 1,150 copies.

**English press subsidies:** In contrast the English language press in Wales relies even more on subsidies:

- Poetry Wales	- 770 sales	- £18,260
- New Welsh Review		
	- 650 sales	- £30,030
- Planet	- 1,250 sales	- £74,000

**Welsh in business:** The bilingual crisp packets from "Dragon Crisps" have launched their twelve flavours. All 230 'Spar' shops in Wales are to have bilingual signing within twelve months. The Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society has also agreed to promote the use of Welsh.

**Welsh in Westminster:** Sixteen of Wales' elected representatives at Westminster can speak Welsh and three are actively learning - over half the total. While the Welsh language is still barred in London, it can now be spoken in the Welsh Grand Committee and Welsh Affairs Select Committee when it meets in Wales. Now that Rod Richards has had to resign as a government minister, no member of the government ministerial team can speak Welsh.

# Smashing the Morfa Bychan Development

What would be the reaction if a company from France intended to construct some 800 holiday homes, that constituted a serious threat to the culture and environment, in an area of rural England?

Naturally enough the local population would be up in arms and resist such a development.

However, this is precisely what is proposed for one of the strongholds of the Welsh language in Morfa Bychan, Gwynedd, North Wales. But of course it is an English company that intends to undertake this development of unwanted houses. Houses that would undoubtedly represent a lethal blow to the Welsh language and have serious implications for the environment.

Somehow or other, this is seen as acceptable; after all the forces of the Free Market are all important in the present political climate.

This is not the first time that the fears of people in Wales have been raised regarding Morfa Bychan. A similar proposed development was successfully thwarted some ten years ago. Unfortunately however, history has a tendency to repeat itself, and the present situation is more dangerous than ever before.

Agecrest, the owners of the Morfa Bychan site, in June of this year, won their High Court case in London against Gwynedd County Council to confirm that the planning permission granted in 1964 was still valid. The justification for this decision? Apparently, the placing of gravel foundations for a path is sufficient to constitute preparatory work on the site in the eyes of the law. As stated by the Judge presiding in the court case; if the same company had come before the same court with the same application today then they would undoubtedly be unsuccessful. This clearly highlights the dangerous weakness in the present law and emphasises the very real threat that exists to many communities in Wales where there are literally hundreds if not thousands of dormant planning permissions that would now be regarded as culturally and environmentally damaging. It is not over emphasising the issue to state that allowing the Morfa Bychan development to go ahead would be synonymous to opening the floodgates and represent a significant danger to our rural communities. That is why Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg has decided to put its full energy and resources behind this campaign. The Morfa Bychan development cannot be allowed to take place.

It is also interesting to note that Agecrest have been in Receivership since 1988 and have since been administered by a company of Chartered Accountants, Neville Russell from Birmingham.

Why therefore would Neville Russell go to the trouble of employing one of the top QCs (Queen's Counsel) and finance a case in the High Court in London? According to a spokesperson on behalf of the company, they are under a legal duty to pay off debts accrued by Agecrest. True enough. However, at least two of the Agecrest creditors are in liquidation themselves. Therefore, the question remains would there be any purpose in financing such a court case if there was no prospective developer waiting in the wings?

Gwynedd County Council have stated that they are not able to finance another court case against Agecrest, being that they have to pay legal costs of something approaching half a million pounds. Therefore, at the end of the day, only protest will be able to prevent the Morfa Bychan development.

So far, a number of public meetings have been held, arranged by local people and Cymdeithas yr Iaith. Certainly there is a strong united front locally. Cymdeithas has also stated that this matter is considered a National Campaign of great importance and launched a national petition against the proposed development during the National Eisteddfod in August.

I must say that, from a personal point of view, I have never seen such a level of public awareness and support for any campaign before. I only came across literally a handful of people on the National Eisteddfod field that had not heard of the campaign and the list of volunteers that are willing to partake in it grows every day.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith has done a considerable amount of research on those companies involved in this development and have discovered some interesting facts indeed. In the week prior to the Eisteddfod the Cymdeithas 'artillery' i.e. fax machines, were once again utilised to great effect. The 'Fax Attack' commenced on the Monday against Neville Russell by a number of fax machines throughout Wales. By the following Friday Neville Russell had received many hundreds of fax messages (despite the fact that they changed their number during the week) stating that the people of Wales were opposed to any development at Morfa Bychan.

There is also a Friends of Morfa Bychan page on the Internet and a rally was held in Porthmadog in order to show the strength of feeling, both locally and nationally.

Without a doubt, this unfortunate situation emphasises the need for a Property Act in Wales in order to safeguard local communities and ensure that linguistic and environmental factors are of greater importance than the rapacious greed of property developers. The present law should also be changed so that it is possible to annul old planning permissions granted when there was less public awareness of cultural and environmental considerations.

It is expected that the Morfa Bychan site will soon be for sale. This will signal the commencement of the real campaign to prevent the development. Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg is committed to ensuring that it never happens. Without a doubt this campaign is relevant to all in Wales, no matter where they live or what language they speak, as it directly concerns the all important issue that communities have the right to determine their own future in the face of the all powerful monetary forces that constitute the Free Market. One thing however is certain. Whatever the outcome of the Morfa Bychan issue the consequences of it will stay with us for many years to come.

For more information contact (01222) 486469 ore (01286) 678020.

Gareth Kriff

## NEWS FROM WALES contd

**Welsh Medium Education:** Moves are afoot to provide Welsh medium nursery education at Brynmawr in north Gwent. A new Welsh medium primary school is proposed in Cardiff. While the first Welsh medium voluntary nursery schools were founded in 1943, their association was not founded until 1971 when there were 65 groups. Now there are over 1,000 with 15,000 children, and receive £500,000 of central government grant each year.

**Election Results:** Plaid Cymru have gained a seat from Labour at Penycroes in Carmarthenshire and from an Independent at Aberystwyth in Ceredigion.



# ÉIRE

## Ó Dhúluachair go Dóchas

**N**a Briotánaigh an t-aon náisiún Ceilteach a mhaireann ar mhór-roinn na hEorpa. Ba ó Inis Breatain a tháinig siad an chéad lá, go háirithe ó Dumonia (réamhríocht an Choirn a leath thar Devon Shasana chomh maith le Corn an lae inniu). Theich siad roimh na hionraitheoirí Sasanacha a bhí ag brú isteach ar na dúichí Briotanacha Ceilteacha. Thug na teifigh sin a dteanga Bhriotanach leo agus ba ón teanga sin a d'eascair an Bhriotáinis.

Is beag eolas a bhíonn ag Éireannaigh faoi stair na Briotáine. Is beag duine dfinn in Éirinn a bhfuil aon riar den Bhriotáinis aige agus ní mór a bheith an-aireach faoi léargas ar an mBriotáin a bhfaightear tríd an Fhraincis. Is beag ar fad atá ar fáil sa Bhéarla maidir le stair na tíre sin. Ní mór fáilte a chur, mar sin roimh *The Sons of the Ermine: A History of Brittany* le Jean-Pierre Le Mat atá nua fhoilsithe ag An Clochán, Béal Feirste (£3.50/ff60).

Tá fianaise ann gur tugadh aitheantas do na Briotánaigh mar phobal ar leith chomh luath leis an gcúigiú céad. Tuairiscítear go raibh Mansuetus, easpag na mBriotánach, i láthair ag sionad eaglasta in Tours i 453. Síníodh conradh idir Briotánaigh agus Frainc i 497. Ach ba é Nominos a bhunaigh an chéad ríocht uile-Bhriotánach tar éis na Frainc a bhualadh ag Ballon in 845. Fuair an stát Briotánach sin aitheantas idirnáisiúnta ón bPápa Leon IV. Ní nach ionadh breathnaítear ar Nominos mar Athair na Briotáine.

Ar nós muid féin throid na Briotánaigh Lochlannaigh, Normannaigh agus Sasanaigh. Ruaigeadh na Lochlannaigh ó dhúiche na Briotáine idir 936 agus 939. Ós rud é go raibh an Bhriotáin béal dorais leis an Normainn ní raibh aon bhearna sa teagmháil leis an bpobal Lochlannach a chuir fúthu ansin agus tá sé deacair pointe ama a aithint nuair a thiontaigh Lochlannaigh ina Normannaigh. Is dócha gur féidir Normananigh a thabhairt oruthu de réir mar ar ghlac siad le canúint den Fhraincis.

Tarraingíodh Bhriotánaigh isteach i gcúrsaí na Normainne agus Shasana fiú i ré na Normannach. Ba mhinic Briotánaigh i

gcomhar le Normannaigh agus ba mhinic eile iad i ngleic leo. Bhí fórsa Briotánach páirteach san ionradh Normannach ar Shasana i 1066 agus bronnadh tailte i Sír Eabhrac ar dhuine de uaisle na Briotáine, Breint de Penthève.

Pósadh infón le Conan II na Briotáine le mac le Anraí II Shasana mar bheartas polaitiúil den chineál a bhí coitianta sa ré sin. Sa bhliain 1166 d'éirigh Conan as a dhiúcacht agus thosaigh Anraí ag caitheamh leis an mBriotáin amhail agus gur fheod pearsanta dá chuid a bhí inti. Rinne sé iarracht cúige Angla-Normannach a dhéanamh den tír.

Níor ghéill na Briotánaigh go héasca do riarail na Sasanach ach cuireadh iad faoi chois go brúidiúil faoi réimis Anraí agus a mhic, Risteard (an Leonchroí). Ba é an toradh ba mheasa agus ba bhuaine ar an daorsmacht sin ná gur thug sé leithscéal do na Francaigh a ladar a chur i gcúrsaí na Briotáine.

Ón Mheánaois ar aghaidh bhí an teorainn idir an Bhriotáin agus an Fhrainc chomh deimhnitheach agus a bhí teorainn talaimh ar bith thar thréimhse fhada. Go deimhin, bhí tráthanna ann nuair a bhí dlí na Briotáine i bhfeidhm níos faide soir ná teorainn an lae inniu. Is ionann críocha na Briotáine leis na cianta agus an limistéar atá faoi gcúig *département* Finistère, Côtes d'Armor, Morbihan, Ille-et-Vilaine agus Loire Atlantique. Bualadh buille ar aontas na Briotáine i 1941 nuair a scair rialtas Vichy an *département* a dtugtar Loire-Atlantique anois air amach ó 'réigiún' na Briotáine. Nuair a rinne rialtas na Fraince atheagrú ar réigiún an 'heicseagáin' i 1972 fágadh Loire-Atlantique taobh amuigh den Bhriotáin 'oifigiúil.' Cuireann an chríchdeighilt seo gach cineál pleanála a déantar maidir leis an mBriotáin as riocht ar fad. Dála an scéil tá leagan eile den chríchdeighilt seo a dtagtar air i Loire-Atlantique a bheith sa Bhriotáin ach go bhfágtagar amach an limistéar taobh ó dheas den Loire. Níl bunús leis sin. Baineann an dúiche theas sin leis an mBriotáin go stairiúil.

Is í an Bhriotáinis teanga shinseartha na Briotáine gan aon agó. Sa deichiú haois

Briotáinis a bhí á labhairt taobh thiar de líne ó chuan Mont St Michel go Dol (beagnach ar theorainn na Fraince) go Raozhon go St Nazaire sa deisceart.

Leath an Fhraincis siar diaidh ar ndiaidh go dtí go raibh sí in uachtar in oirthear na tíre. Faoi 1600 bhí deighilt chultúrtha idir iarthar agus oirthear nó idir an Bhriotáin íochtair agus an Bhriotáin Uachtair. Tuairiscítear gurbh í an Bhriotáinis teanga an tromlaigh sa Bhriotáin íochtair chomh déanach le 1886. Rinne an coinscríobh (mídhleathach) le linn an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda dochar as cuimse don teanga agus tá limistéar na Briotáine traidisiúnta cúngaithe go mór anois.

Chaill an Bhriotáin a neamhspleáchas nuair a ceanglaíodh Conradh na hAontachta ar 21 Meán Fómhair 1532. Mar sin féin fágadh ann parlaimint na Briotáine agus de réir Chonradh na hAontachta ní bheadh sé dleathach cánacha a ghearradh ar an mBriotáin ach le toil na parlaiminte sin. Deimhníodh sa chonradh freisin go mbeadh sé de cheart ag an mBriotáin arm dá cuid féin a bheith aici. Chomh maith leis sin aithníodh an pharlaimint ina hardchúirt dlí ar an mBriotáin.

Mhair an córas riaracháin agus polaitiúil sin sa Bhriotáin go dtí 1789 nuair a scoradh na forais náisiúnta Bhriotánacha uile. Nuair a rinneadh iarracht an coinscríobh a chur i bhfeidhm sa Bhriotáin ní raibh aon dul as ag na Briotánaigh ach éirí amach in éadan na bhFrancach. Bhí an t-éirí amach faoi cheannas an Mharcais de la Rouerie, duine den uasaicme a raibh dearcadh daonlathach aige. Ghlac sé páirt i gCogadh Saoire Mheiriceá in éadan na Sasanach. Chaith sé tréimhse i bpríosún míchlúiteach an Bastille i bPáras i 1788 toisc go raibh sé de dhánaíocht aige achainí a chur chuig an Rí Louis XVI ag lorg breis saoirse don Bhriotáin. Ba é a bhunaigh an Association Bretonne le féinrialtas a bhaint amach don Bhriotáin. Tar éis bhás La Rouerie chuaigh Georges Cadoudal, mac óg feirmeora, i gceannas ar an ngluaiseacht Bhriotánach. Chuir na Francaigh an t-éirí amach faoi chois go brúidiúil agus dícheannafodh Cadoudal in 1804.

Bhí athbheochan chultúrtha sa Bhriotáin sa 20ú haois le leithéidí na hirise *Gwalarn* a bhunaigh Roparz Hemon agus na eagraíochta Ar Brezhonag er Skol a thionscain Yann Fouré le Briotáinis a chur chun cinn sna scoileanna. Tháinig fuinneamh nua sa náisiúnachas polaitiúil chomh maith. Bunaíodh páirtí náisiúnta na Briotáine agus a hiris *Breizh Atao*. Sa bhliain 1943 tháinig ann don dforma míleata a ghlac an t-ainm Bezen Perrot air féin ar ball (i gcuimhne ar shagart, ceannródaí Briotáinise a dúnmharaíodh le linn feachtas imealgá in éadan náisiúnaithe).

Tar éis 1945 imríodh géarleanúint ar gach gné den ghluaiseacht Bhriotánach, gnéithe glanchultúrtha agus 'measartha'

# Gaelscoileanna - Broken Promises

## Recognition demanded for new Irish-medium schools

### Broken Government Promises

1. Among our (educational) priorities are:  
\*Support for multi-denominational schools and Gaelscoileanna including the early recognition of new schools;"

(cf. page 28 of the document - *Government of Renewal, Policy Agreement* between Fine Gael, The Labour Party and Democratic Left, December 1994)

2. In future, full recognition and full entitlement to capital grants will be given to all schools, including all-Irish and multi-denominational schools, from the date of their establishment, as soon as the Minister is satisfied in each case that there will be a continuing need for the school.

This will allow permanent accommodation to be provided at an earlier stage, and early recognition of new multi-denominational and all-Irish schools is listed as a priority in the *Government of Renewal* policy document."

(Cf. pages 32 and 33 of the White Paper on Education - *Charting our Education Future*)

### Rules for recognition - The Background

1. In the Summer of 1986 the Department of Education announced that new all-Irish schools would no longer be recognised unless 20 or more pupils were enrolled in each school.

2. In the Summer of 1987 the Department introduced a further sub-rule: new all-Irish schools would no longer be recognised unless 20 or more pupils who had not previously attended school were enrolled in each school.

san áireamh. Is scéal é ann féin mar a d'fhás féinics ilghnéitheach as an dúluachair sin. Agus an 20ú aois ag druidim chun deiridh tá dóchas úr sa Bhriotáin.

Micheál Mac Aonghusa

### Summary

Brittany has had to defend itself from Vikings, Normans and English as well as French. The boundaries of the country have been well-defined since the Middle Ages.

3. The Minister for Education has now announced that the 20 new pupils, who had not previously attended school, must all enrol in the same year in the all-Irish school seeking recognition.

Until now the necessary quota of 20 new pupils could be attained by the school's enrolment figures over two years (or more).



M. Breathnach, Minister for Education.

That is now longer to be allowed despite the fact that such children would have spent a year attending a school which was neither recognised nor subvented by the Department of Education.

As a result of this new rule the Minister is refusing to recognise three all-Irish schools which have been kept open since last year through the parent's fund-raising activities.

4. The Minister initially also refused to recognise four all-Irish schools which are being opened in September and which have more than 20 pupils enrolled who have not previously attended school. However, only three weeks later she announced that three of the four schools would be granted recognition.

5. Yet another all-Irish primary school is being established this year - in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim. It was not expecting recognition this year as it would not have 20 pupils enrolled who had not attended school before. The Minister's new rule will make it extremely difficult for parents of that school to qualify for recognition next year, which they have been counting on.

6. The Minister for Education has granted recognition go Gaelscoil na Cruaiche,

Westport, which operated without recognition from September 1995. In all the Minister for Education has granted recognition to eight of the ten new all-Irish schools this year.

### Growth and Development of Irish-medium schools

(a) 9 Primary and 6 Post-Primary all-Irish schools were established in September 1993.

(b) 10 Primary and 1 Post-Primary all-Irish schools were established in September 1994.

(c) 11 new Primary all-Irish schools were established in September 1995.

(d) 10 new Primary all-Irish schools will be established in September 1996.

It would appear that that tremendous rate of expansion is a cause of concern for the Minister for Education and for her Department. Instead of trying to stifle that development the Department of Education should be doing its utmost to cater for it and, also, to take the wishes of many parents who wish to provide an all-Irish education for their children into account when the Department itself is planning new schools.

Gaelscoileanna (co-ordinating body for Irish-medium schools) condemned the Minister's decision not to grant recognition to the three schools that have been in operation for one year.

A fourth school in Maynooth has been refused recognition for spurious reasons, without proper foundations, said Gaelscoileanna.

"We are outraged at the Minister's decision" said Jacqueline Ní Fhearghusa. "It is not acceptable that the Minister should change her rules at such short notice and without consultation with schools or with our organisation. It shows an appalling lack of understanding, of proper planning structures and of any respect for parents or pluralism in education."

The schools refused recognition opened in September and a major fund raising campaign is now underway. The schools held an open air 'hedge school' in early September outside the gates of the Department of Education in protest and demanded that recognition be granted to them.

For further information please contact: Jacqueline Ní Fhearghusa, Feidhmeannach, Gaelscoileanna, (01) 6763222

## Teilifís na Gaeilge

A Press Conference was organised by Conradh na Gaeilge on the 18th September in Dublin, the theme of the conference was 'The Importance of Teilifís na Gaeilge for the future of Irish' - drawing on the experience of other nations in the European Union who had a television service in their own native language.

The meeting was opened by Gearóid Ó Cairealláin, President of Conradh na Gaeilge. Michael D. Higgins, TD, Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht was the main guest speaker from Ireland. Other guest-speakers included: Basque Country - Mikel Echaguibel, Head of Programming, Foreign Productions, Euskal Telebista - ETB; Catalonia - Imma Tubella, Director of International Relations, Corporació Catalana de Radio i Televisió - CCRTV; Scotland - John Angus MacKay, Director, Comataidh Telebhiseain Gàidhlig - CTG; Wales - Huw Jones, Chief Executive, S4C; Teilifís na Gaeilge - Brian Mac Aongusa, Chairperson, Comhairle Theilifís na Gaeilge - TnaG.

Seán Mac Mathúna, General-Secretary of Conradh na Gaeilge, said in a statement that the founding of Teilifís na Gaeilge will prove to be the single most important boast for Irish since the early days of the state.

'Teilifís na Gaeilge will start broadcasting on Hallowe'en night and it will be of great benefit to Irish speakers and those learning Irish at school,' he said.

The main purpose of the meeting was to highlight the benefits which would accrue from TnaG, based on the experience of other countries. The large attendance demonstrated the widespread support for the TnaG.

### The Celtic Pen

A quarterly journal, mainly in English, dealing with Celtic language literature. Available from all good

bookshops or direct from:

The Celtic Pen, 36 Fruithille Park,  
Belfast BT1 8GE, Ireland.

Tel: 0232-232608

£1 per issue + 25p p&p.

Annual subscription (four issues

£5 (include p&p).

## New RUC Leader

The appointment of Ronnie Flannigan as new Chief Constable of the RUC will do little to reverse the fortunes of what is surely the most unpopular police force in Western Europe.

Despite reorganisation and reviews spanning the past thirty years the British government has been unable to create a system of policing that enjoys cross community support in the North of Ireland.

The problems of the RUC are fundamental. It was born as a sectarian militia designed to protect the predominately Protestant community in the artificially created statelet of Northern Ireland. The regular force, complemented for many years by *special constabulary*, brutally enforced the dominance of one section of the community on the other.

Attempts by the British government, since the imposition of direct rule in the North, to broaden the base and acceptability of the RUC have been a pathetic failure. Periodic scandals have seen the force revert to the type with many accusations of brutality, corruption, violence and torture. Only recently allegations in a London court not only alluded to the back side of the forces character but also sharply illustrated the mistrust which exists between it and British Army Intelligence.

In recent years a limited degree of integrity was carefully nurtured, as deputy to Hugh Annesley, Ronnie Flannigan (that rarity in the RUC a Catholic) developed a careful media image for the force which appeared to indicate a move towards more balanced policing. A skilled PR man he was comfortable in dealings with the media and politicians. The Flannigan facade was predictably vilified by the Republican movement, they asserted that the 'new RUC', developing a more even handed image, was a charade and that at the first test the organisation would revert to type. More moderate Nationalists were not so disdainful.

Not even the Republicans however could have anticipated the extent to which their warnings would bear fruit. At Drumcree the naked sectarian base of the RUC was exposed when after a reluctant stand-off with the Protestant Orange order the force, in an amazing about face, fell upon the nationalist communities, first at Garvaghy Road and then in Belfast and Derry and across the Province. Scenes of brutality filled television screens across the world as the Six Counties went through an

incredible time warp back to 1969. Even the moderate voices in the nationalist community could not now fail to appreciate that what limited credibility the RUC had striven to present was gone.

With the marching season across the North having taken its predictable course the UK media homed in on the RUC, its role and in particular its prospective new leader. Sir Hugh Annesley's successor would, we were told, inherit a force hit by loss of credibility. The short listed contenders Flannigan, Taylor and Wallace were described as men vying for the *poisoned chalice* of leader of the RUC. It is the RUC itself which is the poisoned chalice however, not the role of Chief Constable!

Nothing, it seems has been learned, it is not a new leader the RUC needs, indeed the same false dawn accompanied the appointment of Hugh Annesley to take over from predecessor Sir John Hermon. The force enjoys no cross community support and its sectarian base, exposed by this summer's violence, corrupts by association even those within it who favour reform. The ultimate unification of Ireland is a goal sought by republicans and nationalists. Realistically such a goal if achieved, in the face of continued Unionist opposition, will not materialise in the short-term. In the interim therefore a force to police the North is needed so that a stable base for democratic transition can be established. The people in the North deserve a Police force which will inspire confidence in both sides of the divided community. A Police force founded on, or out of the ashes of the RUC, is not an option. Too many people have suffered at the hands of the RUC for it to enjoy the confidence of either community in the Six Counties.

A new leader will make no difference to the present malaise attendant on the force. There will be great play in the next few months of his task in rebuilding the RUC's relations with both Catholic and with large sections of the Protestant community. This is just so much empty rhetoric as the events of this summer have exposed the forces narrow sectarian base. It is past time it went the same way as its Auxiliary counterpart, the B-Specials.

There is a place for the RUC - in Irish history!

J.B. Moffatt



# KERNOW

## Peleah era nye a moaz? Where are we going?

*An gwreanath ew an gwelha, en pub lea, trea po pelha:* Per efan, an gwreanath ell gon nea, buz en ednack po nye goack; andelha, rag fra eze mar leas ew ownack wos hedna?

Alerh nebun yunkar a gawas fowt itta ve drevan me tha weetha mar dubm an Curnoack nowedga. En kettermen e reeg kesky kenevrah sort Curnoack, sendgez an Curnoack Uniez han Curnoack Kymmy. "Thera why oll keel droag than tavas Curnoack!" ameth e. "Na ore deneth fatla e gowz noniel, andelha rag fra na vedno why ry aman?"

Nena e reeg treegas en fatel o nye ree denty dro tha valews an Curnoack enwedgack nye, lavarall dro hebma gwage po nag o guthvethz lowar gena nye urt an tavas gweer.

Soweth! Hebma ew avel an dean reeg merky a car dotha yrth warnotha. "Dar!" meth e, "Fatel ell hedna boaz? Na reeg hye gweel yrth hunz ubma!"

Rag ethewa reze purreze dressa an termen passhez boaz cooth thene, ha dressa nye gothas poran fatel o tacklaw gwrez nenna, ha cowsez, ha screffez. En cowz adro than Curnoack, kellez one heb medra per glose gwreythow ha gwra an tavas; ha en gweer eta ma kebmys dreth leb nye ell desky. Whathe, ma teez ew parrez tha suya e gillez heb gothas pelle iggans a moaz na thor pelle iggans devethez; alena, pe ra an ledar cotha en tol, ma an rerol wor e suya, lavarall, "Hebma a dale boaz an vor owne!"

Ma mere a gowz hethow urt Mehall Joseph, rag nessa vlethan veth gool pemp cans bluth an rebellyans o lediez gen hebma en 1497. Car doren nye oll, Mehall Joseph o gove. Dar, en Curnoack creis an gere gove o screffez vel gof ha goff, ha thor hebma ma leas gellez tha strays, dreth suppoga drigge an germa reemia gen an Sowsnack cough. An cabm

ma ew gwrez drevan suppoga pelha drellen nye adgan ganaw an screefa—compustar coath dreth e gurra warbarha gen gerria Sowsnack; whathe an rowlez screffa o kene nenna, ha FF o usyez meno rag disguethas an ganaw V. Nye ell gwellas pecare en Curnoack Nowedga leb ma screffez keveris **dreffen**, **drefen**, **drefan** ha **drevan**. Kene screefa—compustar rag gove ew kevez avel **gouv**, buz nangew **gove** cooth tha nye oll dreth an leshan **Angove**, ha hanaw an plas **Trengove**.

Peleah era ve a ledia? Termen me reeg desky an gawle a thyskar, mekyez eve per greav an la dreth leb na reze nevra tha thyskar screffa fowt war an bord due, na laull onen; rag discabells vedn desky fowtow mar scoen dre vedn angye desky compustar, ha ethewa guthvethz per tha ha mar gallish ewa rittia tha veaze cabm ve argrafez en pidnian edn discabell. Mero, ma Mehall Joseph mere gowsez enurma, heb mar, ha urt an television per efan; han niel a suya e gilla, ma oll an beaze laull dro hedna aswonez aweeth avel 'An Goff', Hagenzol, keth ellen nye tibias drova henwez **an goff** po **gof** en Curnoack, nag eze malbew dabm destinye rag an dra; buz teez vedn nevra usya an lavar ma, ha, car dre hevall, e cabmlavarall tha reemia gen cough.

Pothew Mehall Joseph a niel hero leall dreze tha nye, nye a gothe thene gweel mere notha, thyogall, an mouyha pure weer. Anna, rag fra na vedn nye accordya dotha e hanaw leall, than? Me ell agery thewh rag fra: ma nebas mesk nye reeg gurra meaze alebma nebas blethidniow nag eze than dialek Curnoack negys veeth wor an Curnoack vel tavas, ew breaz mar zawk ha drazzack uz na euama scantlowar e gredgy; buz pothew an dra cowsez, an kethe teez reeg draffa aman an omick smale ma na ell naha enurma peth rigans laull kenz, ha thurt hedna ma angye moaz raage pelha ha pelha abera than tulgow, ha

seil vouy iggans a keel andelha, tha belha iggan'gye athor an gullow. Trone heer ew!

Lebmen me vedn laull thewh nap peth orol; nebun vendvaze ew cooth them geath tha wellas sertayne rag malga hye desky nebas an tavas nye. Gennez en Penweth, ha merth an gweras, mor pethama kibmiez tha laull andelha, ha e guthmens teez pleaw ha poscadars, ma than kethe bennenma ganaw ew cumpas gen an pow a leb ew hye genesack, an pow a roze tha nye gon tavas, ha desky thene fatla e clappia leall; an pow a throze thene **gove** ha **gouv**, ha thor hedna reeg desky tha nye fatla cowz **goff** tha reemia gen *stove* ni gen cough.

Dar, an marchant onketh tha leb hye reeg moaz, er e gew, tha thesky tacklaw nango deskez goshy e hunnen thea pa ve hye gennez, e a lavarras dothy, "Me a ve deskez en scoll rammatek, ha tho ve deskez daa, po tho che powhalla. Nag o che whathe deskez en rammatek Sowsnack, buz ma theeze ganaw hagar Curnoack; alena na ra che nevra desky an Curnoack!"

Nena, rag preva an poynt vengava gweel, e doknas tedn plas an drea edn bargenteer, ha totchya gen e veaz pycture edn bowgy. "Drew hedna?" ameth e. "Bowgy!" ameth hye.

"Pewa!" ameth an dean, "Eze deskez genez nebas Curnoack kenz lebmen, than?" Rag e a gomeras marth dressa hye adgan kenzenna gere an tavas heb e thesky. Hye a worebas.

"Bowgy ew an gere leas era nye usya en Penweth rag hedna."

"Ca!" ameth eve. "Na ore teez traveeth hunz enna!"

Ew reze them agery an matter pelha?

Richard Gendall

### Summary

*Where are we going?*

*Truth is best, though liars find this painful. Ignoring truth, some people learn lies from those who have learnt lies before them. It is essential we should not ignore the lessons to be learnt from studying our language as it was actually used, if only to avoid mispronouncing the name of our only hero, Michael Joseph, as 'an goff' to rhyme with cough when it should rhyme with stove. And why mock the old lady with a rich Penwith accent who, never having learnt Cornish as such, knows and uses the word bowgy, cowshed, as part of her normal vocabulary, while some clown who has had to learn this word from a book calls her ignorant to her face?*

*Just which road are we taking?*

## Newodhow Gwydhalek Alban

**M**artesen y fydh dhe les dhe eseli an Kesunyans Keltek godhvos yn kever dyllans deryvadow nowydh diworth Alban yn kever dassergyans an wonisogeth wydhalek. Gelwys yn Fàilte 96 (Dynnargh 96) ha dyllys yw gans Commun na Gàidhlig. Gwrys yw yn teg ha pryntys yn liesliw ow ri istori an yeth bys y'n jydh hedhyw.

Derivadow yma yn kever dyski Gwydhalek keffrys ha studh an yeth y'n eur ma. Ynno y hwelir bos 8000 teysek yn Alban ow tyski an yeth a-lemmyn, bos 150 bagas-gwari gwydhalek ha 50 unsys gwydhalek yn skolyow kynsa. Milvil a dus a lever y fia da dhedhi dyski an yeth.

Yma mappa ow tyskwedhes tylleryow may kevi ha may kevir hedhyw an yethow keltek (Kernow yw merkys yn ewn) sywys gans istori trist un ugheldirgow. Mappa arall a dhiskwedh henwyn tyllerow ann vro y'ga furv wir gwydhalek keffrys y'ga gis sowsnekhes, an kedh kudynn re wodhevsyn yn Kernow.

Derivadow erell a wra diskwedhes troyow a-dro keffrys dhe'n re yw divroys tramor chons dhe dresya gwreydh aga theylu.

Yma derivadow yn kever goelyow, dyllansow, boes ha diwes, ostelyow dhe dryga ynna, fordhow dhe dhyysi an yeth (yntredha Gwydhalek der Sowsnek, Frynkek, hag Almaynek).

Da via dhe Gernow askorr lyvrik diwyethak a'n par ma yn kever Kernow, hy yeth ha hengovyow.

Redyoryon a garsa gweles dasskrif a yll skrifra rag onan heb kost dhe:

**Comunn na Gàidhlig  
5 Caolshràid Mhicheil  
Inbhir Nis  
ALBA IV2 3HQ**

### Summary

*It may be of interest to members to know about a new information pamphlet from Alba about the revival of Gaelic culture. It's called "Fàilte 96" (Welcome 96) and published by Comunn na Gàidhlig. Printed in full colour it gives a history of the language to the present day.*

*Information includes festivals, food & drink, Hotels, ways to learn the language (through English, French & German), a map showing where the Celtic languages are spoken today (Kernow is correctly shown) and a map showing the true Gaelic place names. Copies are available free by writing to Comunn na Gàidhlig.*

G.M.S.

## Lyver-Termyn Yw da y Dhegemmeres

**P**ub mis y teu dhe Gernow lyver-termyn yn dann hanow 'Keleier Servij ar Brezhoneg' (Nowodhow Gonis Bretonek) dyllys dell yw gans Skol Uhel ar Vro. Ny yllir leverel re a-dro dhe les ha dader an keth dyllans ma. Yn Frynkek kyn fe an yeth, drefenn y vos gwrys a dhevynnow ha skeusennow treghys ny-mes a baperyow-nowodhow, byttegyns an nowodhow aga honan a vydh yn kever an henyeth, Bretonek.

Rynnys yw yndella:-

1. Bretonek y'n bywnans poblek.
2. Media.
3. Skolyow ha dyskans.
4. Lesans an yeth.
5. Hynwyns tylleryow.
6. Gerlyvrow hag oberennow war an yeth.

Dre redya an lyver-termyn ma y hwdhor a'n traow usi ow hwarvos yn Breten Vyghan yn kever henyeth an keth bro geltek na. Fest lowen on pan redyn ynno erthyglow a dhiskwedh bos stagell gwrys ynter an broyow keltek oll. Yma ynno, omma hag omma, lavarow yn kever Kernow ha'n Gernowyon. Yn sompel a honna war folenn 12 an riv rag mis Genver y kevir erthegyl ow terivas bos dyllys an peswara lyver a Cantiques Bretonek may ma ynno unn gan orth an hanow 'Cantique de Tro-Breizh' po 'Cantique au Sept Saints'. I yw Malo, Briec, Tudwal, Paol, Samson, Paterne, Corentin. Fenten an gan ma yw Kernow wosa bos ena ow tryga pols dyller an lyver ma ha dededhys dhe glywes an gan kenys yn Kernewek ha hi selys war an keth patron na. Pella hwath ni a woer bos an gan onan Gembrek yn hwir. Yndella an has yw lesys yntredhon.

Yma ynwedh erthygel a-dro dhe Rhiart Hincks, Kembro dell ywa neb a dryg yn Aberystwyth ow tyski Bretonek yn hy Fennskol. Ev re skrifas Istori Lyenn Bretonek yn Kembrek.

War folenn 79 ni a wel skeusenn a dhiskwedh bagas donsoryon re beu yn Kernow dhe'n Goel Yntergeltek ha gansa Morwenna Jenkin, Kernowes aswonys fest yn ta.

Pella hwath ni a wel war folenn 69 erthygel ha skeusenn may hwelir ynny pypm flogh yowynk lowenek dededhys bys dhe S. Briec a Gembra dhe'n Skol Diwan yn unn gavaos le pypm flogh yowynk gyllys dhe Aberystwydh.

Ena yma pennlavar 'Multilang' hag ynn dannu hanow Colette Griffin, dyskador yn Gwydhelek yn kresenn yethak yn Kemper.

Yndella y hwra 'Servij ar Bretonek' hag a dhiswedh dhyn bos an rosweyth ynter an hwegh bro geltek krev ha bywek.

Synsys meur yth on dhe'n re a'n dhylo ma ha gwaytya a wrer y hyllons spedyda gansa.

Wella Brown

*The monthly publication Keleier Servij ar Brezhoneg is well received in Cornwall consisting as it does of extracts from newspapers and other sources, all of them dealing with aspects of the Breton language as they are reported.*

*It is particularly interesting to read of the activities of people from other Celtic countries who are working in Brittany or who are concerned in some aspect of Breton Culture.*

*We are grateful to Servij ar Brezhoneg for producing and distributing this publication.*

## Mebyon Kernow to Fight General Election

1997 looks like being an important year for Cornwall. Not only will it be the 500th anniversary of the uprising of An Gof and Flamank; it will also be the year of the British General Election and the Cornwall Council elections.

One of the main campaign coordinators Cllr. Colin Lawry, who represents MK on both Cornwall County Council and Penwith District Council, announced that "in 1997 Mebyon Kernow will have our strongest ever slate of Cornwall Council election candidates and we will be fielding candidates in 4 of the 5 Cornish seats at the next General Election. This is the largest number of candidates we have ever selected to fight a General Election." MK last stood in these elections in 1983.

At the campaign launch, Cllr. Colin Lawry said "we will be fighting the coming General Election on a unique platform, that is Cornish, Green, Left-of-Centre and Decentralist."

He said "Mebyon Kernow is committed to the self-determination of Cornwall and our platform is strongly based around those open and caring Cornish values of community, social justice and internationalism."

"We want a Cornwall that makes its own way in the world; a Cornwall where its inhabitants do not play down their own identity and looks to its geography and history as strengths not weaknesses."

"Our Green commitments also set us apart from the London-based parties. We



L-R John Bolitho, Ruth Lewarne, Paul Dunbar, Davyth Hicks.

understand that radical changes to our lifestyles must be made now, to protect our environment. Conventional politics, rooted in the addiction to constant economic growth is not acceptable. Nor is the 'business as usual, but paint it green' approach."

"And while there is a discernible drift to the right in British political parties today, Mebyon Kernow refuses to follow this line and is proud to proclaim that it is still unashamedly **Left-of-Centre** and believes that government has a responsibility to intervene to tackle poverty and inequality in our society whenever and wherever it can."

"Mebyon Kernow is committed to a just and fair society. We will never accept the current trend of blaming the poor for their poverty, condemning the sick for the strain on the under-funded health service, and punishing the unemployed and small businesses for the incompetence of the government."

"And fundamental to Mebyon Kernow's plan for Cornwall is the **decentralisation** of power to Cornwall as a political and economic unit. We, as Cornish people, should be having a greater say in how Cornwall is governed."

"Power must be given to Cornwall as a national community and to all our local communities, so that local people can be empowered to take more responsibility for the quality of life in their communities – a 'bottom-up' approach to government rather than the present top-down approach."

He added "Mebyon Kernow will be giving the people of Cornwall something really worth voting for."

Fellow campaign organiser Dick Cole, MK's Press Officer, said "this will be an important campaign for Cornwall, but we know that it will be a hard fight ahead."

"As a Cornish-based party, we are badly disadvantaged against the London parties. Access to the London-based media will be less than minimal and we will be denied parliamentary television

broadcasts, even though Mebyon Kernow will be fighting 80% of the seats in Cornwall."

"If a political party fights 50 seats out of the UK total of 651 they are granted television air-time. For a Britain-wide political party such as the Green Party, they therefore only have to contest 8% of the available seats."

"Mebyon Kernow will be fighting four Cornish seats at the next election – or in other words 80% of the seats available to a Cornish party. And yet we will not get a broadcast. We have been informed that to gain a broadcast Mebyon Kernow will need to fight all Cornish seats plus another 45 outside of Cornwall."

"Mebyon Kernow are hoping the many people both in Cornwall and sympathisers throughout the Celtic World such as Celtic League members will support our campaign for Cornwall."

Selected to fight North Cornwall is John Bolitho, a retired shopkeeper and well-known local singer, who performed in the theatre for 15 years. A Cornish speaker and a Cornish Bard; he is also a member of Bude-Stratton Town Council.

Paul Dunbar will be fighting South-East Cornwall. A vineyard owner, Paul is a Cornish bard and a language activist. He is a member of the Cornish Language Board and the Cornish Language Fellowship.

32 year old Davyth Hicks will be fighting Truro and St. Austell. Davyth has been a professional musician for the last 8 years. He is also studying for a PhD in Celtic Studies at Edinburgh University.

Ruth Lewarne is the party's candidate in Falmouth and Camborne. She is a mother of two, a committed environmentalist and already represents MK on Penwith District Council and Penzance Town Council.

Anyone wishing to know more about Mebyon Kernow, to join or offer support, can write to MK Press Office, Shell Cottage, Moorland Rd., Indian Queens, Cornwall.

## Regional Assembly Promised

Recent local newspaper reports state that the Labour Party is prepared to give Kernow its own regional assembly, after radically revising its regional policy by dumping the previous commitment to the 10 existing government 'Economic Regions'. Plymouth Labour MP David Jamieson said that smaller regional assemblies would give distinctive areas a louder voice in central government and would help in competing for European grants. Although no details were available of how a Cornish assembly would work, or if it would ever come about, the idea was broadly welcomed within Kernow. The Liberal Democrats were split with the grass roots and the MPs in favour of a Cornish assembly, but as usual they said that it was their idea first and accused the Labour party of stealing their policies (forgetting that it has been Mebyon Kernow policy for some 45 years). Several Cornwall Councillors were luke warm on the idea (many of whom are known to prefer a "Devonwall" region, some actively involved in "Devonwall" Quangos). MK's Colin Lawry said that Cornwall's case for an elected assembly was strong, as something had to be done to tackle the problems of high unemployment, low wages and high housing costs, but expressed concern about the political will to provide a proper Cornish assembly.

The Western Morning News, the local daily newspaper which has an editorial opinion that normally supports "Devonwall" had the front page headline "'Home Rule' for Cornwall Hope". They also ran a telephone poll in the Cornish editions of the paper which resulted in a **71% YES vote, "in favour of Cornwall going it alone"**, with only 29% voting, "for Cornwall to remain part of the South West region". This did not prevent a number of articles which attempted to promote a "Devonwall" region, these however seemed to point out reasons for a Cornish assembly, by highlighting the benefits to Devon of "Devonwall" region.

The people of Cornwall are it seems fed up with being told what to do by London, and how marvellous the South-west [sic] economy is doing, when they can see the truth with their own eyes.

Martyn Miller



# MANNIN

## Gaelg Albinagh ayns Scoillyn Ard

Cha nel reilts Lunnin arryltagh dy l higgey da scoillyn ard ayns Nalbin gynsaghey cooishyn-scoill trooid Gaelg Albinagh kyndagh rish 'doilleid obbree'. Ta'n Scrudeyr-Steat son Nalbin er ghra dy vel eh ymmyrchagh dy smooineaghtyn dy dowin er aghtyn dy ve speeideilagh sy tra ry-heet. Ta'n Scrudeyr-Steat gra dy vel reilts Lunnin goaill ayns laue shaleeyn dy gheddyn tooilley ynseyderyn oddys gynsaghey trooid Albinish. Keimeeyn (graduates) as Albinish oc ta gobbraghey ayns bunscoillyn, bee toyrtysyn eear-cheimagh (postgraduate grants) ry-gheddyn oc. Bee coonseilyn ynnydagh goll er greinnaghey dy yannoo ny smoo son possanyn roie-scoill ta cur Gàidhlig er e hoshiaght. As lhisagh coonseilyn ynnydagh as sheshaghtyn Albinish co-obbraghey ny share.

Ec y tra t'ayn, ta lieh-cheead unnid Albinish ayns Nalbin lesh thousand dy lieh dy h-ynseydee ayndae ooilley cooidjagh. Paitchyn ayns ny h-unnidyn shoh, t'ad goll er ynsaghey trooid Albinish ayns bunscoillyn raad ta ny paitchyn elley goll er ynsaghey trooid Baarle. Ta ny h-unnidyn shoh feer speeideilagh, as sleih ta gobbraghey son Albinish, v'ad jerkal dy beagh unnidyn Albinish currit er bun ayns scoillyn ard Albinagh. Ta imnea mooar er ram jeh'n sleih shen nish kyndagh rish mee-arrylts reilts Lunnin dy chur ynsaghey trooid Albinish er e hoshiaght.

Agh ta leshtal ec reilts Lunnin sy chooish shoh. Foddee ad gra: 'Cur-shiu my ner: ta shin cur yn chengey er e hoshiaght er aght keeallagh as fondagh. Cha jeanmayd goll ro happee as milley y slane shalee'. Son shickyrys, ta ny toyrtysyn son Albinish goll seose dys £2.1 millioon (bishaghey jeh sy cheead), bee coorsyn noa ry-gheddyn ayns scoillyn ard, as bee ad cur er bun ynnyd ry-hoi jannoo stoo-ynsee as dy chur magh eh.

Yn argid ta colleish Sabhal Mor Ostaig geddyn veih coonseilyn ynnydagh, hig shen dy ve fo smaght Oik Nalbin. S'taittin lesh

stiureyder y cholleish shen, er y fa dy bee eh ny sassey geddyn argid veih un oik na veih hoght oikyn.

Goll erash dys Albinish ayns scoillyn ard, ayns 1994 ren scruteyryn-scoill cur magh imraa va noi sheeyney ynsagh trooid Albinish veih bunscoillyn dys scoillyn ard.

Va sleih goaill yindys jeh briwnys ny scruteyryn. Kyndagh rish shen, ta 123 dy heshaghtyn as persoanyn er chur ny barellyn oc mysh imraa ny scruteyryn. Ga dy beagh bunnys gagh nane jeh ny h-aghynyn noi briwnys ny scruteyryn, ta'n Scrudeyr-Steat er nobbal sheeyney ynsagh trooid Gaelg Albinagh dys scoillyn ard.

Yn MP son ny h-Ellanyn Heear, Calum Mac Donald, dooyrt eshyn dy row trimshy ersyn er yn oyr nagh dug yn Scrudeyr-Steat as Oik Nalbin geill da ny barellyn ta noi briwnys ny scruteyryn.

Cha nel Comunn na Gàidhlig ny Comunn nan Parant jeant bwooiagh noadyr. Shenn chrouit politickagh t'ayn, fockley drogh naight fo cloagey meer veg dy naight vie as guee nagh jean y theay cur monney geill da'n drogh naight. Dy firrinagh, she drogh naight t'ayn nagh vod ny h-Albinee cur ynsagh trooid Gaelg Albinagh er e hoshiaght ec y tra t'ayn. Son shickyrys, bee reilts Lunnin ceau tooilley argid er yn chengey ayns ny scoillyn, agh s'beg yn argid t'ayn - ommidjagh, yiarragh ram sleih. T'eh jeeaghyn dy vel reilts Lunnin arryltagh dy cheau paart dy h-argid er Albinish ayns bunscoillyn, agh cha mie lesh yn reilts shen yn chengey y ve myr chengey vio as ymyd jeant jee son cooishyn y laa t'ayn jiu, goll rish co-earrooderyn as keintys. Ta Lunnin gialdyn dy bee tooilley coorsyn 'Gaelagh' ry-gheddyn, agh she 'Studeyrys Celtiagh' vees ayn, cha nee coorsyn-chengey kiart. Surrys enn dy vel Gaelg Albinagh (goll rish ny myn-chengaghyn ooilliu) sauchey choud's t'ee dooint ayns ghetto, loayrt ree hene. Ta Albinee corree er y hon dy vel ynsagh trooid ny chengaghyn dooghysaghy ry-gheddyn ayns Bretin as Nerin ayns

scoillyn ard, as cha nel shen lowit ayns Nalbin. Ta ymmodee Albinee smooineaghtyn dy vel Lunnin gimraa genney stoo-ynsee ayns scoillyn ard myr leshtal.

Ta'n red cheddin ry-gheddyn ayns Mannin. Ta kuse dy h-olteynyn jeh'n Chiare as Feed lane shickyry dy vel yn Ghaelg myr cooish lhiannooagh ny lomarcen, cooish ta cooie da paitchyn aegey as tootyn aasit ('Cha row yn Ghaelg rieu ny chengey chiert'). As shegin dooin goaill rish dy vel sleih ayn ta slane ayns foayr jeh'n Ghaelg agh t'ad smooineaghtyn nagh vod ee dellal rish cooishyn ayns scoillyn ard.

Son shickyrys, s'beg y stoo-ynsee Gaelgagh ry-hoi scoillyn ard ta ry-gheddyn ec y tra t'ayn. Agh foddee ny Gaelgeyryn croo stoo-ynsee chammah as focklyn noa er yn aght cheddin as ta goll er jannoo ayns cheeraghyn elley. Foddee Gaelgeyryn cheet dy ve cliaghtey loayrt mychione tooilley cooishyn ayns Gaelg. Mannagh vees ny Gaelgeyryn prowal jannoo shen, hig yn ghleashaght Ghaelgagh dy ve ny gleashaght-shennaghys ny lomarcen.

Myr shen, ga dy vel yn Ghaelg Albinagh foddey ny stroshey na'n Ghaelg, ta cosoylaghtyn eddyr staydyn yn daa hengey. Ta sleih dy liooar ayns yn daa heer smooineaghtyn dy vel red beg jeh'n chengey cooie da paitchyn, agh s'lioar shen.

Sleih ta smooineaghtyn myr shen, ta kuse jeu credjal dy vel ny chengaghyn Gaelgagh jeh beggan scansh as nagh vel ad baggyrt er peiagh erbee. Agh t'eh baghtal ry-akin dy vel sleih elley coontey dy vel gaue ennagh ayns ny chengaghyn shoh. Red scarree t'ayn, er-lhiey, dy ve loayrt chengey elley ta soilshaghey magh nagh vel oo goll rish sleih elley ta slane biallagh da'n steat. Cha nel y beoyn shen cho lajer as v'eh, agh t'eh foast ayn. Shegin dooin streue dy hoilshaghey magh nagh vel eh ny red quaghy dy ve loayrt ass chengey erbee sailt, as dy vel eh ny red dooghysaghy dy veaghey trooid y chengey shen chammah as oddys oo.

Orree Crennell

### Summary

*Efforts to extend Gaelic medium education to secondary schools in Scotland have been stalled. Many people do not believe the real reason for this is the shortage of suitable teaching material.*

### CELTIC HISTORY REVIEW

A biannual magazine dealing with the histories of the six Celtic countries from a national and inter-Celtic viewpoint.

Price £1.50 per issue.

Annual Subscription £3.50 from 216 Falls Road, Belfast 12 6AH, Ireland.

## Fynnodderree makes come back in Manx Gaelic Film

The Fynnodderrees were an integral part of Manx rural life in years gone by, however, due to the hustle and bustle of modern life and the loss of their native Gaelic speech they packed their bags and left for the Western Isles of Scotland. A joint initiative from Gaelic speakers in the Isle of Man and Scotland has helped entice some of them back here with a lucrative recording contract for a Manx Gaelic film!

A high powered delegation from the Scottish Gaelic Television Committee (CTG) visited the Island to discuss the options available for dubbing Scottish Gaelic programmes into Manx. They met with representatives of the main Manx Gaelic groups and the Manx Heritage Foundation, and as a result of this meeting, high quality Manx Gaelic children's videos are expected to be available by the autumn of this year. Among the first Scottish Gaelic programmes to be dubbed into Manx is one about an 'Uruisg', the Scottish name for a Fynnodderree. Other programmes on the initial list for dubbing are 'Mire Mara' and 'An Taigh Tapaidd', both of which may be familiar to TV viewers in the north of the Island who receive Scottish television.

The CTG delegation included John Angus McKay, Chairman, Margaret McKelvie, Business Manager, and independent producer Mairead Ross. CTG has a grant of some ten million pounds per annum to spend on Gaelic broadcasting and has played a major role in stimulating the resurgence of interest in Scottish Gaelic. John Angus McKay was the prime mover in initially persuading the British Government of the importance both culturally and economically of supporting Gaelic broadcasting.

The CTG members felt that it should be relatively simple to provide many hours of Scottish Gaelic programmes for dubbing into Manx; programmes for adults and children alike. The videos when produced will be made available to all Manx Gaelic groups and educational establishments. However, due to the high cost of royalties, charged for commercial production, they will not be on sale to the general public.

The news of this considerable breakthrough is seen as a significant boost to the new Gaelic medium nursery/playgroup 'Moonjer Veggey' by its chairman Phil Gawne. "The children who attend 'Moonjer Veggey' will come primarily from English speaking homes. These new videos will be available to the 'Moonjer Veggey' (little people) to take

home with them, providing some Gaelic in their home environment and showing that Gaelic is not just found at the playgroup".

Manx Gaelic speaking actors and anyone willing to help translate Scottish Gaelic scripts into Manx are asked to contact Phil Gawne at Cooil Bane, Cregneash, Mannin.

Phil Gawne

## Manx Dances in the National Curriculum

A working party of teachers, with the approval and backing of the Department of Education, is busy preparing a booklet of Manx Dances, for use in Manx Schools, as part of the National Curriculum in PE. They are also arranging for an accompanying set of cassette tapes and hopefully a video.

The working party has spent about a year discussing the needs of schools and deciding on a set of four suitable dances for each of Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. These dances have been written out in a simple form to be made into an A5 size booklet.

The music group Phynnodderree has been asked to produce a short cassette tape for each dance, with performance speed music on one side and slightly slower, learning speed music on the other, or if there is more than one version of a dance, then a different version on each side.

Different schools in each Key Stage have been asked to prepare the chosen dances and for their performance to be recorded on video. The idea being to show not only the whole dance, but also to show separately, the steps and more difficult figures. One video covering all three Key Stages will be produced. It is not planned to produce a video of experts giving a polished performance, but rather of children, in the appropriate age range, enjoying dancing – warts and all!

It is hoped that the non-specialist teachers in schools will be prepared to 'have a go' at teaching these Manx dances. They may feel the need to attend Inset, Twilight or Coordinated Teacher Release courses to gain more knowledge and confidence. A few of the more eager and enthusiastic teachers may even decide to take things further and join one of the many Manx Dance groups based on the Island – we can but hope!

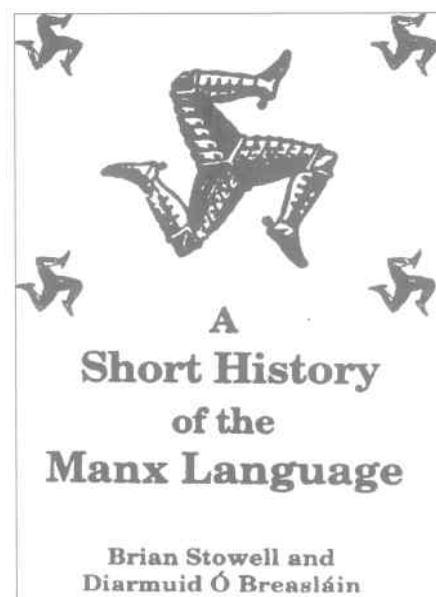
## Feailley Gaelgagh

Hed shoh er cummal yn shiaghtin s'jerree jeh Mee Houney. S'treisht lhiam dy bee claare yn 'eailley feer gholrish yn claare v'ayn nurree. S'treisht lhiam neesht dy bee tooilley argid cheet stiagh as myr shen bee yn chaghteraght ain currit roish yn theay ayns aght share. Ta'n ving ayns feme jeh cooney voish dy chooilley Gaelgeyr er yn 'eailley. G'insh da Phil Gawne (834844) my foddee oo cooney lhien. Ta shin gearree eieyn noa son y chiaghtin, argid voish co-lughtyn as sheshaghtyn as dy chooilley pheigh ayns Mannin loayrt paart dy Ghaelg er y chiaghtin.

Ny jarrood 23-30 Mee Houney!

### Summary

*Feailley Gaelgagh (Manx Gaelic Week) will be held this year on 23rd-30th November. The event is to be similar to last year, with the main emphasis on promoting the Manx language.*



ISBN 1-900286-02-5 available from An Clochán, 36 Fruithill Park, Béal Feirste, Ireland price Stg.£2.50

## New Manx Language Officer

Phil Kelly has been appointed the Department of Education's new Manx Language. He will take over from Dr Brian Stowell, who is retiring in September.

Mr Kelly is currently one of two full time, peripatetic Manx teachers working under Dr Stowell.

Mr Kelly didn't learn Manx at school as the opportunity wasn't available to him. He learned by speaking to fluent speakers like Doug Faragher, author of the Manx Dictionary.

Between 800 and 1,000 children, most of them seven to 11 year old primary school pupils, are learning Manx under a scheme the DoE started in 1992.

# CELTICA

## Celtic League AGM

**T**his year's AGM took place in Plomeur, Breizh on 10 August. Delegates from all six Celtic countries attended, with strong support from Alba, Breizh, Eire and Mannin. Along with delegates came observers and friends, making this one of our best ever AGMs. Business aside, members were able to enjoy the particular beauty of Breizh - its music, scenery, crêpes and cider.

Our very special thanks goes to Youenn Craff, secretary of the branch, who not only gave his house over to visiting Celts, but also arranged some outstanding gastronomic delights.

The AGM raised some good interest from the media and members were able to meet a number of people working to further the Breton cause.

On a sadder note, the AGM observed a minute's silence to honour fellow Celt, Yann Boussell de Bourg, who passed away on 24 May this year.

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Below we set out extracts from the Convenor's Report, which gives a good overview of the ongoing work and shows clearly the growing strength of the Celtic League.

"It is a source of satisfaction to me that we are meeting here in Breizh for our AGM this year and I am happy to have been able to assist in ensuring that we met here this year. I attended my first AGM in Breizh in 1974 and made contact with many Breton Branch members and people in the Breton political and cultural movements. This is one of the real benefits of rotating our AGMs, and we should ensure that this is maintained.

The General Secretary and other Officers have provided detailed reports which indicate that at Central level our work is going well and much effort has been expended in ensuring this is so. The General Officers deserve our thanks for their efforts.

As can be seen much publicity was generated by the General Secretary for our campaigns and in progressing our resolutions.

The Assistant General Secretary has established the Celtic League site on the Internet, providing us with the benefits of modern communication. He also helped in the arrangements for his and my attendance at the World Conference on Linguistic Rights in Barcelona, June 6-9th. At this conference we became signatories to the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights. I think it was significant that we were the



Cathal Ó Luain

only delegates from an organisation active in the Celtic countries. In the coming year we in the League must ensure support for the Declaration during the implementation phase with UNESCO.

CARN has continued to improve in many aspects and our finances have been carefully managed by the Treasurer. This is an area we must always focus on, as without sufficient funds many of our efforts and campaigns would not be possible.

It is good to see that the general situation in National branches has improved. A new secretary has been appointed in Alba. The Irish Branch, after a period in the doldrums, is being reactivated by Pat Bridson. The position has improved in

Cymru and Breizh. Unfortunately Kernow is still a cause for concern. Our other branches have maintained their level of activity.

We are only three years away from the Millennium (and only four from our 40th anniversary). The one hundredth issue of CARN will be published soon (Winter 1997). We should reflect on strategies to progress our political aims in the context of the continued change in Europe."

Cathal Ó Luain  
Convenor/Cathaoirleach

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### Resolutions

The following resolutions were and adopted at the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions were considered from each country on rotational basis. In addition some resolutions were proposed by General Council Officers. Due to the number of motions proposed not all were considered in the allotted time and those still outstanding will be referred to the General Council of the League to determine what action should be taken.

\* Considering that the Parliament of Brittany building in Rennes, destroyed by arson during the night of 4th to 5th of February 1994, has since been the subject, in spite of complaints lodged with the authorities, of a series of impostures and falsifications,

that the Insuring State, which has not contributed a cent, has organised as part of a deceitful publicity a shameless collection for the alleged purpose of rebuilding the Parliament as it was,

that the 28 Million Francs thus collected - which include 10MF granted without consultation by the Regional Council within a short time after the attack (although the same council announced subsequently that the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry was "no concern of theirs") - will also be used to add another floor to the building so as to extend its use as Law courts,

this AGM asks

that after wasting two and a half years this illegal project be cancelled and that the lawful work of reconstruction be at last undertaken and carried out speedily,

that our Parliament be rebuilt as proclaimed **identically** and not with an additional floor (which would constitute an abuse of authority, a swindle and an insult to the Breton people),

also solemnly asks that the French government institute an investigation of the motives for this attack and of the complicities involved.

**A note of explanation:** The Parliament of Brittany was the highest court of justice during the period of self-government from 1532 to 1789. It is not to be confused with the Breton assembly of the Estates-General.

\* This AGM protests against the repressive measures taken against those Breton



people who provided humanitarian assistance and support to Basque refugees who had sought refuge from Spanish oppression.

Believes this action, directed at the national aspirations of the Breton people as much as against the Basques, contravenes International conventions on the treatment of victims of oppression.

This conference totally condemns the harassment of Bretons by the French and calls for an investigation into the methods used. (*Cymru resolution Composite with a Breton branch resolution*)

- \* This AGM condemns the policies of the Irish Minister of Education, Niamh Breathnach, and the Department of Education in Ireland which have resulted in the refusal of recognition to six gaelscoileanna without any forewarning, just weeks before the beginning of the school term.

We urge immediate recognition be granted to these schools and, furthermore that the Minister, as part of the introduction of Education Boards establish a separate board for Irish Medium and Gaeltacht schools.

- \* This AGM calls upon the UK government to recognise Cornwall's right to independence as a Celtic nation in any moves to return independent power to Wales and Scotland. Cornwall should not be joined in a region including parts of South West England.

- \* This AGM, whilst welcoming the steps taken to consolidate the teaching of Manx in schools, calls upon the General Council of the Celtic League to seek further action from the Manx government to enhance the opportunities for the teaching of Gaelic in Manx schools and also to provide support for the Gaelic Medium Education.

- \* This Ard-Fheis states it shall be a general policy of the League to use the term "English" rather than "British" to refer to the occupation of Six Counties (present) and of Ireland (in the past).

- \* This AGM, recognising the devastation being wrought upon city and rural areas of the Celtic countries by drug related crime calls for action to investigate the illegal laundering of drug related profits of narco-terrorism via off-shore finance centres in Dublin, the Isle of Man and the Channel Isles.

Calls for European cooperation to establish a Police Task Force to investigate laundering in all European financial services centres including the City of London.

- \* This AGM urges the EU to press for the adoption of a stringent policy binding on all States to ensure conservation of fish and whale stocks;

Calls on the Irish government to strive to bring about a review of the Common Fisheries Policy during the Irish EU Presidency so as to enable Ireland and the other Celtic countries, disadvantaged as they are on account of their peripheral situation, to develop or build their fishing industry, in particular calls upon the European Union to apply subsidiarity, in the Common Fishing Policy (CEP), to the Celtic countries to control their own fish stocks,

Expresses satisfaction at the Irish government's support for the UK government in its opposition to the practice of 'flagships' using other EU member-states registers to catch fish.

- \* This AGM, noting with keen interest the declaration by President Jacques Chirac that he is, in principle, favourable to the signing by France of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, asks the President to use his supreme authority so as to ensure that the French government signs the Charter without delay, thus fulfilling the wishes of the peoples concerned.

- \* This AGM, whilst accepting English and French as necessary means of common expression, ask for every effort to be made to promote the Celtic languages visually as powerful symbols of nationality.

#### *Recommendations:*

- (a) As the CL has several gifted linguists, they should be given responsibility as translators to the National Executive to ensure each branch produces membership forms, renewal forms and information sheets in its language.
- (b) Each branch should critically look at its literature apropos positively promoting the national language.

This should in long-term ensure that each branch in totally bilingual and the executive conferences multi-lingual.

- \* This AGM, deplores the tactics of the Westminster government during the Peace Process, which led to the loss of a unique window of opportunity.

We call on them to remedy this by admitting Sinn Féin to the All Party Talks and to relinquish their demands for the decommissioning of arms which can only be realistically attained when a full settlement is negotiated.

- \* This AGM condemns without reservation the Isle of Man government for operating a prison regime and system which holds persons in squalid, overcrowded, inhumane and degrading circumstances.

Calls for a report on the situation to be prepared by the Celtic League General Council and forwarded to the United Nations Human rights agency in Geneva.

- \* This Ard-Fheis believes that it is unsatisfactory to refer to as "Roman

Britain" what in reality was Celtic Britain.

- \* This AGM, alarmed by the repetition of catastrophic oil-spills from tankers which have caused widespread destruction of marine life and so severely affected the economic life of coastal areas of at least five of the six Celtic countries in the past twenty years;

Urges the governments responsible for the protection of the environment in these countries as well as the European Union to adopt strictly binding measures to avoid such accidents, in particular enforcing double hulling for all tankers, prohibiting them from sailing through narrow sea channels or within given distances from shore, use of pilots familiar with the approaches to storage facilities.

- \* This AGM rejects as ineffectual the recently announced enquiry into the use by the RUC and British Army of plastic baton rounds during riots sparked by the British governments decision to allow Orange marches, previously banned, to be routed via Nationalist areas.



**Youenn Craff, Breizh Secretary**

Noting, that the use of plastic baton rounds and rubber bullets have to date been the cause of 17 deaths (eight children and nine adults) in N. Ireland when used by the security forces, calls for an end to the deployment of these weapons.

#### **The Following Officers were elected to the General Council:**

**Convenor:** Cathal Ó Luain, **General Secretary & PRO:** Bernard Moffatt, **Assistant General Secretary:** Mark Kermode, **Editor:** Patricia Bridson, **Treasurer:** Paul Kelly.

The AGM was also notified of the election of a new secretary to the Alba branch, Risnidh Magaoidh (Richard Magee), and thanks were duly extended to the outgoing Secretary Maire Denovan by the Convenor who paid tribute to her good work over many years for the Alba branch.

## About the painter René Yves Creston

The following article was inspired by Yann Bouessel du Bourg by the catalogue of an exhibition of R.Y. Creston's work which has been held in the Saint-Brieuc Museum since the beginning of 1995 and is due to end in November 1996. This catalogue of 50 pp. is available for 50 F from the museum. We publish the article as it expresses well our departed friend's way of thinking.

A.H.

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The catalogue includes a study of the work of R.Y. Creston (1890-1964). It brings new elements to our knowledge of this talented artist and ethnologist. I became particularly interested in it on seeing that my premises and conclusions differed in some aspects from those of its author, M.C. (presumably Michel Clément). And why not? There is nothing more detestable and stultifying than uniformity!

For me the outstanding event of this century in Brittany was the emergence around 1920 of the movement which centred around the periodical **Breiz Atao** and what came indeed to be named after it. Breiz Atao was at the origin of the political, linguistic and artistic rebirth of Brittany. It gave it back its pride as a people and as a nation in its own right. The Creston exhibition is all the more timely that an attempt is again being made to foist on the public the humiliating "Bécassine" image of the Breton woman as a kind of idiot with no mouth – she has no French, which is apparently the same. This resurrection of the thus named strip cartoon shows that the... Parisian (I must not say French) bourgeois have not lost their contempt for other peoples, their arrogance and superiority complex, which is quite amazing in view of the talk of European unity and world communication.

Creston was one of the first Breiz Atao activists or was at least very close to them. He wrote occasionally in **L'Heure Bretonne**, the weekly organ of the Breton National Party (1940-44). He contributed forceful illustrations to the second edition of the "Histoire de notre Bretagne" by the staunch Jeanne du Guerny (alias C. Danio), also to the majestic long poem "Kan da Gornôg" (Hymn to the Occident) from his inseparable pal Youenn Drezen. I must also mention the 20 plates expressing a similar dynamism which he had completed for Ronan Pichery's "Grandes Heures de l'Histoire de Bretagne" (Highlights of Brittany's History). This work, which had been opened to subscription, unfortunately remained on the shelf after the printing house that was to publish it was destroyed

in a bombardment. I was fortunate to be able to see its proofs in the Spring of 1944. It is a great pity that it is now forgotten even though objections could be raised to the plate representing the 14th century duke Jean Le Roux which I also found surprising – but it could easily have been amended or replaced. (?A.H.)

No artist has perhaps incarnated so truly that new youthfulness, mythical fervour and heroic conception of life which pertained to **Breiz Atao** although he never got really involved in the political side of things. According to the militant Denise Guieysse for whom he was in the twenties like an elder brother he frequently attended meetings of the Paris branch of the Breton party, one of the most active, but he did not join it.

It seems to me however – that it is to betray Creston to try and always place his work within a French framework, that certainly was not his view. He is well known for his representations of the various Breton costumes. Too much importance is perhaps given to these things: like all the other regional costumes in Europe they now belong to the past and can at best survive if adapted or used for special occasions.

**Breiz Atao** was based essentially on our history, our Celtic language, our art. They determined a policy which was in fact much more flexible than that which has since been presented to the public. You know the French proverb which says: "Whoever wants to kill his dog accuses it of having rabies". However, after the long period of servility, a strong reaction was necessary and salutary.

I confess that the accusations of "collaboration" with the German occupying forces irritate me as only a small number were in contact with them while that of the communists up to 1941, though much more effective, is passed over in silence. I know that some of the, free of mind, refused to submit to those recantations, but the rest toed the party line!

I don't think that Creston ever ceased to love Brittany. Perhaps his convictions were severely put to the test when he saw all around him the advance of the culture of nothingness in which we are caught like the fly in a cobweb but which we must reject and bring to an end for the sake of our peoples' survival and the honour of mankind. I believe that at heart Creston was never one of those who would embalm Brittany but that until his last breath he expected the Sleeping Beauty of which he dreamed to rise again.

Yann Bouessel du Bourg  
18-02-95



John Lorne Campbell  
(courtesy The Times)

**John Lorne Campbell**, an outstanding Scottish scholar about whom we had an article in Breton in **Carn Nr 90**, died in April 1996, aged 89. He became interested in Scottish (Gaelic) at the age of 25 and devoted himself from then on, together with his American wife Margaret Fay Shaw (after their marriage in 1935 with a service in Gàidhlig), to collecting the songs and folktales of the Hebrides, particularly in Barra and S. Uist. They also collected in Nova Scotia. They settled as farmers in 1938 on the beautiful island of Canna, S. of Skye, the economy of which they tried to reinvigorate. They later bequeathed it to the National Trust of Scotland under whose care their priceless collection of books, papers, recordings and photographs remains in Canna House. There are plans to establish a Gaelic resource centre there.

## Destruction by the Army

Some 900 hectares of heath and peat bogs in the Arre hills between Morlaix and Brasparzh were destroyed by fire in June following exercises by units of the French army in the area. Extensive and in some cases possibly irreparable damage was caused to flora and fauna. EMGANN organised a protest to denounce the use of that part of the Regional Armorica Park by the military. They called for the demilitarisation of Brittany. The 41st Infantry Regiment based in nearby Kastellin is to be dissolved in 1999.

At a meeting in Fougères organised by EMGANN two young Bretons, G.S. Valles and M. Le Lann explained their refusal to serve in the French army, indeed in any army. Conscription, they said, is used by the French State to destroy the sense of Breton identity.

# Celts in Australia

Previous reports have told readers about the societies of Celts in Australia who promote and protect the cultures and languages of the old Celtic lands in Europe. They have told about the regular broadcasting all round Australia in Scots Gaelic, Irish and Welsh. They have told about regular and enthusiastic Gatherings, Pipe Competitions. (We haven't the figures but there could be as many Pipe Bands in Australia — all kilted — as there are in Alba). There are papers and newsletters in the Celtic languages.

All these activities have continued. There are now Pan-Celtic Gatherings in several cities where all the Celtic communities participate. There is a Celtic-Australian Day Gathering in North Sydney, on Australia's National Day; similarly in Geelong, Victoria, in Hobart, Tasmania and particularly at the great Celtic Centre — around the magnificent Standing Stones built recently as a memorial to the contribution of the Celts to Australia over 200 years — at Glen Innes in New South Wales in the first weekend in May each year.

For the Gàidhlig language the struggle continues. A new body — Comunn Gàidhlig Australia is publishing Litir Ghàidhlig in both Gàidhlig and English. Teaching continues in small classes. A new broadcaster — Donald MacLeod of Skye — has taken over the Scots Gàidhlig broadcasting following the death of Duncan MacLeod also of Skye. We had to fight for that!

The University of Sydney continues most successfully to teach Celtic Studies in the Arts Degree: two academic years, honours, masters and ever several Doctoral candidates — with an ever enthusiastic intake of excellent undergraduates. Most are Australian-born. But Celtic memories endure for many generations. (We have fifth generation Australians who wear kilts and play the pipes). At one stage five Celtic languages were taught at that University by a gifted lecturer. Politically there is a surge in activity for the local branch of the Scottish National Party.

This writer who, this year and for some years past, chairs or has chaired the Celtic Council, the Scottish Heritage Council, Comunn Gàidhlig, and the local SNP, is pleased with progress — but very conscious that more is needed and that the struggle must endure in younger hands yet to take over.

**Padruig Mac Alasdair**



Standing Stones, Glenn Innes

## Interceltic Cooperation in Eurovision

I would not presume to write an informed review of Eurovision Song Contests. I normally don't spend much time watching them. This year the Irish entry won again, which is good for Ireland's reputation as a land of excellent singers and musicians. It means also that RTÉ will have (again) to organise next year's show and that is a costly honour... Perhaps the tourist industry helps to cover most of the expenses since it gets a wonderful opportunity to vaunt the beauty of the Irish scenery worldwide... or almost.

The Bretons had reason this year to take a special interest in the contest in Oslo. Amazingly their compatriot Dan ar Braz was selected — by a television channel or am I mistaken? — to represent France with a song in Breton. It could be a straw in the wind, an attempt to mollify. The song "Diwanit, bugale!" (Grow, children is an approximate translation) was dedicated to the DIWAN nursery schools, and Dan would donate to DIWAN a substantial part of the prize money if he won. Unfortunately, for DIWAN in particular, he didn't. Listening to the song, I sensed that it was not the sort that would command high appreciation from most of the various juries, there was not enough glittering about the singers, the two women who sang with Dan did not expose their physical charms like, e.g., their English competitors. It was gratifying to see Estonia giving good marks to them but disappointing that they did not get even one point from the Irish jury. But then, from the Irish side, only one song in Irish was ever selected for that international competition and that is certainly not

because there is a dearth of excellent singers in Irish in this country who would be able to put up a good display and all. Regarding Dan ar Braz, win or not, representing France or in his own mind just Brittany, he and his team struck a good blow for the Breton language by bringing it before countless millions of listeners throughout the world. And equally important, they gave a marvellous example of intercultural cooperation as the group included not only the singers Karen Matheson from Scotland and Elaine Morgan from Cymru but also Donal Lunny and other Irish musicians. They had also taken a prominent part in the magnificent Dan ar Braz concert "L'Héritage des Celtes" which involved 50 musicians, an album of which was published two years ago.

The decision to have France represented by "Diwanit, bugale" drew sharp criticism from Député Monique Rousseau from Chirac's RPF party. She requested an explanation from the Culture minister. "It is shocking to see that while the French language is threatened France is represented by Breton. One is not Breton and French. One is French and Breton. I am for a Europe of the States not of the Regions". The minister was conciliatory.

The independentist COMBAT BRETON concedes however that the woman has a point since French is constitutionally "the" language of the Republic. Her Brest colleague, Cousin, remarked that Eurovision was not the U.N. assembly. But why should Breton not be spoken there too? says C.B.

A.H.



# Military's Environment Record Under Scrutiny

A five year campaign, by the Celtic League, to have environmental assessments undertaken at UK military installations has been vindicated. The Ministry of Defence are to conduct 'land quality surveys' at 600 sites throughout the UK.

In 1991 the Celtic League contacted the MoD addressing specific questions about the storage of fuel at missile testing establishments and the carcinogenic dangers of any contamination from this source. The MoD rebutted the concerns, but the campaign was reactivated when in 1993 we learned two surveys, conducted by the Army and RAF had found serious levels of contamination at a wide range of bases and airfields.

Attempts to gain access to the reports were frustrated by the Ministry. Even when details of the Army report compiled by Sec. Lt. Verity Orrell Jones and quoted in an Army Journal was supplied. Curiously the MoD still prevaricated advising they (the Army) 'are unaware of such a report'. Astonishingly it transpires that the reports author (now promoted Colonel) received an award from the publication for the report the MoD could not locate!

In 1995 in the face of continued MoD intransigence and having gathered the information elsewhere we published detailed accusations about the military pollution record ("Britain's Military - Not So Green")

Three months ago Labour MP George Foulkes sought to elicit for us the information the MoD were withholding. Mr Foulkes' approach was rebutted by Under Secretary Nicholas Soames. In a reply on 24th of June Soames said evasively "My Department does not normally undertake surveys of land beyond the perimeter of sites it occupies." However Foulkes pressed and on 8/8/96 advised us "I enclose a PQ (Parliamentary answer from Soames) from the MoD which indicates they are hiding something. I have written to Michael Portillo enclosing the article you sent me ("Britain's Military - Not So Green") asking him for a fuller explanation.

The MoD has now decided to come clean and not only should an apology be on its way to George Foulkes, for their previous evasion, the information sought should be released. More pertinently a thorough land quality survey of MoD bases is to take place. Once and for all the legacy of years of environmental neglect can be assessed and rectified.

The Celtic League will be continuing to monitor matters with a keen interest in seeing that the broad range of bases in Wales, Scotland and Cornwall are assessed. We also are keen that any assessment should also include bases in Ulster - left out of previous random samples.

J.B. Moffatt

# Grand Situation

The English Parliament's Procedures Committee has decided to recommend that Welsh MPs should be able to use their own language at meetings in Wales of the Welsh Grand Committee. Parliament has accepted the Procedures Committee's recommendations.

The decision however, is not a lifting of the parliamentary ban on Welsh but a relaxation of it. MPs will have to give notice of their intentions to speak Welsh, should only address the chairman in English and only English language versions of transcripts of proceedings will be published. The English only rule still applies in Westminster.

The only opposition to the move came from Englishman Walter Sweeney - Tory MP for the Vale of Glamorgan - who believes the move is a "sop to the Nationalists" (Welsh Nationalists that is, as opposed to English colonial Nats like Mr. Sweeney).

Opposition calls for a Grand Meeting to be held in Caerfyrddin to discuss the BSE crisis are being complicated by William Hague, the English Secretary for Wales who is insisting that there be an open Question Time included in the proceedings. Labour are opposed to this fearing that the Tory MPs will hijack the meeting so there is stalemate and, as yet, no historic first bilingual Grand Meeting been held - surprise! surprise!

But short of our own Parliament where we can set our own agenda, the Procedures Committee's decision is at least another step towards equal legal status with the present system for our language. On a more positive note, this concession was achieved with very little pressure being exerted on the government and the cross party support for this move was further illustrated by the commitments from both Plaid Cymru and Labour members to pursue full language rights.

R. Jones

## Membership and Subscriptions

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

For information about the Celtic League, applications for membership, subscriptions, etc. write to any of the following secretaries:

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**BREIZH Youenn Craff**, 145 Straed Talbodek, 29300 BEI/BAYE, Brittany.

**CYMRU Jina Gwyrfaï**, 3 Croes Y Waen, Waenfawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

**ÉIRE Subscriptions:** c/o 33 Céide An Ghrianóg, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath.

**KERNOW Martyn Miller**, 10 Trewartha Court, Pound Street, Liskeard.

**MANNIN Cristl Jerry**, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel.

**LONDON BRANCH Robat ap Tomos**, "Dyffryn", Gretton Fields, Gretton, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5HH, England.

**USA Stephen Paul de Villo**, 313 East 201 Street, Bronx, New York 10458.

**INTERNATIONAL BRANCH Alan Heusaff**, Seana Gharráin, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, Éire.

**CEAP BREATAINN Frangag Nic Eachainn**, Box 179, Mabou, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada BOE 2W0.

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