

# comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 146

Summer 2010

€4.00 Stg£3.00

- **The Reality of Union: Scotland Invisible !**
- **Gaelic Scotland and the Wars of Independence 3**
- **Regional Election Results in Breizh**
- **Kenavo – Yann Ber Thomin !**
- **Cymdeithas Condemns Welsh Government on Weak Language Law**
- **Ireland's Economic Woes**
- **Dhá Insint ar Stair na gCeilteach**
- **Kernow League Meets with Human Rights Lawyer**
- **Les Quilliam R.I.P. – a Tribute**
- **40th Celebration for Éire-Alba Cultural Exchange**



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

CELTIC LEAGUE 



## BBC Alba: cothrom cailte?

Còrr is bliadhna gu leth an dèidh cur air bhog an t-seanail telebhisein dhidsitich BBC Alba, is fìor bheag de dh'adhartas a tha ri fhaicinn a thaobh leudachadh ruigsinneachd na seirbheis. Chan urrainn do mhòr-chuid de shluagh na h-Alba an t-seirbheis fhaighinn an-dràsta, rud a tha a' ciallachadh nach urrainn dhi buaidh chultarach a thoirt air an dùthaich mar a bha dùil is mar bu chòir.

Aig an ìre seo, 's ann air saideal a-mhàin (agus air-loidhne tron BBC iPlayer) a tha BBC Alba ri fhaighinn. Ach tha as lugha na 40% de mhuinntir na h-Alba a' cleachdadh an teicneòlais seo. Mar as trice, tha cleachdadh saideal a' ciallachadh pàigheadh sinidh chosgail agus taic a thoirt do dh'ìompaireachd Rupert Murdoch, rud a chuireadh air mòran. Tha siostam saideal eile ann a-nis, Freesat, nach eil fo spòg Mhurdoch, ach 's e fìor bheag de dhaoine a tha ga chleachdadh.

Tha trioblaid mhòr air cùl ghnòthaichean a tha ag adhbharachadh cuid de na duilgheadasan: an crathadh mòr a' dol air adhart a thaobh teicneòlas an TBh ann am Breatainn an-dràsta. Thathas a' dùnadh sios an seann siostam analog mean air mhean, agus tha an siostam ùr didsiteach a' tighinn na àite. Gu dearbh, tha an 'switchover' seo air tachairt mar-thà ann an cuid de sgìrean. Tha taghadh aig an luchd-chleachdaidh a thaobh an ùrlair libhrigidh aca airson TBh didsitich, ach is e 'didsiteach talmhaidh' (no Freeview mar a thathas a' cantainn ris mar as trice) an t-ùrlar as cumanta, gu h-àraidh sna sgìrean bailteil agus am measg dhaoine nach bi a' coimhead cus TBh co-dhiù is nach eil ag iarraidh tuilleadh chosgaisean a phàigheadh airson seanalan a bharrachd no seanalan sònraichte fhaighinn.

Gu ruige seo, chan eil BBC Alba a' nochdadh air Freeview, oir chosgadh sin mu £4 millean a bharrachd sa bhliadhna (ma thathas a' gabhail ri figearan a' BhBC; tha an siostam cumntasachd aca caran annasach).

Bhathas an làn-dùil gun toireadh Urras a' BhBC, buidheann riaghlaidh na Corporaid, cead airson leudachadh na seirbheis aig deireadh a' Mhàirt 2010, oir chaidh an ceann-latha sin a stèidheachadh nuair a chaidh an t-seirbheis a chur air bhonn an toiseach. Ach cha do thachair sin. Dhùilt an t-Urras co-dhùnadh a ruigsinn agus a-nis thèid coimhead air a' chùis as ùr as t-fhoghar an lùib sgrùdadh nas fharsainge air seirbheisean a' BhBC air fad.



Chuir an dàil as ùire diomb air luchd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba ach is cinnteach nach eil na Lunnainnich a tha ruith Urras a' BhBC a' toirt an t-uabhas feart dhaibh.

A bharrachd air a' chonnsaid a thaobh Freeview, tha trioblaid eile a' dol a thaobh ùrlair libhrigidh eile, càball. Tha an siostam seo meadhanach cumanta (mu 12% den t-sluagh air fad), gu h-àraidh sna sgìrean bailteil, agus is e Virgin Media a' chompanaidh as cudromaiche na lùib (ìompaireachd Richard Branson an trup seo).

Bhathas an làn-dùil gum biodh BBC Alba ri fhaighinn air càball ro dheireadh 2008, ach chan eil fhathast, rud a tha duilich a chreidsinn. Tha na còmhraidhean a' dol air adhart is air adhart.

Uile-gu-lèir, faodar a ràdh gur e cothrom cailte a th' ann am BBC Alba ann an iomadach dòigh. Chan eil am buidsead mòr gu leòr airson seirbheis choileanta a thoirt seachad: mu £14 millean sa bhliadhna an coimeas ri £102 millean airson S4C sa Chuimrigh. Poileataigs as coireach. Agus chan eil a' mhòr-chuid a' faighinn na seirbheis idir. Poileataigs a-rithist. Is dòcha gum bi solas aig ceann an tunail ach tha cùisean gu math dorcha fhathast.

**Maghnus MacMhaghnuis**

### Summary

*The digital channel BBC Alba has been available to the Scottish public for well over a year and a half. However, it is in a bizarre situation. It is paid for by the BBC licence fee, and is technically a free channel, but in order to receive it one has to have a Sky TV subscription. This means that the vast majority of Scots, including Gàidhlig speakers, cannot watch the channel, which has already been criticised for being expensive and of minority interest. Some of the programmes (not all) can be currently watched on BBC I-player online.*

### RTÉ NUACHT/BBC ALBA COOPERATE

In the spirit of fostering Celtic relations, RTÉ's *Nuacht* service has agreed a reciprocal arrangement with Scottish broadcaster BBC Alba to carry news stories each day. BBC Alba was launched in 2008 and broadcasts in Scots Gaelic which is related to that spoken in Ireland. "We'd like to extend the arrangement over time," *Nuacht* chief Michael Lally said.

*Nuacht* has an annual budget of €5 million, employs about 50 staff and broadcasts around 50 minutes of Irish language news each day on RTÉ TV and radio and on TG4, with whom it now shares studio space in Baile na hAbhann, Galway.

## GAELIC SCOTLAND AND THE WARS OF INDEPENDENCE, PART III

### Background

In Part I, I discussed the constitutional crisis brought about by the death of Alexander III, and the de-Gaelicisation of the Lowlands. For a number of reasons, Alexander III was not the "last Celtic king". In Part II, I looked at some of the 13 pretenders to the throne, including the Meic Uilleim, and attempted to show that traditional villains such as John Balliol and Clan Campbell actually made a positive contribution to the Wars of Independence. I also discussed Wallace briefly.

### Robert the Gael

Robert the Bruce has consistently been the national hero of the Scots down the years, and it is perhaps only since the arrival of *Braveheart* that William Wallace began to eclipse him. As a child, I was much more aware of the Bruce than Wallace, rightly or wrongly, and there can be few Scots who have not heard various stories about him, if only the one about him and the spider. In the same way, there are dozens of places which claim a connection with him, but the greatest of these is Bannockburn near Stirling, where

the Scots gained a crushing victory over Edward II's forces, and more or less secured three hundred years of independence. Many Scots know that Bruce was a Norman. Few know that he was a Gael as well. Bruce's home was Carrick (Carraig), an area of South Ayrshire, which was to hold onto Gaelic until the 18th, maybe even 19th century. Like Balliol, his mother, Marjorie (Marsaili), was a Gaelic noble from the local area. We also know that he held a parliament, entirely in Gaelic, at Cardross near Dunbarton (Dùn Bhreatainn). We also know that he spent a lot of time in Ireland, Argyll, and parts of the southern Highlands – although it is anachronistic to talk of the Highlands and Lowlands at this time. He and his brother

were also involved in the fight against the English in Ireland and the Isle of Man, but that is probably for another article.

I suspect that half of Bruce's successes as a warrior, and later a king, were down to his combination of Norman and Gaelic influences. He could appeal to local leaders of both backgrounds, and could also apply the best of both worlds on the battlefield. He perhaps more than anyone else helped secure Scottish independence for centuries, even if some people have questioned his motives, or the fact that he changed sides.

### Lia Fail

During the Wars of Independence, Edward I stole the Scottish coronation chair (Lia Fail) and took it to Westminster where it remained until a few years ago. Or at least that's the official version, many Scots maintain the Westminster Stone is a fake. But that's another story. The origin of the stone is far more origin. The translation "Stone of Destiny" is misleading, since it loses the ambiguity of "fail". This element can mean variously "destiny" (as in Fianna Fail, the Irish political party) cognate with "fatal" and "mark" (implying it was engraved or incised, which the British stone certainly isn't). It is also said to have been one of three treasures taken by the ancestors of the Gaels from the mythical land of Faileas, which is also related to the name. The most common story of its origin, is that it was Jacob's Pillow, a favourite with British Israelitists. It has also been said, variously to be Columba's portable altar, and a meteorite. It was supposed to sing when the rightful King of Scots sat upon it. I don't think the Westminster stone ever sings when Queen Elizabeth sits on it.

As an aside, it is worth mentioning that one of the people who helped steal the Westminster Stone in the 1950s was Kay Mathieson, who was a native Gaelic speaker, and activist.

### Declaration of Arbroath

The Declaration of Arbroath is dated to April 1320, and is addressed to the Pope, asking him to support Scottish document. It is a remarkable document for its time, but this is not the place to discuss most of that. On the surface, it is not particularly Gaelic. It was written in Latin, and the names of the signatories are anglicised, and/or appear Norman. Common forenames of Gaelic origin appear e.g. Patrick, Fergus, Duncan etc, and a couple of surnames – Cameron (Camshron) and Campbell (Caimbeul). Like many Lowlanders today, some of the surnames are of Gaelic origin, but are in fact derived from place names – these include Wemyss (which is pronounced "weemz" and comes from "uamhan" meaning place of caves), Dunbar, Menteith and Murray. In this way we can see the strong Gaelic influence on Scottish culture, but we can't know in most cases if they spoke the language for sure.

More interestingly, the Declaration alludes to some of the Gaelic origin myths of Scotland, mentioning that the ancestors of the Scots "*journeyed from Greater Scythia by way of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Pillars of Hercules, and dwelt for a long course of time in Spain among the most savage tribes*" This comes directly from the ancient stories about the settlements of Ireland. Although not mentioned by name in the document, the stories of the mythical Egyptian princess Scota, and that of Gaythelos (Gàidheal Glas) were in wide circulation at the time, and stood in direct opposition to the Biblical myths promulgated by Edward I to justify English dominance of the British Isles.



### The Aftermath and Gaeldom

The Wars of Independence hit the peasantry particularly hard, often destroying their crops and homes. In addition, there were some particularly virulent plagues, spread, no doubt, by the large movements of population at the time.

Despite the best efforts of earlier kings, Gaelic culture persisted in Scotland into modern times. However, in the 15th century, there emerged a new, strange combination, Anglo-Normans who were fiercely "Scottish", but at the same time, extremely anti-Gaelic. They derided anything Gaelic as "Erischry" (Irishness), and the Anglo-Saxon tongue of Scotland went from being "Inglis" to being called "Scottis", or Scottish. Some very fine poetry was composed in this tongue, but the emphasis tended to be on Classical, English and Continental influences, rather than the ancient Celtic sources. They had created the Scottish equivalent of the Irish Pale – only in this case, it was Scotland's government who was behind it.

But the division was never as clear-cut as some would have it. We know from *The Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy*, that Walter Kennedy was a Gael from the modern

Lowlands. His opponent, William Dunbar from the Lothians, may deride the "Ersche" language, but even so he is engaging in a "flyting", a kind of bardic fight which has its origins in Gaelic culture, and both Dunbar and Kennedy have surnames of some kind of Gaelic origin. For all the apparent vitriol in this poem, Dunbar laments the death of "Gud Maister Walter Kennedy", in *Timor Mortis Conturbat Me*, and lists him as amongst other great Lowland poets who have passed away.

Ray Bell

### Postscript and correction

If you are interested in the Scottish Wars of Independence, there are plenty of books which give a general overview. However, most of them omit the Gaelic element altogether. This series of articles is an attempt to redress the balance.

There has been some confusion by readers about the picture accompanying Part 1, which should have had a caption. This is not as some thought, John Balliol swearing loyalty to the English King Edward I. It should have had the following caption - "*the newly crowned Alexander III in 1249. The old man on the left is the Ollamh Rìgh, or shennachie, who is saying 'Benach De Re Albane' (Sic - God Bless the King of Scotland) and then goes onto recite his genealogy. The position evolved into the Lord Lyon.*" The purpose of the image is to show the continuing relevance of Gaelic culture at mainstream Lowland events at this period.

## Gaelic language plan for Glasgow

**A three-year action plan to increase the use of Gaelic throughout Glasgow is being launched by the city council.** The strategy will be unveiled at the first board meeting in Glasgow of Gaelic agency, Bord na Gaidhlig. It will see the opening of a second Gaelic school in the city as well as wider use of the language on signs and official council communications.

Councils are legally obliged to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Glasgow City Councillor Aileen Colleran said: "We have a vision for Gaelic in our city and this plan sets it out.

***"There are many other towns and cities and local authorities which would do well to follow the example of Glasgow"*** Arthur Cormack Bord na Gaidhlig

"By 2020, the place of Gaelic will be obvious to all. We'll see it around us - in our buildings, on our streets and in our shops - we'll hear it in conversations, in our schools and in the media. Our young people will be speaking it in Buchanan Street without feeling self-conscious about it and people will recognise the language as Gaelic."

# The Reality of Union: Scotland Invisible!

I was watching the BBC programme *Dinner with Portillo* some time ago (it was discussing Scots independence) and some of the reactions of the English guests were instructive. Rod Liddle initially tried to doubt the existence of Scotland at all, but later admitted that he was really worried an independent Scotland would take away all the Scots Labour MP's from Westminster. As a leftist of sorts he thought this might not be in his interests, as England would become a permanent Tory zone.

Portillo himself seemed to imagine there would be no consequences whatsoever for England, with London remaining the centre of the universe, he was therefore quite happy for the Scots (and Wales) to become independent because essentially we don't really count.

An Oxford academic worried about how England might change without the influence of Scotland and Wales and might become a less tolerant country as a result. None of them were particularly interested in the effect independence might actually have on Scotland, an omission which perhaps perfectly illustrates the nature of the union!

On the 'other side' Hardeep Singh Kohli, who appears to have wangled a berth for himself as a TV expert on Scotland, proved his own ignorance by declaring that a separate military presence for Scotland was impossible and also bizarrely claimed that he didn't even know the SNP's policy on nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile historian Michael Fry made some decent points but his political analysis seemed to be that we would be so skint with independence that we would have to slash public spending (as a Tory he liked the sound of that) even though the actual evidence is that Scotland puts more money into the union than we receive!

I mention this programme because it indicates the kind of mish mash which passes for serious commentary on Scots independence through the British prism of TV news.

Anyone watching this programme would have been no wiser about Scots independence at the end than they would have been at the start, yet the case is very clear and easily described.

As long as Scotland and Wales are outvoted by a factor of 10-1 and 20-1, in the important arenas of defence, foreign affairs and other important areas like pensions and social security, within the British parliament, then we do not live in a genuine democracy and our views are easily and effectively ignored.

So what moves are being made towards holding a referendum on independence and what is the current situation of the SNP Government?

Recently the SNP were being attacked by the 'Scottish' press for various imaginary sins. Possibly to deflect attention from actual fraud at British parliamentary level by Jim Devine MP, the press decided that an auction for a lunch with Alex Salmond was the height of corruption. The fact that the individual who bought the lunch, could have made the same donation directly to the SNP, and that there were no policy implications escapes our journals.

No, the most important issue for them is that the SNP might have used the parliamentary



**Alex Salmond, SNP Leader and Scottish First Minister**

canteen (parliamentary facilities!) for the lunch in question... If it sounds pathetic, it is.

Nicola Sturgeon was also dunked into luke warm water for the heinous crime of representing a constituent. Yes, because Nicola wrote a letter asking a court to consider that a custodial sentence might not be advisable for a benefit fraudster with ten kids this was seen as a shocking lapse of judgement.

The Edinburgh Evening News claimed "the honeymoon is finally over for SNP". This claim that the SNP's popularity was a 'honeymoon period' was always designed to be a stick to beat them with, however given that the SNP won the elections in May 2007 it's been a hell of a long honeymoon! The unionists have yet to hit the SNP with a charge that will stick. In reality they have governed extremely well, a fact which sticks in the throat of many a biased journalist.

The unionists attempted to kill the SNP's referendum bill by trying to arrange one of their own flunkies as committee chairman. Margo MacDonald's assisted suicide bill which should have went to the health committee was instead given to a newly created ad hoc committee with a view to ensuring a unionist chair on the proposed referendum bill which was expected to follow it.

In fact however the SNP neatly sidestepped this abuse of parliamentary procedure by publishing the Bill in draft form meaning that they can delay its actual implementation to a more opportune time.

The SNP plans to hold the referendum in late 2010, after the result of the UK elections and at a point where any new Government will have revealed its hand in respect of Scotland. Labour and Liberals might find it more difficult to deny a choice on independence in the face of a hostile Conservative UK Government!

At the moment however all the unionists are pledged to deny Scots a choice and to publish a bill would simply hasten its demise. Timing in this case is everything, and the SNP have organised through their national conversation a proper consultation with the public. SNP ministers have travelled up and down all of Scotland and held numerous public meetings to properly consider independence.

The ill fated Calman commission, designed to scupper independence without actually going as far as considering it, has given its findings which have subsequently been entirely ignored by both Labour and Conservatives. So called devolution max, is actually devolution minimal as no unionist party is willing to countenance any actual financial level of independence.

Without the purse strings of course a devolved assembly remains effectively controlled by central Government, a fact they are all well aware of. Calman was designed to outflank the national conversation, however because it ignored independence all it has done is reveal the poverty of ambition for Scotland of all unionists. Job well done!

What this means is that the line between independence and devolution remains clearly drawn. When the referendum happens the Scots will get a choice which is clear between those who want the best for Scotland and those who don't.

The unionists can delay that vote but ultimately they cannot deny it. If the SNP needs to spend more time talking to the public and dealing with actual political issues then I'm sure they are happy to do this. If they have to fend off ill aimed allegations without much actual weight then they seem entirely capable of that as well.

As I write this the UK General election has just happened. If you lived in England you might well believe that there are no other countries in the British union since it was dominated by coverage of the three unionist parties. These elections are always unfair to pro-independence parties because the UK parties get a double dose of election coverage. They are featured in UK-wide coverage but also in the so-called 'regional' broadcasts where there branches pretend to be Welsh or Scottish parties in their own right.

As the TV broadcasts were extremely prominent in the campaign the SNP and Plaid Cymru were able to make the point that this is unfair and the BBC's response to their complaints highlighted that unfairness. Effectively the BBC decreed that only those parties which could potentially elect a Prime Minister ie those parties who could get a majority in the UK parliament deserved a seat at the debates. What this means effectively is that only the parties that contest seats in England are considered relevant. This is an effective comment on the union because it relies on Scotland and Wales remaining invisible for it to work.

In the event a hung parliament emerged while in Scotland and Wales the situation was unchanged. Both gave back large numbers of Labour MPs, both had a reduced rump of Conservatives and a handful of nationalist MPs ( 6 SNP and 3 Plaid Cymru, no change). It appears that the Liberal Democrats will either be in coalition with the Conservatives or will prop up Conservative Government. Luckily Scotland and Wales both have our devolved parliaments to protect us from that dismal prospect. Also, given the continued pariah status of the Conservatives in Scotland, this result should provide a boost to the pro-referendum cause.

**Joe Middleton**



# Breizh



## VOTADEGOU RANNVROEL

**Respontoù: Europa Ekologiezh Breizh a zo ar re nemeto a zo bet resevet. Trugarez dezho...**

*NB: Tenet eo bet an titouroù e galleg...*

1) **Daoust hag-eñ emaoe'h a-du evit ma vije eus Breizh eur rannvro emren dindan Unvaniezh Europa, pezh a dalvez 21 miliard a euroiou... ac'hann da bevar bloaz ?**

*Evit ober traoù, ret eo kaout ar galloudoù hag ar budjedoù, en ur ger ret eo kaout an emrenerezh evit Breizh, adunanet evel-just. Setu ar pezh a vez kinniget gant listenn Europa Ekologiezh Breizh. Setu ivez ar pezh a vez goulennet gant Europa Ekologiezh evit Bro C'hall: lakaat ar Republik da vezañ kevreadel, mont pelloc'h evit an digreizennañ, kemer hent ar ranvroadelañ evel ma vez kavet e pep lec'h en Europa, implijout benveg an emrenerezh disingal evit ar rannvroioù hervez ho istor, ho identelezh, ho sevenadur (hag ho yezh eveljust).*

2) **Daoust hag-eñ emaoe'h a-du evit ma vije gwiriektaet ha lakaet e pleustr karta Europa ar yezhoù bihanniver ?**

*Ya. Da vare dilennadegoù Europa, Europa Ekologiezh a ginnige lakaat Karta Europat evit ar Yezhoù Minorel da lezenn. A-du eo listenn Europa Ekologiezh Breizh gant ar pal-se, evel-just.*

3) **Daoust hag-eñ emaoe'h a-du evit ma vije adunvanet ar pemp departamant a zo e Breizh istorel ?**

*Kempoell eo adunvanidigezh Breizh e-keñver an demokratelezh, ar sevenadur, an armerzh hag an istor. Keñvoc'h e vo Breizh gant 5 departamant evit mestroniañ an dazont.*

*Goulenn a rimp groñs ur referendom ar buanañ har gwellañ. D'an 23 a viz C'hwevrer 2010 eo bet sinet un emglev gant Europa Ekologiezh Breizh hag Europa Ekologiezh e "Broioù al Liger": kuzulieren nevez EE a gemero an intrudu da c'houlenn e vefe dalc'het ur referendom, en 2 guzul rannvro, goude an dilennadegoù.*

*Kreñvaet e vo ivez kenoberioù etre Rannvro Breizh ha Kuzul Meur Liger Atlantel. War listenn Europa Ekologiezh Breizh emañ an den en doa skrivet kinnigoù bet votet gant ar C'huzul rannvro evit an adunvanidigezh, en o zouez hini Here 2004 a groue Kengor kemmesk dilennidi Kuzul rannvro Breizh ha Kuzul departamant 44.*

*A-drugarez da labour ar strollad labour-se eo bet gounezet araokadurioù war*

*dachennoù a bep seurt. N'eo ket trawalc'h met dedennus eo memestra.*

**Gi Keltik**

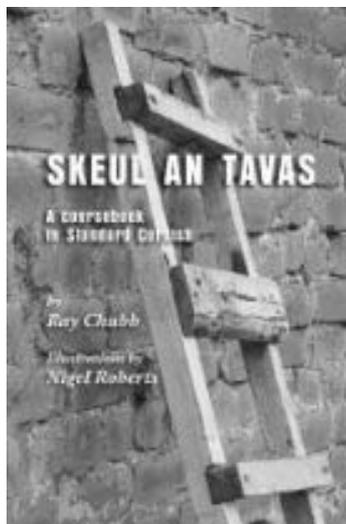
### Summary

*An interview with the grouping Europa Ekologiezh Breizh on their attitude to devolution for Breizh, ratification of the European Charter for Lesser Spoken languages and the reunification of Brittany.*

## DIBENN-SIZHUN AR YEZH KERNE-VEUREK 2010

Evel warlene, an dibenn-sizhun kerne-veureg a voe aozet e Newquay, war aod an hanternoz. An emvod-mañ a zo an hini brasañ ha pouezusañ er vloavezh evit kernevegerien. Ar bloaz-mañ e oa ouzhpenn kant a dud, o chom pe o tont d'an hotel Sandy Lodge. Niverusoc'h e oant abalamour d'ar strollad nevez, *Movyans Skolyow Meythrin*, hag a zo bet savet a-gentaou evit ma c'hell bugaligoù deskiñ un tamm kerne-veureg en ur c'hoari.

Tud a zo deuet eus pell, en o zouez evel boaz ur strollad eus Londrez. Pevar a zo en



**Skeul an Tavas, Cornish Language Course by Ray Chubb**

em gavet eus Breizh. Unan anezho, Ronan Tremel, en deus roet ur gentel anvet *Blas Bretonek*. Dispar e oa klevout ar c'helenner-mañ oc'h implijout kerne-veureg goude div vloavezh a studi hepken. Dibabet en deus studiañ ur barzhoneg gant Anjela Duval, hag ar gerioù a zo heñvel en div yezh. Ur plac'h dall a zo deuet a-ratozh eus Aostralia evit an

dibenn-sizhun: "Talvezout a rae" emezi. Dedennus e oa ar strollad-labour savet gant Pol Hodge evit studiañ penaos skrivañ barzhonegoù e kerne-veureg.

An dibenn-sizhun a vez aozet gant ar strollad *Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek*. O kenlabourat gant Goursez Kerne-veur, an *Kowethas* en deus embannet ul levr hag ennañ pemzek istor berr, skrivet evit kenstrivadegoù ar C'Hoursez abaoe 2002. Daou istor eus an dastumadenn a voe lennet gant ar skrivagnerien, Mary Sutcliffe ha Tony Hak.

Peoc'hus e oa an dibenn-sizhun ha plijadur a zo bet gant an holl disadorn d'an noz, o tañsal hag o selaou ouzh ar strollad sonerien *Hevva*.

**Ken George**

### Summary

*This year's Cornish Language Weekend, held at a hotel in Newquay under the auspices of Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek, was a great success. Over 100 people attended, including one lady who came specifically from Australia. Cornish classes were held at five levels, plus activities for younger children*

## 44=BREIZH and the REGIONAL ELECTIONS

On the 27th February, in spite of the cold weather and rain, the association "Bretagne Réunion" and the youth group "44=Breizh" succeeded in creating the most important event in the context of regional elections in realising a human fresco of 1500 people (see photo above). This demonstration which brought together nearly 2000 people had the sole aim of reaffirming our wish for the reunification of Brittany as a single territorial unit in forcing together the lists of "the four Breton departments" and Loire-Atlantique (the regional lists are composed of the departmental lists). For Breton militants it is also the first step in engaging on an equitable and democratic process of cultural and economic (and political for some of course) emancipation of the people of Brittany in respect of the diversity of their territories.

Such are the powers and the financial means of the regions, and such are the economic relations and existing links between Brittany and the other regions of West France, as to make historic Brittany a territorial unit. and the first indispensable step towards a process of devolution. The second step being to fight for the powers and financial means, without which the region cannot make the necessary reforms nor mobilise its people. The large political organisations and those who profit from being French "nationals" have kidnapped the regional elections.

11 lists were presented to the electorate, three of which are really pro-unification:

The list “**We will build Brittany**” groups together “diverse left-wing regionalists”, “independent Ecologists” and the “Breton Party” under the leadership of Kristian Troadeg, Mayor of Karaez. This list is the only one to have constituted a list in Loire-Atlantique.

The list “**Europe-Ecology-Brittany**” groups together the “Greens” and the “UDB” of administrative Brittany (four departments) under the heading of the list of the Green, Guy Hascoët, former Secretary of State for Ecology when the Socialist Party was in power. The UDB and the L-A present themselves together with the Greens of this département as the regional list “Pays-de-Loire”. The head of this list, Jean-Philippe Magnen accepts the principle of popular consultation and recognises the lack of coherence in the actual regional carve up. He was present at our demonstration.

The list “**Brittany at the Centre**” of the MoDem (democratic movement) of the region of Brittany supported by certain of its elected officials of Loire-Atlantique. Madame Gallerneau, their head of the list in Pays-de-Loire was also present.

The other lists of the region of Brittany saying they are *favourable* such as the list of



**The human fresco of 1,500 people demonstrating for the reunification of Brittany and the combining of the lists of the four Breton departments and Loire Atlantique**

“**Brittany solidarity, creative and responsible**” under the leadership of the actual Socialist President, Jean-Yves Le Drian, or *rather favourable*, such as the list of the presidential majority pro-UMP, led by the former Breton Prefect, Bernadette Malgorn, and finally certain members of the extreme left and completely indifferent. The lists of

the political organisations in Loire-Atlantique are rather unfavourable, even hostile, even though they contain some of the electorate who are very favourable but in the minority. Some have taken part under the title of individuals in the fresco.

**Jakez Derouet.**

## REGIONAL ELECTIONS RESULTS IN BRITTANY

**Jean-Yves Le Drian re-elected President of the Administrative Region of Brittany**

With a good vote of 50.27% in the second round of the elections Jean-Yves Le Drian (French Socialist Party) has been elected as President of the Administrative Council of Brittany, after succeeding in rallying the left and the extreme left, having already made the list in the first round.

### **The 11 Lists Presented in the First Round**

**1 Jean-Yves Le Drian** (PS) 37.35%; **2 Bernadette Malgorn** (Presidential Majority – UMP) 24.02%; **3 Guy Hascoët** (Europe-Ecology-Brittany) [Green Ecology Cohn-Bendit and UDB (Breton Democratic Union)] 11.19%; **4 Christian Troadec** “We will make Brittany/Ni ho savo Breizh” (diverse left and Parti Breton) 6.82%; **5 Jean-Paul Félix** “National Front” (hard right) 6.18%; **6 Bruno Joncour** “MoDem” (centre, Democratic Union, pro-reunification) 3.61%; **7 Charles Loat** “Land of Brittany” (agriculture in crisis) 3.43%; **8 Gérard Perron** (left, PCF and dissident PSF) 2.53%; **9 Laurence de Bouard** “NPA” (New Party Anticapitalist of Besancenot) 2.53%; **10 Valérie Hamon**, “worker’s

struggle” (extreme left, not interested in the regions) 1.20%; **11 Alexandre Noury**, “Solidarity and Progress” (pro-nuclear, indifferent to re-unification, rather pro-entrepreneurial but politically very fluid) 0.99%

Any list which obtained less than 5% could not go through to the second round and had to subsidise their electoral campaign expenses.

**Bruno Joncour** is the mayor of Sant Brieg (St. Brieuc). **Guy Hascoët** is a former Secretary of State for Ecology. **Jean-Yves Le Drian** is a former mayor of An Oriant (Lorient) and former Secretary of State for the Marine; **Christian Troadec** is the mayor of Karaez (Carhaix), entrepreneur of Bières Coreff. He is also creator of the “Festival of Old Ploughs” and a dogged fighter for the development of Centre-West Brittany, the heart of Breton-speaking Brittany. In 2008/9 he was famous for his fight to maintain the maternity hospital in his town. Centre-West Brittany is in grave danger of desertification. This fight has allowed Troadec to obtain in the centre of Finistère an important level of votes of up to 42.38% in his town and a good score in the whole of West Brittany, notably

thanks to the votes of all the conscientious Bretons who chose to vote for him and the **Parti Breton** (which made the lists in five Départements of “historic” Brittany) rather than the Europe-Ecology-Brittany (EEB). Troadec obtained 6.82% in Finistère but only 4.29% in “administrative” Brittany and so would have failed to obtain the necessary 5% to take him through to the second round. He was ready to ask his voters to record their votes for Jean-Yves Le Drian but in the end asked them to vote for EEB instead. French politics “for or against President Sarkozy” occupied too great a place in the elections. The regions have very little power and financial means. These two factors, added to a lack of confidence in politics reinforced by the financial crisis, led to an unaccustomed level of abstention of 35.60% in Administrative Brittany in the first round, lower than the French mean of 51%. It achieves more than 70% in the suburbs of the large, French industrial towns. Notably the votes of the **Greens + UDB** and the list of **C. Troadec** obtained a total of 17.01%.

### **The Second Round**

The Breton peculiarity is affirmed by the non-accord in the second round between the Europe-Ecology-Brittany (EEB) formation, led by Guy Hascoët, and the list of Jean-Yves Le Drian, PS. This unique case of disaccord in the Hexagon (French State) rests

on the insufficient number of seats that the outgoing president allows to this formation and explains the position of C. Troadec in favouring the EEB. Jean-Yves Le Drian confirms to having respected the agreement of the number of votes but it remains very controversial. Alternative information leads one to think that the regional PS has not accepted the challenge that the EEB posed it in making a bond from the outset of the first round, after having worked together during the last mandate. The EEB had previously contained in their formation several Greens who had formed a group "Ecology-Brittany" to present themselves to Le Drian's list in the first round. In the two camps there is a problem of strategy, which starts with the proposed reform of the regions of President Sarkozy. This reform is going to impose an election of one round, after a very brief last mandate of 4 instead of 6 years. The General Election (that is Départemental) and Regional will be replaced by Territorial Elections. The good result of the EEB in the second round of 17.37% will only give it 11 seats while the list of Le Drian with his 50.27% gets 52 seats – 40 PS + 6 PCF + 6 Bretagne- Ecologie.

The list of the right UMP/ Presidential Majority, headed by Bernadette Malgorn, a courageous non-aligned Breton and former Regional Prefect of Brittany, obtained 32.36% and 20 seats – 15 UMP + 2 divers right + 2 Central Alliance + 1 New Centre.

The left of the Regional Assembly regrouped to obtain a total of 67.64% to unite against the anti-socialist policies of President Sarkozy but the Greens/Ecologists and the UDB are determined to make their voices heard and they will not be restrained on sensitive issues such as water and the reunification of Brittany. The UDB will have to pay attention not to align themselves with the Agriculture in Crisis group. On this point Le Drian is much wiser in fending them off.

The list of Le Drian contains those who are sensitive to the language, culture and reunification but he himself remains a member of the French Socialist Party. When he says that he is not going to look for his orders from Paris he forgets to add that among his influential friends in the PS are the mayors of large towns and presidents of general councils who are found to be ardent defenders of the temple of this "One-and-Indivisible Republic". They are totally opposed to all forms of federalism. Notably present in the list from the first round is **Lena Louarn**, president of the **Breton Language Office**. From the outset she has been on the winning list as the pro-PS Bretagne-Ecologie group. Her aim is clear: to consolidate the office and to count on the personal involvement of Le Drian. The future will tell if she is right. Bretons have finally voted, for better or worse, a regional assembly and president corresponding to how they are in the present. We will continue the fight!

### Regional Elections in Loire-Atlantique

In the first round in the 5th Département of Brittany the abstention rate was 50.68% and in the administrative region of Pays-de-la-Loire (PDL) 51.78 %. The list of **Jean-Phillippe Magnen** (Europe-Ecology with UDB of Loire Atlantique after an agreement on a popular consultation on re-unification) obtained 16.06% being 69,869 votes, while the list of Jacky Flippo (We will build Brittany – essentially the Breton Party of Loire Atlantique) made 2.62% with 11,389 votes. At first glance it is a disappointing result for us, the supporters of re-unification, especially when one compares these results with the outgoing president of the PSF, **Jacques Auxiette** 35.61% with 154,885 votes and that of his young challenger from the right, **Christophe Béchu** (Presidential



**Jean-Yves le Drian, President of the Administrative Region of Brittany**

Majority-UMP), 28.09% and 122,195 votes. (These two people are totally opposed to re-unification and are not Breton). At second glance if one takes account of 40 to 50 years of propaganda in favour of Pays-de-la-Loire by its regional council and all the large

media, and the diversity of the population of Pays Nantais, harvesting 11,389 votes in Loire Atlantique by a particularly Breton party is not a trivial fact, all the more since the UDB was on the concurrent list of the Europe-Ecologie PDL. On the second round the UDB withdrew from the list having rejoined the list of J. Auxiette. After all this is in the context of politics and economics unfavourable to the working class which has had to be made to face the crisis of naval construction. The leaders of the different syndicates and political formations of the left of this Département are often indifferent to the regional severance and even often hostile to re-unification.

### Conclusion

The whole of Brittany has voted over all for the right against the left. The Greens+UDB autonomists made a breakthrough and set themselves free from the PS. The Breton Party by their bias to the list of C. Troadec obtained some moderate but good results. The majority of the population of Brittany has especially voted against the anti-socialist and cursory policies of President Sarkozy, consisting in regulating the crises of the French State and squeezing the middle classes whilst leaving the super-rich a free hand! His policy of re-centralisation continues apace, masking the reduction of financial resources to the regions whilst giving them the onus of charges, but with less autonomy of initiative and creativity.

**Jakez Derouet.**

**PS** Why not a single, grand, progressive and ecological, political formation for Brittany, an SNP adapted to the Breton situation? That will be the subject of the next article.

## DIVROA...Emigration and Immigration in Breizh

Divroa... the new "Breton" play of AVB (Ar Vro Bagan) is about the last two centuries of Breton emigration, all over the Western World. It's an opportunity for AVB's fans to complete their knowledge on this subject at a time of questions from the French authorities about "French ID." M. Eric BESSON, Minister in charge of Immigration made the buzz and filled up the music hall for AVB, from the start of the year. Once more AVB shows its ability to surf the social waves of our Breton Nation. For centuries Bretons travelled the world. Therefore travelling out of Brittany, on the seven seas, is part of our culture. Anyway travel and emigration are two different things, even if in those two situations they were, in the middle of the 19th century, searching for jobs and a better life, etc.

In the middle of the 19th century slate quarries were closing down in Central Brittany. At the same time, in Trelaze, next to Anjev, on the Breton marches (see Carn 144) the quarries were looking for more workers, at better wages. The workers and their

families gathered on the square in a few villages. The mayor introduced the Boss of the quarries and ensured translations from French to Breton. In the 1860's almost no worker could cope with French. Arriving in Trelaze the Breton workers were surprised by the bad welcome. The Boss had asked them to come over in order to break a strike!!! The start was very difficult for those pioneers. Twenty years after, they were poorer than at the beginning. The children tried to escape from this situation, this hard job, by answering job offers in Argentina. The situation of those people was even worse than the situation of their parents.

In the next century, the 20th., emigration started on new basis. In 1905, a new law separated state and church. A few clergymen and families did not want to stay in Brittany because the republicans could jeopardize their freedom. In Gwengamp Priest LeFLOC'H gathered families in order build new communities, in Canada. Bro Leon is known as the "Priests' Land", because they went all over the world to different Catholic



**A scene from *Divroa*, the Breton drama on emigration and immigration**

communities. In Saskatchewan, the life and weather were hard for the new settlers. At least they escaped from World War I, their names were not on the Monument au Morts...evit ar vro. Retuning back home they were happy to meet the survivors of World War I. On the other hand they had to travel back from time to time, in order to keep in touch with their own kids. Having once gone to live abroad, it is also difficult to come back to Brittany.

Youenn Gwernig and his family went to New York City to escape from Kreizh-Breizh, where the fashion of new 'modern' kitchens K.O. his job in carpentry. In the USA, the fashion of new 'old style furniture' was increasing at this period. This was a good opportunity to make good money for the best cabinetmakers. During this period Youenn Gwernig wrote songs in american, in order to keep up his hobby of singing. This became a huge opportunity for the future of Brittany in the field of arts. Their return was a difficult decision. The question was 'Where are we going to bury our dear mother', who was badly sick. The doctor put the question on the table... should they leave New York, with their mother alive or wait and see after her death. This was a hard question for the teenager of the family, as well as for his father - to leave or not to leave. At the end of the day, the answer was *YES*, we must go back to Brittany. The arrival was hard because of problems with the French administration. At that time the French Securite Sociale refused to give insurance to the kids on healthcare, because they have Breton names! The Breton singer and bard had to fight hard to win a lot of battles against the French administration. A lot of Breton people learned about his life during the Breton Revival promoted by Alan Stivell, Dan ar Vras and company.

Between the two world wars their own families sent a lot of Breton women to Paris, in order to work as housemaids. They came

known as 'Becassine'. As in the play, a lot of them had problems with the householders, when they were pregnant. Today the word 'Becassine' means slave in Paris. A lot of men went before and after World War 2. They found jobs in the French administration as postmen, policemen, etc. Some succeeded in their jobs, others on the building industry had more difficulties.

The play is also about, the way Breton people welcomed foreigners. Are they better than they find abroad? Before World War 2 Spanish people escaped from Franco. A few of them came Brest and then Plougasnou. The situation was not easy for them or for the locals, at that time. Some problems occurred on the seashore where the Spaniards were searching for seafood, alongside locals. In Kreizh-Breizh the Italian workers in the slate quarries were good dancers and were a strong attraction for the women of the area. Of course, the Breton males did not accept this competition without some reaction from time to time.

In term of immigration, the play shows a few situations from this century.

The case of twenty three African workers in the Breton Agro-Business shows that the village of Monfort, as well as the company tried hard against the French administration to keep their friends. The case of Patimat is exceptional. Her mother, teacher in the state of Daguistan left the country because of a fatwa from the imam of the village. After an hard trip in Germany she stopped at Brest, where the families of Patimat's school hide her for months in order to avoid expulsion of the mother and daughter. The French laws protect the mothers from an expulsion without their kids. At the end of the fight they got French ID, thanks to the families and media of Brittany. So Emigration & Immigration are still a difficult challenge. 'Work & live in Breizh' sounds like a good slogan to me !!!

**GiK.**

## KENAVO... Yann-Berr THOMIN !!!

In February Carn met Yann-Berr T (Socialist Party), in charge of the Breton language and culture in Brittany's Council under the first term of President Jean-Yves LeDrian.

Since World War 2 the Conservative party was dominating politics in Brittany. The Council of Brittany is very young and was launched in the 80's. At that time Jacques Chirac's goal was to keep the Council within the Conservative party against a strong Democrat party led by Pierre Mehaignerie. Senator Josselin de Rohan was elected and reelected. This Landlord was also the leader of the Conservative party at the French Senate and therefore he spent a lot of time in Paris. Being President of Brittany's Council was not his main concern. Otherwise, he was a jacobin (centralist) figure of the state and therefore not in favour of the Breton language and culture. In order to control the situation he arranged a deal with the democrat Jean-Yves Cozan, who did his very best to work in favour of Breton culture. He got the nickname of the Diwan Deputy. He worked hand in hand with Yann-Berr Thomin at the Departement Council as well as in the Regional Council.

In 2000, in the Socialist Party, Yann-Berr Thomin asked for a Language Act. The so called « BREIS », under the leadership of Jean-Yves LeDrian organized 14 commissions, in order to prepare a programme for the Regional elections in 2004. Yann-Berr Thomin, mayor of Landerne and a fluent Breton Speaker was in charge of Languages. As long as President LeDrian won the elections, We Breton speakers were very happy to have a programme on this subject In Brittany. It was also the first one within the French state. This was a great HOPE and a step forward in terms of Breton language and culture. It seemed like Nobility, after one millennium, was gone and Human Rights was in for this new millennium.

At that time an huge there was great hope for the Diwan schools. Therefore, the Regional Council voted 100% in favour of 'a status for the Breton language' This symbolic vote gave a strong boost to our culture as well as hope for the future of the Breton community. Now the next step is legislation. That's to say a vote in the French Parliament, let us wait and see.

In term of goals President J-Y LeDrian's team made the following chapters in favour of our culture. Open the culture and language on to the social field. Lena Louarn, President of the Ofis ar Brezhoneg did a lot in this field. Develop the number of Breton

speakers. Adopt a Breton Language close to the native Breton speakers.

Last but not least was work on the development of Gallaoueg, in order to respect Human Rights, in both languages. The propositions were to learn and use the languages. J-Y LeDrian set a goal of 20,000 pupils able to speak our Breton language by 2010 in Diwan, Dihun & Divyez'h's schools. They achieved half of that number, because of the strong opposition from the French state administration (Education-Nationale). Yann-Berr Thomin was expecting more in this field. Afterwards he regretted not have set goals for older speakers, night-schools, families etc. Anyway a lot of actions were done, therefore the budget grew to 7M€. That is to say, twice the previous budget. The actions outside of schools were summer camps, books, theatre, choirs. Alongside those activities the Council of Brittany had a goal in terms of jobs. That's to say hire professional workers in those different fields. TV and radio were also on the table. In terms of radio they managed to organise a net of Breton radio stations in order to share news and programmes (Braudan ha Skignan). On the web they helped to create WebNoz and supported others websites, like An TOURTAN (cyber FestNoz). The French State TV (France3) increased the number of programmes in Breton. The number of films

in Breton Language was twice as numerous as previously produced. Others actions were done in order to promote Breton culture and language. The Breizh-Touch on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, St. Patrick's Fair, also in Paris.

The most popular show was the Football Cup match between Roazhon and Gwengamp at the Stade de France in Paris where thousands of Breton flags were offered to the fans of the two Breton clubs. The tiny city of Gwengamp (9,000 population) won the Cup and showed to the French people that in Brittany the soccer fans believe in fair play!



Kenavo and Trugarez Yann-Berr THOMIN

In the cultural field J-Y LeDrian voted in favour of Saint Yves (Saint Erwan) as the Saint for Brittany, like Saint Dewi for Wales. In my point of view, the best political action in favour of the Celtic culture was done in Kaeridid (Cardiff) when the President officially signed an agreement between Brittany and Wales.

At the end of the day Yann-Berr Thomin backed by J-Y LeDrian did quite a good job during this political term at the Regional Council. This success in the sensitive field of the Language in the French state had bad consequences for him. The Leader of the Socialist Party in Penn-Ar-Bed (29), M. Lebranchu did not put Yann-Berr Thomin's name on her list, in February, for the regional elections, in March!!! You should know that each Département had its own list, under the regional leader. Therefore, it's four different elections for a Regional Assembly. Thanks to globalisation and the E.U. the regional level is increasing against the Jacobin departmental level (cf.: Napoleon) in the French state. It looks like the Socialist-Party is not ready for devolution in Brittany. Hopefully J-Y Le Drian, the president of the Administrative Council will be able to cope, with this main challenge, for his second term. Let us wait and see.

Gi Keltik.

## Twenty Candles for Dihun!

Created at the end of the 80s, the association Dihun ("awake"), which groups the parents of bilingual Catholic schools, is about to blow out its twenty candles. On the programme for this important anniversary are great festivities, concerts, ballads and an international conference. Carn has met Yannig Baron, the President of Dihun, the resolute face of Emsav, still on the fight today as he was fifty years ago. He has made us part of the efforts to open bilingual Breton-French classes to his satisfaction, but also his deceptions and his wishes. More than ever he is faced with tensions from diocesan directions, the mobilisation of all that turns out to be necessary.

### **Carn: Yannig Baron, Can you introduce yourself in a few sentences?**

Yannig Baron: Yes, I have been the President of Dihun Breton for twenty years. But this action entails a long combat for the rights of Brittany and the Breton people. I have been engaged for more than half a century. I have been on occasions a militant for MOB, Strollad ar Vro, POBL and UDB. I also presented myself for Breton political associations for a dozen times in elections.

### **Carn: And Dihun, when did this come about?**

Yannig Baron: You must remember the context of the times. Diwan had been created in 1977, Diwezh, the bilingual circle of

public education in 1982. Catholic education was accused of a late showing. It failed to catch on. In 1989 I went to see Sister Anna-Vari Arzur, form Plouvien, to launch the idea of a Catholic education circle. At the start of 1990 we could at last create the first Catholic bilingual class. It was in the school of Saint Gwenn, in Vannes. But that was done with forceps, after a hunger strike! Since then, the fight has been a little more permanent. It was necessary to systematically beat, step by step, against the ill-will of the directors of Catholic education. The second bilingual class opened in Morbihan, and that was in Carnac. It was necessary to organise an open air class amongst the menhirs! We put thirty pupils out in the middle of the alignments. It was spectacular and the event was relayed by the Paris media. The DDEC ended up conceding ...



### **Carn: However, at the start of the 2000s at the progression of Catholic bilingual schools was at best three Breton circles.**

Yannig Baron: Yes, that allowed us besides to catch up on our delay with two more circles. We have 4445 pupils in total at the

start of 2009. But actually the dynamic is broken. One could say that for fifteen years we have been tolerated, but that at present we are having to confront declared hostility from the hierarchy in Catholic education.

### **Carn: How can that be explained?**

Yannig Baron: Principally by a blockage, an ill-will manifested by 5 DDEC (Diocesan Directors of Catholic Education) in Brittany, that work hand in hand with the bishops. It is totally paradoxical. There is a regrettable discrepancy between the Breton society and the management of Catholic education, tempted by the reply of French-speaking and which alas manifests itself with a visceral hostility against the Breton language. For example next term the school of Plouvien, the district of Sister Arzur, is going to close whilst there are still thirty pupils. There are a number of requests from children to open a class in Etel, but the DDEC is going to prevent a dissemination of information by Dihun and refuses to open that bilingual

class. The assembly of departmental presidents of Dihun has written on several occasions to the five bishops of Brittany to let them know their fears for the future of bilingual Catholic circles. They have never

*continued on page 23*



# Cymru



## Etholiad San Steffan 2010 – Dim Camau Ymlaen

Aros yn eu hunfan wnaeth pleidiau'r Celtaid yn etholiad San Steffan mis Mai. Dim enillion, ac, o'i gymharu â'r etholiad diwethaf yn 2005, dim colledion.

Dyma'r etholiad mwyaf anodd i Blaid Cymru, Sinn Féin, Mebyon Kernow, a Phlaid Genedlaethol yr Alban gan fod holl ffocws cyfryngau Llundain yn canlbwyntio llygaid y cyhoedd ar y pleidiau mawr Seisnig ac yn ymylu pleidiau'r Celtaid. Yn waeth byth i'r Celtaid y tro yma wrth gwrs oedd y tair gornest fyw ar y deledu rhwng arweinwyr y tair plaid fawr Seisnig – mantais annheg fawr i'r unoliaethwyr yn y gwledydd Celtaidd a ffactor allasai yn hawdd fod yn gyfrifol am y ffaith i ni beidio â gwneud dim gwell nag yn 2005 ac a allasai fod wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth sylweddol mewn ambell sedd e.e. Ceredigion. Mae'n arferol erbyn hyn i ni weld y pleidiau Celtaidd yng Nghymru a'r Alban yn gwneud yn waeth o lawer mewn etholiadau San Steffan nag yn etholiadau ein seneddau datganoledig.

Y tair etholaeth fwyaf Cymraeg gafodd Plaid Cymru ond wiw i neb ddweud hynny'n uchel yn ôl ffasiwn y dyddiau yma. Y siom fwyaf i ni yng Nghymru



Angus Robertson, SNP

mae'n debyg oedd gweld y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cadarnhau eu gafael ar Geredigion gyda help y cynnydd yn y nifer o golons yno dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf a'r darllediadau 'arlywyddol' yna. Rhyw fath o ryddhad oedd gweld y Blaid yn ennill yn sedd newydd Arfon – dyma'r tro cyntaf i ddinas Bangor a'i chyffiniau fod ag aelod seneddol Plaid Cymru yn San Steffan er bod hynny yn hen arfer i hanner gorllewinol yr etholaeth. Rhyddhad hefyd oedd gweld ymgeisydd newydd y Blaid yn Nwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr, Jonathan Edwards, yn dal gafael ar y sedd er gwaethaf colli pleidlais bersonol Adam Price.

Cadw eu cyfran o'r bleidlais gyfan fel o'r blaen - 25.5% - a chadw'r un pump o seddau wnaeth Sinn Féin yn y 6 Sir, sef Gorllewin Béal Feirste (Gerry Adams), An tIúr ac Ard Mhacha (Newry & Armagh) (Conor Murphy), Canol Uladh (Mid Ulster) (Martin McGuinness), Gorllewin Tír Eoghain (Pat Doherty), a Fear Manach a De Tír Eoghain (Michelle Gildernew). Cael a chael oedd hi yn yr olaf o'r rhain gan i'r unoliaethwyr uno y tu ôl i un ymgeisydd – gyda mwyafrif o 4 pleidlais yn unig y cadwodd Michelle Gildernew ei sedd, ond annheg fuasai i unoliaethwr ennill yn yr etholaeth hon. Yr hyn sy'n drawiadol y tro yma, ond na chlywsom fawr amdani ar y cyfryngau, oedd i Sinn Féin gael mwy o bleidleisiau na'r un blaid arall (gan i bleidlais y DUP ostwng i 25.0%). Dyma'r tro cyntaf iddyn nhw fod yn blaid fwyaf yn y 6 Sir yn y cyfnod modern. A chafodd Gerry Adams 71% o'r pleidleisiau yng Ngorllewin Béal Feirste – gwir deyrgerd i'w boblogrwydd.

Mynd i fyny o 2.3% wnaeth pleidlais y Blaid Genedlaethol yn yr Alban o'i gymharu â 2005. Y drwg oedd i bleidlais y prif elyn, y Blaid Lafur, fynd i fyny o 2.5%! Felly colli tir ychydig mewn llawer o leoedd wnaeth yr SNP. Er hynny ni wnaeth yr un sedd newid plaid yn yr Alban. Yn hollol debyg i 2005 ydyw lliw'r wlad yrŵan. Felly cadwodd yr SNP eu chwe sedd. Cynyddwyd y mwyafrif ym Moireabh (Moray) (Angus Robertson),

Peairt (Perth) a Gogledd Swydd Peairt (Peter Wishart), Aonghas (Angus) (Mike Weir), Dwyrain Dùn Dèagh (Dundee) (Stewart Hosie), a Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Angus MacNeil). 'Roedd yr SNP wedi ennill seithfed sedd mewn is-etholiad yn Nwyrain Glaschu (o drwch blewyn) ers yr etholiad cyffredinol diwethaf, ond fel y disgwylid ni fedrodd John Mason gadw'r sedd rhag Llafur y tro yma. Ni safodd Alex Salmond, llywydd y Blaid (a Phrif Weinidog yr Alban), eto yn sedd Banbh (Banff) a Buchan ond cadwyd y sedd gan Eilidh Whiteford, AS newydd i'r SNP. 'Roedd y Blaid Lafur wedi ymgyrchu'n galed yn yr Alban gan ddweud wrth bobl am bleidleisio Llafur i atal llywodraeth Doriaidd yn Llundain. Dyna wnaeth llawer o bobl yr Alban a be' gawsant? Llywodraeth Doriaidd yn Llundain.



Dick Cole, Mebyon Kernow

Safodd Mebyon Kernow ym mhob un o chwe sedd Cernyw. Llywydd y Blaid, Dick Cole, a gafodd y canlyniad gorau yn Austol ha Tewynn Pleustri (St Austell & Newquay) gyda 2,000 pleidlais, 4.2%. Llai na mil pleidlais a llai nag 1% gafodd pob un o ymgeiswyr eraill MK.

### Robot ap Tomos

#### Summary

*The 2010 Westminster election saw the Celtic parties remain in much the same situation as they had been in the previous election in 2005. In Wales Plaid Cymru won the three most Welsh-speaking constituencies (Dwyfor Meirionnydd, Arfon, Carmarthen East & Dinefwr) as happened in 2005, though there were significant boundary changes. The increased bias of media focus on the three big Brit parties, with live TV leadership debates excluding Plaid, made the task of the national party even harder.*

## Plaid MP slams government's stubborn refusal to allow Welsh-speaking juries

In March Hywel Williams, then Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, slammed the UK government's stubborn refusal to press ahead with plans for Welsh-speaking juries in Wales. It is already obligatory for members of a jury in a court case to be able to speak English. This proposal would make it possible for ability to understand Welsh to be made compulsory for juries in court cases held in Welsh (instead of simultaneous translation being provided for non Welsh-speaking jury members).

Citing Canada, where French-speaking juries are provided when necessary, Mr Williams said that the decision showed the government's lack of ambition for Welsh, and compared it with the forward-thinking, inclusive approach to the Welsh language of the Welsh Assembly Government.



**Hywel Williams**

Mr Williams proposed a Private Member's Bill which, if passed, would have introduced Welsh-speaking juries in Wales. This will now not have UK Government support as it passes through Parliament. He said: "This announcement is deeply disappointing. After years of delays, the UK Government has rejected the very concept based on some rather spurious grounds.

"I believe that this decision was made many months ago because the government has failed to show any real reasons why bilingual juries cannot be allowed. Meanwhile, countries such as Canada are well ahead of the UK.

"The government's argument is that the introduction of a Welsh-speaking jury would remove the principle of random jury selection. What they have ignored is that there is already a language requirement – to be able to speak English – enshrined in law. They are happy to have an exception for English, but won't do it to allow Welsh speakers to be tried by their peers.

"This decision is a very backward step. Many people feel much more comfortable communicating in Welsh and, as part of the judicial system, we should be allowing them every fair play to ensure a fair trial.

"The government also claim that the

## Cymdeithas condemn Welsh government on weak language law

Cymdeithas yr Iaith (the Welsh Language Society) said in March that the Assembly Government have 'broken their promises' and are trying to 'mislead the public' over their language law plans. In a letter to First Minister Carwyn Jones they said that the government was 'extremely misleading' in its statements about the language measure and claimed that the Assembly Government have misled the public by claiming that the measure leads to rights to bilingual services and gives Welsh official status.

In the coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru the two parties promised to confirm "official status for both Welsh and English" and establish "linguistic rights", but the failure to deliver on these commitments to the people of Wales has enraged the society's members.

Cymdeithas have launched a petition at

number of Welsh-speakers able to participate would be only a small percentage of the population, but, in reality, it would only be a small number of County Court cases which would require a bilingual jury.

"A bilingual jury would actually save money as there would be no need of translators and would be better for justice as we would hear and understand the authentic original voice of the participants.

"Remember that bilingual jurors would be fluent in English and Welsh, so there is nothing lost in understanding documents or parts of the case that are delivered in English. When it comes down to it, there are no legal, practical, or cost implications, which would impede Welsh-speaking juries, just the bloody-mindedness of the British legal system in London. The attitude shown here is in complete contrast with that of the Welsh Assembly Government who are introducing new powers through the Welsh Language Measure.

"We only have to look back to last year when the court's computer systems were unable to deal with bilingualism and sent English-only instructions throughout Wales, never mind the delay of four years since the completion of a consultation exercise, to see how justice in the Welsh language is treated in London.

"This only goes to illustrate the need for a Welsh legal jurisdiction which would treat bilingualism as the norm, rather than some sort of peripheral exception.

"I shall continue to fight for this change in the courts, the one area of the Welsh language which would remain at Westminster after a successful referendum, and it shows once again that a strong Plaid Cymru voice is needed here in Westminster to fight for issues that the London parties will happily ignore."



**Menna Machreth**

<http://deiseb.cymdeithas.org> which calls on the government to honour its promises. Speaking after a review by Cymdeithas of the plans, the society's chairman Menna Machreth said:

"Our members are very angry with this coalition government because they've broken their promises and tried to mislead the public. We understand that legal specialists have already started to express concerns about it. There are no rights in their plans and Welsh isn't given official status - they made two clear promises and they plan to break them. In fact, the only right in this law is a right for big companies and organisations to challenge any request for Welsh language services. Rights for business, but not for people. It's a complete disgrace.

"Their plans are a trick - they say that standards mean rights. Legally that's completely wrong. They've been extremely misleading. Their language commissioner will not be independent, he will be under the thumb of the government of the day. These massive holes in the law, as well as their broken promises, mean that we could actually be in a worse position than under the existing law."

Cymdeithas are publishing a list of the law's weaknesses and ideas for improvements and are campaigning strongly against the government plans, including establishing their own Language Commissioner.

Menna Machreth Jones added "We're disillusioned, but we will fight on. Even if this Labour-Plaid government isn't willing to deliver we'll keep campaigning for a bright future for the Welsh language."

Cymdeithas welcomed an open letter from over a dozen lawyers calling for a stronger Welsh language law on the 18th of March.

In their letter the distinguished solicitors and barristers said "We believe there needs to be a clear and unambiguous statement in law that the Welsh language is an official language in Wales in order to realise the government's objective. To date, no such statement has been made.."

The lawyers also stated "The Measure, as drafted, allows for standards to be imposed on bodies in relation to their provision of Welsh language services. However, despite planned sanctions for breaches, imposing

standards in this way does not establish linguistic rights for individuals.

*"In our view, the Measure only partly meets the objectives outlined in the One Wales agreement. We fear the Measure will be less effective than it could be in terms of having a positive impact on the linguistic climate in Wales."*

Reacting to the letter Menna Machreth



Ieuan Wyn Jones

commented, *"We welcome the fact that so many eminent solicitors and barristers have come forward to call for a stronger language measure. There is by now widespread consensus amongst linguistic experts and legal experts alike that the measure doesn't deliver the government's promises."*

*"It is extremely significant that experts in the field of law are calling into question the lack of a clear and unambiguous statement in the measure that the Welsh language has official status in Wales. It's also clear from their statement that the law wouldn't establish rights for people to see, hear and use the language."*

*"This public letter comes at a very important stage, and is indicative of the fact that the Welsh government could do much more to strengthen this measure for the sake of everyone in Wales. This letter will put a lot of pressure on them to reconsider their hollow claims that they are delivering their promises. It remains to be seen whether the Labour-Plaid Cymru administration have the political will to strengthen it."*

In contrast Plaid Cymru leader Ieuan Wyn Jones AC, Deputy First Minister, spoke on the 4th of March of his immense pride that the One Wales government has "laid the first modern day legislation on the Welsh language to be made in Wales.

"Bringing the legislation before the Senedd in Cardiff should be seen as a significant milestone in the history of the Welsh language. Its value is not just its historical significance, but in the practical difference it will make to the lives of Welsh-speakers throughout the country.

"The legislation will confer on Welsh speakers what many generations had fought to gain - the rights to use

"History will show this to be a significant milestone in the history of the language – but I hope that it will be much more than that too...

"On its own, legislation will not be sufficient to protect and nurture the language but this measure will make a significant contribution."

## Celtic Sea link between Cymru and Éire re-established

An important sea link between the south of Éire and south of Cymru was re-established in early March 2010, when the ship MS Julia set sail on its maiden voyage from Abertawe (Swansea) in Cymru to Corcaigh (Cork) in Éire. This sailing was the culmination of a long campaign to reconnect the two ports by ferry when the previous ferry operators ceased sailing in 2006.

Swansea-Cork Ferries Ltd. an Irish-owned company, operated a ferry service between the two ports from 1987 to 2006. In late 2006, the company announced it was selling its ship, the MV Superferry. It failed to find a suitable replacement vessel and they announced that they would not be operating the service during the 2007 summer season. The company was later wound up with the loss of over two hundred staff in Éire and Cymru. There was no service during 2008 or 2009.

The lack of a ferry affected the economies of Cork and southern Cymru badly. Businesses that depended on tourism noticed the absence of tourists coming to west Cork



Due to frustration with the ferry service not being reinstated, two local businessmen in west Corcaigh launched a campaign and website in April 2008 to highlight the impact of the continuing lack of the ferry service, [www.bringbacktheswanseacorkferry.com](http://www.bringbacktheswanseacorkferry.com), later superseded by a new site at [www.peoplesferry.com](http://www.peoplesferry.com). Having learned from the efforts of the farmers and businesses in Breizh in establishing a cooperative to start and run Brittany Ferries, in April 2009 local businesses and other interested parties created a cooperative, West Cork Tourism, in order to buy a new ship to



and they correctly linked it to the lack of a direct ferry service from Corcaigh to Britain. Tourism sources in west Corcaigh said that the ferry's loss resulted in a 30% drop in tourists coming into the region from Britain, particularly hitting hotels, B&Bs, restaurants and camping centres. The loss cost Ireland's south west an estimated €35 million based on a study by University College Cork in 2007, with the west of Corcaigh being particularly badly hit because its out-of-the-way pubs, restaurants and hotels not served by buses or trains relied heavily on car ferry users. In Abertawe and south west Cymru the hotel, pub, restaurant and B&B trade has been hit by the loss of Irish visitors — an influx that in 2006 brought £65m to the Welsh economy. The route was also heavily used by English and European tourists as a "relatively close to London" route to Ireland, with many travellers stopping overnight in Abertawe.

restart the ferry service. Businesses, local councils and others donated at least €10,000 each in order to raise the capital to buy a new ship. €3 million was raised through investments from the co-operative members' investments, a bank loan and other investment capital so that a new ship, the MS Julia, was bought in September 2009. The Julia has 10 decks with a capacity for approximately 440 cars and 30 freight vehicles, and 1,860 passengers. Passenger facilities include 300 passenger cabins, a cinema, a children's play area, restaurants and bars. A new ferry company, Fastnet Lines, was established to run the service. The first voyage departed from Abertawe to Rinn an Scidigh ( Ringskiddy, Cork Harbour) at 21.50 on Wednesday 10 March 2010. It is a great boost for both the economies of Cymru and Éire and re-establishes an important link between these Celtic countries.

Seán Ó Coistín



# Éire



## Dhá insint ar stair na gCeilteach

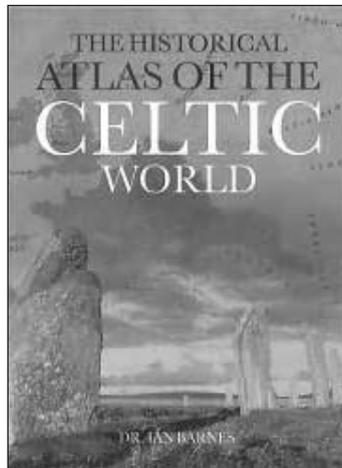
Deich mbliain nó mar sin tosaíodh ar fheachtas i gciorcail áirithe ollscoile díspeagadh a dhéanamh ar an léann Ceilteach. D'éirigh an scéal chomh páistiúil sin go raibh leis ar staraithe agus ar sheandálaithe áirithe an focal 'Ceilteach' féin a úsáid. Sroicheadh íospointe an aineolais nuair a thosaigh roinnt bolscairí ag tabhairt le fios nárbh ann do na Ceiltigh riamh! Ar ndóigh glanpholaitíocht a bhí taobh thiar de sin, polaitíocht na linne seo.

Taobh le taobh leis an athscríobh staire sin tá athscríobh níos dearfaí ar bun ag scoláirí, agus tá tuiscint ag teacht chun cinn go raibh na Ceiltigh níos tábhachtaí sa réamhstair ná mar a tuigeadh go dtí seo. Nuair a reachtáladh taispeántas tábhachtach faoi na Ceiltigh anallód sa Veinéis tugadh 'Na hEorpaigh Thosaigh' orthu. D'fhéadfaí é sin a cheistiú ar an mbonn nach raibh raibh aon choinceap den Eoraip ann ag an am ach bhí bunús leis an gcur síos sin. Bhí na Ceiltigh forleathan ar fud na mór-roinne sula dtáinig na Gréagaigh chun cinn, gan trácht ar na Rómhánaigh. Ag a mbuaicphointe bhí teacht orthu ón Atlantach go dtí an Don, soir ó dheas go dtí an Leithis Ibéarach agus siar ó dheas go dtí an áit a bhfuil an Áise Bheag anois. D'fhág siad a rian ar logainmneacha, ar an tírdhreach, ar an ealaín agus ar mheon na ndaoine ach múchadh a gcultúr cuid mhór de dheasca na gcogaí léirscriostacha a d'fhear na Rómhánaigh.

Tá treoir an-spéisiúil ar an stair sin in dhá leabhar den teideal céanna, *The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World*, ceann curtha in eagar ag John Haywood, saineolaí ar an Meánaois, agus an ceann eile faoi eagarthóireacht Ian Barnes. Deir Haywood: 'the most satisfactory way to define the Celts is not in terms of what they may or may not have called themselves, but in linguistic terms, as the group of peoples speaking Celtic languages: this embraces both the Continental Celts and the Celtic -speaking peoples of Britain and Ireland, and is the definition most widely accepted by modern Celtic-speaking peoples.' Tá na scoláirí fós in adharca a chéile maidir leis an gcaoi ar tháinig na teangacha Ceilteacha go dtí na hoileáin seo. Tráth dá raibh rinneadh talamh slán de go raibh inimirce Cheilteach ar an mórchóir ón mór-roinn go hÉirinn agus go dtí an Bhreatain, mura raibh ionradh míleata i gceist. Is í an tuairim atá in uachtar anois gur comhshamhlú cultúrtha ba chúis le leathnú na dteangacha Ceilteacha. Ansin, tá tuairim Colin Refrew ann a mhaíonn gur tháinig na teangacha chun cinn *in situ* sna

hoileáin, teoiric a thugann le fios go raibh siad á labhairt i bhfad níos faide siar sna críocha seo ná mar a ceapadh go dtí seo. Tugann Haywood sraith chuimsitheach léarscáileanna ina léirítear forás agus turnamh na gCeilteach ar an mór-roinn mar aon le cuntas ar a mbéascnaí mar atá foghlamtha ón seandálaíocht. Cuireann sé críoch leis an roinn a bhaineann le Ceiltigh na mór-roinne le trí léarscáil agus cuntais ar theacht chun cinn na Briotáine (AD 300-600), an ríocht neamhspleách sa tír sin (700-939) agus creimeadh neamhspleáchas an náisiúin (939-1532).

Baineann an dara roinn le Ceiltigh na noileán ón tréimhse réamhstaire go dtí Fuadach nan nGaedheal [*Highland Clearances*] san 18ú agus 19ú haois. Tá léarscáileanna agus ailt faoi go leor ábhar ar a bhfuil na Cruithnigh, teagmháil leis na Rómhánaigh, miotas Artúir, an eaglais Cheilteach agus éirí amach Glyndwr. Ansin sa tríú roinn pléann an t-udar an fhéiniúlacht Cheilteach sa lá inniu agus tá cur síos ar chúrsaí teanga go háirithe. Luann an t-udar go bhfuil féiniúlacht Cheilteach ag teacht ar aghaidh atá beag beann ar chúrsaí teanga. B'fhéidir go bhfuil an ceart aige ach is ceist mhaith í cé chomh fada is a mhairfidh a

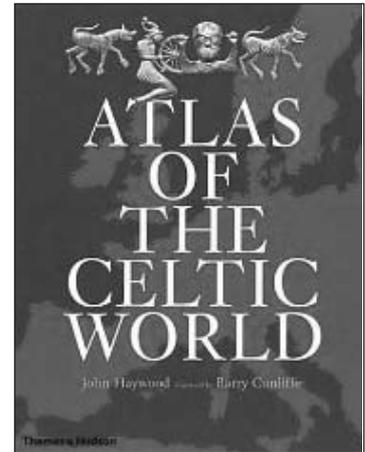


John Haywood. *The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World*. Thames & Hudson. pb. 144pp

leithéid. Is maith an rud é go bhfuil blas dearfach ar aon rud a bhaineann leis an gcultúr Ceilteach i measc an phobail ach is mó an difríocht idir faisean agus buanbhéascna sochaí.

Leabhar i bhfad níos toirtiúla atá curtha le chéile ag an Dr Ian Barnes (ceannasaí Roinn na Staire in Ollscoil Derby) Tosaíonn sé le cultúr Hallstatt (750-450 RCh) ach deir sé go gcaithfidh go raibh teangacha Ceilteacha á labhairt roimhe sin, siar san Aois Chré-umha.

Tugann sé cuntas níos iomláine ar fhorás na dteangacha ná mar atá ag Haywood. Maidir le hÉirinn de, deir sé nach bhfuil aon mhíniú ag na scoláirí ar cén chaoi a tharla sé sa réamhstair go raibh Gaeilge mar theanga mhuintir na hÉireann uile, sliocht na bpobal réamh-Cheilteach san áireamh. Chomh maith leis sin tá cuntas níos doimhne aige ar Cheiltigh na Leithinse Ibeirigh anallód. Tá creidiúint ag dul do Barnes go dtugann sé roinnt mhaith spáis do Mhanainn agus don



Ian Barnes. *The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World*. Cartographica. hb. 400pp

Chorn, rud nach gnách i leabhair ghineáralta faoi na Ceiltigh. Dar leis an údar gurb é ata sa trí chos ar bhratach Mhanann siombal den tríúr dia, Daghdha, Oghma agus Lugh. Bíodh sé sin fíor nó ná bíodh is iad na Normannaigh a chuir an t-armúr ar na cosa céanna.

Tugann Barnes i bhfad níos mó spáis do chúrsaí na gCeilteach sa 20ú agus 21ú Aois ná mar a thugann Haywood. Orthu siúd tá baint amach Pharlaimint na hAlban agus Chomhthionól na Breataine Bige, agus Comhaontú Bhéal Feirste. Tá roinn iomlán alt faoi na Ceiltigh i gcéin, an Phatagóin san áireamh. D'fhéadfaí déanamh gan na léarscáileanna faoi reisimintí arm Shasana nach mbaineann leis an leabhar. Ní haon abhar bróid é go raibh lámh ag Ceiltigh i bhforleathnú impireacht Shasana.

Braithim go bhfuil saothar Haywood níos scolártha agus níos staidéartha maidir le tuairimíocht agus go bhfuil atlas Barnes dírithe níos mó ar an bpobal mór. Tá eagar níos fearr ar leabhar Haywood, dar liom, ach tá neart pictiúr spéisiúla de bhreis ar na léarscáileanna in imleabhar Barnes. Pé ar bith is fiú an dá leabhar a chíoradh i dteannta a chéile.

Colm de Faoite

### Summary

*This article discusses the origins of the Celts, whom some historians have tried to airbrush out of history in the last decade or so. This is done by way of review of two books, by two different authors, both entitled 'The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World'. The somewhat different approaches taken by the authors are outlined and the writer concludes that Haywood's work is more scholarly while Barnes is more direct at the ordinary reader. He recommends that both be read and analyzed together.*

# Ireland's Economic Woes

Ireland is now part of the group of nations known as PIGS – Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Spain. This name is not only insulting but also inaccurate as it lumps Ireland into a group of countries with bad economies. Indeed, Ireland's economy is in bad shape but for entirely different reasons to the other countries. Ireland is a far wealthier country than Greece and Portugal. All these countries had a long boom based on cheap credit, which ended in a bust in which their public finances deteriorated spectacularly – raising concerns as to whether they will be able to service their debt.

However, this acronym is misleading, as is the exclusive concentration on fiscal policy. In determining the sustainability of public debt one should not look only, perhaps not even mainly, at today's fiscal accounts but at the resource balance for the entire country. On this account, clear differences emerge. It becomes clear that the PIGS title is a superficial reading of why certain EU economies have failed rather than being a proper understanding of why things are the way they are. Greece and Portugal are in the weakest position because of their lack of domestic savings.

The financial crisis in Ireland is a major ongoing economic crisis in Ireland that is in part responsible for the country falling into recession for the first time since the 1980s. The Irish government officially announced it was in recession in September 2008, with a sharp rise in unemployment occurring in the following months. Ireland was the first state in the Euro zone to enter recession.

The numbers of people claiming unemployment benefit in Ireland rose to 436,000 in February 2009 (an unemployment rate of 12.7%), the highest monthly level since records began in 1967. The crisis coincided with a series of banking scandals. The weakening conditions drew 120,000 protesters, including members of the defence forces and An Garda Síochána (the Irish police), onto the streets of Baile Átha Cliath (Dublin) on 21 February 2009, amidst further threats of protests and industrial action. On 24 February, the Irish Stock Exchange fell over 3% to stand at 1,987, a 14-year low. The last time it stood under the 2,000 level was the middle of 1995.

## Background and causes

The Irish economy expanded from 1994 and was known as the Celtic Tiger up to 2007 due to low European Central Bank interest rates among other causes. This led to an expansion of credit and included a property bubble, which began to end in 2007. Irish banks, already over-exposed to the Irish property market, came under severe pressure in September 2008 due to the global financial crisis that began when the Lehman

Brothers collapsed. Government finances began to show signs of trouble in mid-2008. Government deficits increased, many businesses closed and unemployment increased. The Irish Stock index fell. Many immigrant workers left, and the financial regulator resigned. Anglo-Irish Bank was particularly exposed to the Irish property bubble. A hidden loans controversy in December 2008 led to a further drop in its share price. The Irish economy entered severe recession in 2008. The main research body in Ireland, the Economic and Social Research Institute, predicted an economic contraction of 14% by 2010. In the first quarter in 2009, GDP was down 8.5% from the same quarter the previous year, and GNP down 12%. Unemployment jumped up from 8.75% to 11.4%. The economy exited recession in the third quarter of 2009, with GDP growing by 0.3% in the quarter, but GNP continued to contract, by 1.4%.

Due to the ending of the property bubble, the residential and commercial property markets went into a severe slump with both sales and property values collapsing. Major developers began to fall behind on their loan repayments. Due to the financial crisis, banks



**The Irish Congress of Trade Unions protest in Dublin**

such as ACC pushed for their revenue recovery and requested liquidation of the development firms. The Irish government realised that it was facing a major crisis and decided it needed to take immediate and drastic action. On the 3rd of September 2008, the government announced it was to bring forward the 2009 government budget from its usual December date to 14 October 2008. In a statement, the government claimed that this was largely due to a decrease in the global economy. The budget, labelled "the toughest in many years", included a number of controversial measures such as a proposed income levy which was eventually restructured, and the awful decision to withdraw previously promised HPV vaccines for schoolgirls due to them being considered too expensive. Other results of the budget included a new income levy being imposed on all workers above a specified threshold and the closure of a number of military barracks near the British controlled area in the north-east of Ireland. People were furious

over the proposed withdrawal of medical cards to older people and the threatened return of university fees. A series of demonstrations ensued amongst teachers and farmers, whilst on 22 October 2008, at least 25,000 pensioners and students had descended in solidarity on government buildings in Baile Átha Cliath. Some of the pensioners were even seen to cheer on the students as the protests passed each other on the streets of Baile Átha Cliath. Another controversial change sought by the Minister for Education was to end a state subsidy to Protestant schools as it was deemed unconstitutional and discriminatory.

Not all government TDs were happy with the proposed medical card changes and a TD resigned from the party. Independent TD Finian McGrath then threatened to withdraw his support for the government unless the plan to remove the over 70s automatic right to a medical card was withdrawn completely. Taoiseach Brian Cowen postponed a planned trip to China to deal with the situation. Three TDs, including a former government minister, later voted against the government in two crucial Dáil votes on medical cards and cancer vaccines. These defections reduced the Irish government's majority of twelve by one quarter. A supplementary budget was delivered in April 2009 to address a fiscal shortfall of over €4.5 billion.

## Government approval ratings

The ruling Fianna Fáil party fell to third place in a national opinion poll published in The Irish Times on 13 February 2009. The party was placed behind Fine Gael and Labour, the latter of which rose above Fianna Fáil for the first time in history. A further opinion poll, published in the Irish Independent on 27 February, indicated that only 10% of voters were satisfied with the Government's performance, that over 50% would like an immediate general election and confirms the sudden collapse in support for Fianna Fáil. In the European and local elections in June 2009, the government parties, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party, performed very badly. The Greens were reduced to three local representatives and Fianna Fáil lost its European seat in Dublin to Socialist Joe Higgins. At the time of writing in Spring 2010, Fianna Fáil has managed to improve its standing amongst the electorate and it has a higher position in opinion polls but it still has less support than the opposition parties, Fine Gael and Labour. That said, not many people have a high opinion of the Fine Gael leader, Enda Kenny.

## Public Protests

On 18 February 2009, tens of thousands of civil servants voted for industrial action over a proposed pension levy. They effected this action on 26 February. Days later, as many as 120,000 people, including members of the defence forces and An Garda Síochána, had protested on the streets of Baile Átha Cliath on 21 February. This was followed by a

further march through the capital by Gardai on 25 February and a lunchtime protest by 10,000 civil servants on 19 March 2009. This was followed by two separate taxi drivers' protests in Baile Átha Cliath on 20 March 2009. Labour leader Eamon Gilmore has stated his belief that a national strike would serve the country no good. A proposed strike was later called off. In March and April this year, there was an escalation of action by public sector workers such as not answering telephones or working half days and 'working to rule'. They were demanding that the pay cuts imposed by the government be reversed. However the government held its nerve and insisted that it would not bend to pressure from these actions. Most private sectors workers have no sympathy with public sector workers, as they believe that they have had it too easy for too long and were granted unwarranted pay rises through the benchmarking system. The worst affected section of the public service was the Passport Office in Baile Átha Cliath. The staff refused to answer the telephone and serve people. A backlog quickly formed and long queues were seen for days outside the office as people from all over Ireland queued for days to get a new passport. Tensions escalated and on one particular day, the office had to be evacuated due to a bomb scare.

Due to the industrial action of the public sector workers, a payment agreement, the Croke Park agreement, was negotiated in the home of Gaelic games, Páirc an Chrócaigh, between the government and public sector unions. The unions sought to have the pay cuts reversed but the government would not reverse these cuts. Instead the government agreed to no further pay cuts until 2014. The unions obtained a commitment of no compulsory redundancies and agreed to extensive reform in work practices and conditions of employment throughout the public service. Future pension entitlements of the public sector workers will be calculated on (pre-cut) pay levels in 2009 and benchmarking has not been reversed. Many of the unions are still unhappy about it and are voting to reject it.

#### National Asset Management Agency

As part of the rescue package at the end of the last year the government proposed a National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) to take over large bad ('toxic') loans from the banks. It was established at the end of December. NAMA will seek repayments from developers and others that banks lent to, so that the banks can lend money to businesses again and not be lumbered with bad debts. There are many sceptics of the NAMA proposal. Economists say it is untested anywhere and it will take many years for the banks to be able to lend money again. Along with that, the value of the properties that the developers built is significantly lower than what they were worth during the height of the economic

boom. This means that NAMA will not recoup the original value of the properties. Brendan McDonagh, the chief executive of NAMA, has said that the agency may have to demolish uncompleted building developments for safety reasons. This is regarded as being an extreme measure but one that may happen in certain situations.



Poster at Éirigi demonstration outside Anglo-Irish Bank

#### Other developments

Amongst other developments in recent times that have happened regarding the Irish economy and the problems with the banking sector have been the arrest and questioning of Seán Fitzpatrick, the former CEO of Anglo-Irish Bank. The Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigations questioned him about financial irregularities in the bank while he was in charge of it. The bank's former finance director and chief risk officer, William McAteer, was also arrested and had his home searched as part of the same investigation. Whilst the men have been questioned, nothing else has happened since then.

When introducing the bank capitalisation plans in late March 2010, the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan T.D., said to Dáil Éireann, "The detailed information that has emerged from the banks in the course of the NAMA process is truly shocking. At every hand's turn, our worst fears have been surpassed." The package announced for bank recapitalization was an unbelievable €21.8 billion. Anglo Irish Bank is to receive €8.3 billion (this is on top of €4bn previously injected), AIB, Ireland's largest bank, would receive €7.4 billion, Bank of Ireland is to get €2.7 billion, the Irish Nationwide Building Society is to get €2.6 billion and the EBS building society will receive €875 million.

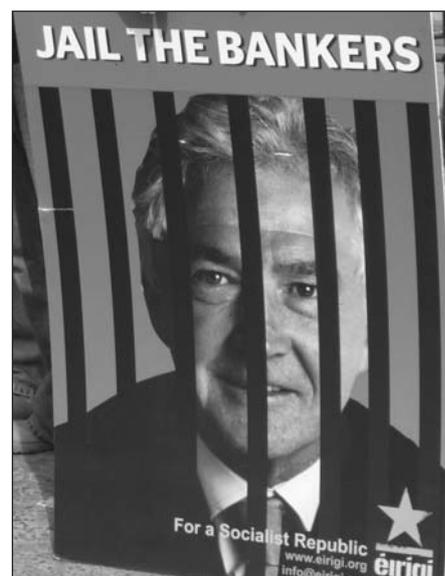
In a day of shocking revelations the most shocking was when Brian Lenihan announced that Anglo-Irish Bank may yet need a further €10 billion to bring its total projected costs to €22.3 billion. Many commentators and members of the public thought that good money was being thrown

after bad and that Anglo-w remains the only major financial institution with a realistic chance of not being government owned.

The state will pay €8.5 billion to the banks for the first tranche of loans – with a face value of €16.5bn – going into NAMA. The total cost of the bailout, including purchases by NAMA, may amount to about €73 billion, the Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland's principal research body reported.

A new Financial Regulator, Matthew Elderfield, who is from England and was previously the head of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, told a conference that there will not be a second recapitalisation of the banks and that the banking sector will face tougher regulation henceforth. Whilst appearing before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Economic Regulatory Affairs, he gave the banking elite a tongue-lashing for their past greed and their serious breaches of corporate governance standards. Whilst unpopular with many, he agreed with the government that Anglo-Irish Bank should be kept as a going concern and that it would be unwise to close it. Speaking to the committee he said "My own view is that the costs of a rapid wind up of the bank would be prohibitively expensive and that the structure that is being developed is a reasonable way to minimise the costs to the taxpayer."

Ireland officially recorded the biggest government deficit in the EU in 2009. Revised figures, published by the EU's statistical agency, Eurostat, show Ireland's deficit for 2009 at 14.3% of Gross Domestic Product, higher than Greece at 13.6% and Britain's 11.5%. Public debt stood at 64% of GDP. Again this relates to the problems with Anglo-Irish Bank. The government deficit had been shown at 11.8% of GDP, but Eurostat and the Irish government have agreed that the €4 billion injected into Anglo-Irish Bank can no longer be regarded as a financial investment, but must be recorded as capital spending. The €4 billion



Seán Fitzpatrick, ex CEO of Anglo-Irish Bank

spent on Anglo-Irish Bank was equivalent to 2.5% of GDP.

In a sign that the bankers just do not understand the public's perceptions of them, huge payments were given to senior bankers. The former chief executive of Irish Nationwide building society, Michael Fingleton, was given a €1 million bonus and Bank of Ireland Chief Executive Richie Boucher was given a €1.5 million pension fund top-up. Due to public anger and disgust at this payment, Mr. Boucher announced two days later he would waive his option to retire at 55 years, removing the need to top-up his pension by €1.5 million.

#### Some good news at last...

There are some signs of progress and growth in the Irish economy. A survey by property website MyHome.ie indicated that two out of three intending first-time buyers say they plan to buy a property in the next year. The survey also found that 78% of first-time buyers now have the funds required to pay a deposit, which is up 20% from September 2009. A similar number have either received

or are seeking mortgage approval. Anecdotal positive news comes from recruitment agencies who said they have experienced an increase in the number of jobs being offered.

Further welcome news comes from the Economic and Social Research Institute, which forecasts that the Irish economy will stop contracting in 2010. In its quarterly economic commentary, the ESRI says a return to growth in the second half of 2010 could almost cancel out the fall in the first half of the year, leaving the economy just 0.5% smaller as measured by Gross Domestic Product. Last year GDP fell by 7%. In 2011, the ESRI forecasts a return to growth of 2.75%, led by the export sector, which it says will grow by 4.5% in 2011. Unemployment however is expected to be 13% in 2011. Beyond 2011 there are prospects of growth moving up above 4%. The Institute does warn that even though the return to growth is welcomed, it should be seen as a modest pace of growth.

Seánán Ó Coistín

## Irish Economic Woes - Comment

It was only at the end of September 2008 that the real desperate state of the Banks was finally communicated to the Government at late night emergency meetings with Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, and Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan. It also became clear, even more so as the months progressed, that this situation was brought about not principally by external factors but by the banks own reckless lending policies for major developers, with absolutely inadequate risk assessment. The Government introduced a bank guarantee to stop the flow of deposits out of the banking system, nationalised Anglo-Irish Bank and undertook recapitalisation of Allied Irish Bank and Bank of Ireland, the two 'retail' banks. From what has emerged since it is clear that the decision to rescue Anglo - Irish was extremely ill-advised, as it has become a millstone around the neck of every taxpayer in Ireland. Of course it should be remembered that Cowen was Minister for Finance for much of the period when these excesses occurred without adequate controls. Pressurised by the closed circle of top bankers that if a big bank like Anglo went down the rest would follow the concession was unwisely made.

The NAMA solution was criticised widely (one such criticism was an open letter by 46 economists) and even those favouring it put it forward as the 'least worst option'. A key issue here was the discount which would be applied to the loans by NAMA. In the event when NAMA eventually announced in March the discount following the transfer of loans to the Agency it was an average of 47% (compared to the 30% suggested at the end of last year) with 50% on Anglo-Irish



**An effigy of Sean Fitzpatrick, ex CEO of Anglo-Irish bank at the Éirigi demonstration outside the bank**

and 58% on Irish Nationwide. That latter figure indicates that Irish Nationwide seems to have been totally out of control, being run as the personal fiefdom of its CEO, Michael ('Fingers') Fingleton. Now retired, he is being pursued (unsuccessfully so far) for return of the bonus sum of €1.M mentioned above but he also is the sole beneficiary of a €27M pension which should surely be reviewed and reduced also as should all these 'golden handshakes'.

The harsh budget did not of course contain any proposals to make the really wealthy and those who made fortunes from the boom years pay more, the burden was to be borne by the ordinary taxpayer. Nor was there any proposal to clawback the overgenerous exit packages departing (mis)managers such as Fingleton received. In

this scenario the Croke Park agreement is in the balance. It may not be passed when it gets to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and some unions have even said they will adopt a 'go it alone approach' against the Agreement if it is passed.

As further revelations emerge about the way Anglo, Irish Nationwide and other banks, including AIB operated, and while some Chairmen, CEOs and others have been forced to resign already, calls have been made to totally weed out those on Bank boards and executives responsible (some of whom were promoted to fill the vacancies left but had been part of the team which created the problems). Demands have been made to investigate matters fully with a view to pursuing those culpable through the courts.

It is clear that a 'golden circle' of essentially corrupt bankers in collusion with speculative property developers aided by so called light regulation (essentially none) and facilitated by politicians at every level from Government Ministers down to local politicians (who rezoned massive areas of land unnecessarily, some on flood plains, resulting in uncompleted 'ghost' developments littered around the country) brought the Irish banking system to the verge of collapse and the economy with it. A whole generation of Irish people have ended up paying the cost of rescuing the banks while their sons and daughters head for the emigrant boat or plane. What has to be ensured is that the likes of this can never be allowed to happen again.

The public protests against the Government have been outlined in the above article. Despite all the calls for replacement of those involved in the management of the banks strangely anger has not been directed much by way of public demonstration or action against the institutions (though it was exhibited by one shareholder, at an AIB meeting when he hurled eggs at the Chairman and CEO, both since forced out of their positions). Exceptions were the protest outside Anglo-Irish Bank headquarters led by the lone Socialist Party MEP, Joe Higgins, and his supporters, and one near the end of April by the Socialist Republican group *Eirigi* which had about sixty participants. A number of them occupied the bank foyer before the demonstration started. A broad coalition of political parties, trade unions and community groups (Right to Work Campaign) are organising a protest to be held outside the Dáil on 11th May to protest against the lack of a strategy to create jobs while tens of billions are being poured into institutions which created the current crisis.

C.Ó Luain

#### Nuacht 24.com

A news service in the Irish language has been launched in the Cultúrlann in Belfast. It will provide news from the North and is aimed at the growing number of those who go directly to the internet for their news.



## Kelli Fog



Kyn fo agan taves pur ogas dhe Gembrek ha Bretonek awos aga bos Brythonek, pur dhihaval yw an istori arnowydh. Kembrek yw taves galloesek y'n gemmynnieth hag yma milyow war vilyow a dus neb a woer kewsel Bretonek. Kernewek a verwis a-vel taves kewsys y'n gemmynnieth ha lemmyn, kynth yw dasserghys, gwan yw hwath gans dyfuk a gewsoryon. Awos an skila ma, pur es yw dhe Gernewegoryon dos ha bos gans isel spyrys warnedha awos studh an taves. Nyns eus boghes chons a geskewsel an yeth heb restras nos yn diwotti - ha boghessa hwath yw chons a dhos erbynn klappyer yn Tesco!

Nepprys, es yw kelli fog ha nyns eus meur a skoedhyans a-der-dro. Yndellna yw ow bywnans yn fenowgh. Spena yw wrav ouryow war ouryow yn unn wruthyl *Radyo an Gernewegva*. Skant na gavav po e-bost po lyther yn unn leverel bos an gonis a-vri - ha moy skant yw skoedhyans a soedhvaow soedhogyl. Liesgweyth yth omwovynnav: 'prag yth esov ow skoellya ow thermyn yn unn wul anodho?' - ha liesgweyth ny'm beus gorthyb.

Byttegyns, my eth dhe Iwerdhon an Pask ma ha kesstrivya orth an Goel PanKeltek.

Synsys veu an hwarvos yn *An Daingean* war benntir *An Daingean*. *Gaeltacht* yw - tyller mayth yw kewsys an taves Iwerdhonek yn-dann with laghyl an Governans Iwerdhonek. Pub le mayth er - yma an taves. Skrifys yw war arwoedhyow fordh, devnydhys yw der an media, ha kewsys yw y'n diwottiw, gwerthjiow ha war an stret. Kewsys mar venowgh yw, dell ve edhomm dhymm dyski leverel: 'Go raibh maith agat' (meur ras). Da yw genev bos kortes ha my tramor - ha da yw genev assaya kemmys dell ylliv dhe leverel neppyth omma hag ena yn taves an tyller.

Ha dre wul yndellma, y kevir blas a vywnans yn Kernow kepar dell ve Kernewek hwath yn fyw a-vel taves kemmynnieth. Dehweles a wra ow thybyansow dhe'n hunnos a selya Kernewegva vyghan yn Kernow. Res via hwilas po benefactor po fond bras rag selya trest. An tybyans ma yth o may hwrug ow thenna a-hys an fordh dhe selya *Radyo an Gernewegva* y'n kynsa le. Dres henna, pan omdhiskwedhir dha vos a Gernow, pupprys yma les meur ha govynnadow. An kynsa govynn yw (dre

vras): pygemmys klappyer eus? Pupprys y tallethav yn unn gravas ow fenn, hag ena leverel bos govynn dyfrans rag tus neb a woer nebes a'n taves, ha rag tus freth. Mes na fors a'n gorthyb - an govynn yw a-vri.

Yth esen vy yn Iwerdhon unn seythus, mes ha'n eyl dydh ow tremena dh'y gila, dos ha bos a wrug moy sertan bos bri krev y'm ober. Yma meur a les a-der-dro, ha meur a dus a via truan a pe kellys agan taves ni. An kalessa tra yw dehweles tre yn unn wodhvos na via an kethsem aswonnvos omma yn Kernow. Ytho an ober yw dhyn ni oll: res yw dhyn ni drehevel an aswonnvos na, tamm ha tamm - ha wortiwedh y fe le a gas ha ni ow strivya war-tu ha gorra Kernewek yn ganowyow an bobel.

**Matthew Clarke**

(Matthew Clarke presents *Radyo an Gernewegva* every week. It is an half hour magazine programme of chat and music in Cornish. It can be found at [www.radyo.kernewegva.com](http://www.radyo.kernewegva.com) (press the 'goslowes' link to stream the podcast)

### Summary

*Losing Focus: It is easy for a Cornish speaker to get depressed by the state of the language and to lose focus on why it is important to support it. I went to the PanCeltic Festival in Ireland on the Dingle Peninsula this Easter and Irish was all around. In addition to that, everyone was interested to not only hear Cornish, but find out how the language was doing. It is this sort of occasion that refocuses the mind on the job in hand. That job is to bring that same recognition back to Cornwall so that in the future, our struggle for the language won't be so difficult.*

## 'Celebrate Kernow'

A new group has been set up in Kernow aimed at reviving and promoting Cornish customs and traditions. Six members of the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League attended the first meeting of 'Celebrate Kernow' which is the idea of author and Cornish cultural activist (and League member) Simon Reed, twice Mayor of Penzance and who works promoting cultural activities in and around the town. About 30 people attended overall and a number of ideas were considered. The new group intends to encourage active participation from anyone who wishes to get involved in a range of different areas including music, dance, story telling, Cornish language, food and costume. All organisers at the meeting were supplied with handbooks and guidelines and an official launch of 'Celebrate Kernow' is to occur during April. The Kernow Branch also invited two cultural

activists from Wales to attend to share best practice. Musicians and teachers, Councillor Geriant Roberts and Tracey Thomas have been involved in the Welsh music and culture scene and have helped to promote events across Wales. Kernow Branch Secretary Mike Chappell is already involved with a 'St

Piran and the Colours of Cornwall' celebration in Redruth for 2011 as part of this new initiative. During a break in proceedings and before an evening troyl, the guests were given a guided tour of the Penwith coastline including Zennor as well as a visit to Lanyon Quoit.



[l to r] Councillor Geriant Roberts and Tracey Thomas (both from Wales), Rhisiart Tal-e-bot Gen Sec, Tony Leamon and Councillor Charles Skinner (both of the Kernow Branch)

# CELTIC LEAGUE IN MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

## Cornwall Council backs League's call for Cornish recognition

Celtic League representatives were amongst a small group of Cornwall Councillors and other prominent campaigners to meet with Mr. Qaiser Razzak, a lawyer with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), who at the invitation of the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League, had travelled to Cornwall for a meeting at Cornwall Council's Headquarters.

The meeting arose from a resolution passed at the Celtic League's 2009 AGM held in Truro, where the League condemned the media and others for their constant branding of the Cornish as 'thick' 'ignorant' 'inbred' and worse.

The campaign in support of this resolution has made the London based press earlier this year when even the right wing Daily Mail newspaper confirmed that the Cornish were not English and had their own distinctive status. The local press and radio channels in Cornwall carried extensive reportage of the affair which hinges on the United Kingdom government's continuing failure to recognise the Cornish as a National Minority and the legal protection that would provide against racial stereotyping. Members of the Kernow Branch were interviewed on all local radio stations about this issue which was even the subject of public 'phone ins'.

During the meeting, which was attended by Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, General Secretary of the Celtic League and Iwan Le Moine, Assistant Convenor of the Kernow Branch, Mr. Razzak was handed a copy of 'The Reason Why – Cornwall's Status in Constitutional and International Law' a booklet compiled and written by the late Judge Paul Laity, Tim Saunders and Dr. Alan Kent. This was at the request of Dr. Kent, a member of the Kernow Branch.

Branch Secretary, Mike Chappell has already forwarded a substantial amount of evidential material, which contained pages of insults, to the EHRC and negative stereotyping contained in the printed press and elsewhere down this past 10 years or so.

Further, during the meeting Mr. Razzak was passed a copy of a previously unpublished letter written by the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council, Mr. Kevin Lavery which had been sent to the UK Department of Communities and Local Government stating that **“Cornwall Council firmly believes that the UK Government should recognise the Cornish as a national minority under the terms of the Framework Convention.”**

Mr. Lavery went on to say in his letter that the “Council believes that the Government's current restricted interpretation is discriminatory against the Cornish and contradicts the support it gives to Cornish culture and identity through its own departments.”

The existence of the ground breaking letter which was placed in the hands of the League some while ago was the subject of a Celtic League Press Release on 15th April ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic\\_league/message/3342](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league/message/3342)) and provoked even further enquiries from the media. The matter drew public support from prominent Cornish Academic and Director of the Institute of Cornish Studies at the Combined Universities in Cornwall, Professor Philip Payton, who remarked, “For some years there has been determined effort for the Cornish to be recognised, but it didn't have the sanction of the then Cornwall County Council so it didn't have weight with the Government or Europe. Cornwall Council now recognises that something needs to be done.”



**Iwan Le Moine, one of the CL Kernow representatives at the meeting with the EHRC lawyer Mr. Qaiser Razzak**

The media contacted Bernard Moffatt, Director of Information for the Celtic League who said, “It is something that we have been anxious for the UK Government to recognise, that the Cornish should be given status as a National Minority. It is an interesting development that now seems to be an establishment view. That it is becoming a mainstream view is something that we find very hopeful.”

As a result, the news of this campaign and the letter from Cornwall Council made banner headlines in the regional 'Western Morning News' and the story was repeated in other newspapers.

Mr. Razzak informed the meeting that he would commence an investigation into the whole issue of the Cornish people and would be meeting with others in the weeks and months ahead. He requested that all media enquiries be directed to him over this issue.

After the meeting, Rhisiart Tal-e-bot remarked of the Council letter, “This is good for the Cornish. It means legal recognition and status. It should be recognized in law.”

Iwan Le Moine said, “This was a very constructive first meeting with Mr. Razzak who was extremely interested in our case. This of course, follows many years campaigning by many Cornish people and organisations and

we are extremely grateful for the support of our Cornwall Council and its Chief Executive. Hopefully this is a step towards the proper recognition of the Cornish people by the Westminster Government. After all, our language is formally recognised by both Westminster and the European institutions but to date, not the people who speak it. I am very positive about this.”

**Michael J Chappell – Kernow Branch**

## CORNISH – THE DESPISED IDENTITY ?

The Government has released the results of its deliberative assessment of our constitutional future. In modernising such an archaic democracy as the UK it is good that the government consults the public on what should be their rights and responsibilities. Citizens have rights and states have responsibilities. I would argue that one key responsibility of any state is to properly accommodate and ensure the well being of its own international identities.

The above document does treat the Scottish, Welsh, Irish and, to a lesser degree, English identities, but what mention is there of the Cornish? Less than none is the jaw dropping answer. I'll explain. In the text we are treated to some babble about Geordie and 'Arsenal fan' collective identities yet zero on the Cornish. It's perfectly acceptable and correct, in my view, to discuss the regional identities of England - Yorkshire man, Geordie, Cumbrian etc-, but to do so without a mention of the Cornish seems almost deliberate.

Lets just remember that 37% of Cornish school children prefer Cornish rather than English or British when describing their identity (see latest PLASC Cornish schools ethnic monitoring data). Cornwall has its own recognised lesser-used Brythonic language - Cornish. Both the Council of Europe and the old Commission for Racial Equality suggested that the Cornish could be recognised under the framework convention for the protection of national minorities (something Labour refuses to do). The Cornish have their own code for national identity (06) for the 2011 UK census (but no dedicated tick box as both Tory and Labour MPs voted against). Can any of the English regional identities say the same? Clearly the answer is - no - yet football fans and Geordies get a mention whilst the Cornish get forgotten.

Did the government simply overlook the Cornish when considering identity questions in the UK? I find that hard to believe, and I know at least one Cornishman contributed to their consultation, so why are we ignored?

Cornish – the inconvenient identity for the state?

The document can be found here (pdf): [People and power: shaping democracy, rights and responsibilities.](#)

**Phil Hosking**

# Maghaberry Prison, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Response

In response to representations from Kernow Branch Secretary, Mike Chapell. Angela Stevens from Legal Services NIHRC wrote on April 29th "We have been monitoring the situation at Maghaberry prison for some weeks; we are in regular contact with the Prisoner Ombudsman and we understand there may be judicial review proceedings starting. We also understand the Criminal Justice Inspector has in interest in this issue. Please be assured this is an issue of active concern for us. In respect of the treatment of visitors, a recent issue that has been raised with us is unnecessary and excessive strip searching of visitors I have heard one or two cases in recent times of visitors being strip searched but haven't heard any complaint that this was a policy gone awry or being abused by the NIPS. We have invited prisoner representative groups to make representations to us if that is not the case."

Mik'es letter had stated, "I write as Secretary of the Cornish Branch of the Celtic League concerning apparent ongoing human rights abuses which are occurring at Maghaberry Prison, Lisburn. There have been several investigations into these and the matter has been flagged by the Celtic League whose most recent media release I attach hereunder for your attention. One of our members is now in receipt of written evidence from within the prison which indicates that flagrant abuse appears to be the norm despite the inquiries. This is an extract from a very communication received from a Republican inmate which has been edited by our member in view of the regime of fear extant within the establishment.:

"It's 5:00 pm Sunday, 14, March, we've been locked up from 11:40 this morning. It's been over a day since a fellow prisoner was taken from our wing yesterday at 4:00 pm and taken to the "Boards". So, I don't know if he's OK or not. It was our meal time when they took him and I didn't get fed. They said they had run out of time. So, myself and another prisoner in the next cell didn't get fed. Seven of us didn't get fed yesterday as well, no excuse offered for yesterday. So, I'll have two meals from Friday to Monday. They only allow for a half hour to feed us one or two at a time. This week we were not getting breakfast on time or at all. At nights now for the past few months we have only been allowed the exercise yard maybe one out of three evenings, "Staff shortage" being cited as the reason for this. They seem to be intent on not feeding us at our scheduled times of noon and 4:00 pm."

Further there is evidence of aggressive harassment of visitors, in one case, an 80 year old female who had come to see her relative as well as rough handling and assaults on the part of the prison staff. I ask you to confirm that this treatment is not acceptable in modern Europe and runs contrary to Human Rights

legislation in force which allows for the fair and proper treatment of those held in custodial establishments by member states.

I wish to draw this matter to your attention in the hope that you might assist in making Maghaberry Prison fit for purpose and not an establishment where rules are flouted by those in authority and where prisoners are subjected to unlawful suffering. I now invite you to read the Media Release below issued by our Director of Information and having considered this letter, look forward to your response."

The Celtic League's Director of Information, Bernard Moffatt had also written to the Northern Ireland Prisons Minister, Paul Goggins MP, asking him to ensure concerns expressed by prisoners which led to disturbances at Maghaberry Prison are properly and independently investigated. The quality and thoroughness of previous complaint investigation has in the past been criticised by European Prisons 'watchdog' the

CPT (see para. 156 in the CPTreport): <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/gbr/2009-30-inf-eng.pdf>.

Further accounts of events in the prison emerged in late April "After 36 hours upwards to 150 police and jailers surrounded the canteen with riot gear, shields, helmets, gas masks, balaclavas, axes, sledgehammers, picks and power saws and appeared ready to remove everyone by force. POWs were taken out one by one through lines of police and dogs. Each strip-searched, 13 taken to isolation units and 15 were returned to empty cells. 13 were charged under Rule 7 by the Secretary of State for one and a half days. No one allowed a change of clothes for four days. All have been returned to Roe House and are being held under Rule 35 and kept in lockdown for 23 hours a day. The cells of some of the 13 returned from isolation units were wrecked, towels in the toilet wet mattresses etc. each cell took hours to clean. All 28 have been charged with "Mutiny". Relatives being told that they had not properly scheduled visits, POWs being told that they had no visits when they were on the schedule. Meals are still an issue, not making it to the prisoners as scheduled etc. Situation worse now than before Easter."

## Phoenix rising? BBC Cornwall Campaign

Following dozens of complaints about the BBC and its television and radio broadcasts, the Kernow Branch Secretary, Mike Chappell, started to collate the various messages which have been received from both League members and also members of the public seeking advice and support from the Branch.

Complaints were made about several issues, ranging from the lack of coverage by the BBC of Mebyon Kernow – The Party for Cornwall's campaign during the Westminster General Election to constant mispronunciation of Cornish place names. More serious complaints accused the BBC of racial stereotyping and accusing the Cornish of lacking in intelligence, political understanding and the like.

Subsequently, it has been decided to launch a campaign to draw the BBC's attention to their shortcomings as many written complaints sent to them and even to the Director General, Mark Thompson, have gone unanswered. Many members are even suggesting tearing up their TV Licences in disgust and they are not alone because members of the public have echoed this sentiment.

Later this year, a public demonstration will be held outside BBC Cornwall in Truro and as the building is situated on Phoenix Wharf, the campaign has been named 'Operation Phoenix'.

Further communications will be sent to the BBC containing a growing number of 'bullet points' which are to be reproduced on a campaign flyer. Further, many well regarded bloggers in the Duchy have condemned the



Mike Chappell recently attended a training course, which examined the subject of press releases, journalism and the media in general and was awarded a Course certificate. The Kernow Branch has embraced the new media and social technologies and Mike expressed thanks to Phil Hosking for his help with them

BBC in no uncertain terms.

Other Branch members have been busily penning complaints to the BBC. Pleasingly, members of other branches of the Celtic League have also been in communication with the BBC to complain about their treatment of the Cornish.

Operation Phoenix is expected to culminate in late August 2010 with a lawful, peaceful and dignified public protest outside the BBC in Truro.

In the hope that complaints sent to the actual head of the BBC might draw a more successful response than those sent to various other BBC contacts many of which simply go unanswered, the Kernow Branch is pleased to publicise the Director General of the BBC's email address: [mark.thompson@bbc.co.uk](mailto:mark.thompson@bbc.co.uk)



# Mannin



## Eddy-r-insh eddyr-Cheltiagh

Hie Cohaglym Celtiagh Eddyrashoonagh 2010 er cummal veih'n wheiggoo laa gys y jeihoo laa Mee Averil ayns Doolish, sy Thie-oast Claremont er y chooylaghan. Gagh blein, t'eh cheet dy ve smoo doillee dy gheddyn ynyd cooie dy chummal lheid yn immeeaght shoh ayns Mannin. Ta shoh kyndagh rish genney thieyn-oast cooie. Red elley, cha nel aaght-studeyr rygheddyn ayns Mannin myr t'eh ayns ny cheeraghyn Celtiagh elley. Ayns ny cheeraghyn shen er y gherid, hie gagh Cohaglym Celtiagh Eddyrashoonagh er cummal ayns thieyn-aaght son studeyrin ayns ollooscoillyn, er lhimmey jeh Nerin nurree, raad va'n immeeaght er ny cummal ayns thie-oast ayns Balley Shliggagh va costal dy liooar. Vrish shen shenn chliaghtey. Roish shen ayns Nerin, hie yn chooid smoo dy Chohaglymyn Celtiagh Eddyrashoonagh er cummal ayns ollooscoil ayns Divlyn, ayns thieyn-aaght son studeyrin, buill nagh vel cho costal as thieyn-oast. Smooince Yernee ennagh dy bare goll magh ass Divlyn as dy chummal y cohaglym ayns thie-oast. Da chaghteryn, va'n cohaglym ayns Shliggagh y fer smoo costal va rieuu cummit. As va'n fer ayns Doolish ayns 2010 beggan smoo costal foastagh dauesyn va tannaghtyn sy thie-oast. Agh foddee dy choont chaghteryn ennagh dy row yn thie-oast as y bee ayns Doolish ny share na'n thie-oast as y bee ayns Shliggagh. Ny yei shen as ooilley, she yn co-Cheltiaghys y red smoo scanshoil, cha nee yn aaght as y bee. Agh cooish ta smoo scanshoil foast: cre'n agh oddys y Cohaglym Celtiagh goll er sy chummey t'echey choud as shoh? Ny laghyn t'ayn jiu, cha nhimmey peiagh ta arryltagh d'obraghey nastee.

Hie yn cohaglym ayns Doolish lurg y Chaisht er cummal ayns y chummey cliaghtagh: leaght veih gagh cheer soit er bun-chooish reiht ec y vanglane-olteyr, turrusyn gys buill anaasagh, shirveish-chillagh, cuirragyn-kiaullee as ceilidhyn. Haink mysh 50 chaghter rish, earroo va ard dy liooar as y costys ard ec y thie-oast. She eddyr-insh eddyr-Cheltiagh (Inter-Celtic Communications) va bun-chooish ny leaghtyn. Loayr y Dr Caitriona Mackie son Nalbin, y Dr Brynley Roberts son Bretin, screeu yn Dr Éamon Ó Cíosáin pabyr mychione y chooish son Nerin, loayr Nigel

Pengelly son y Chorn as loayr Adrian Cain son Mannin. Cha row Britaanee kionfenish.

Mysh blein dy lieh er dy henney, haink Caitriona Mackie gys Mannin raad t'ee gobbraghey ayns Laare Studeyrin Manninagh. Loayr ish mychione yn agh ren Albinee as Yernee dellal rish genney spoar ayns ny thieyn oc ayns ny shenn



**Neil Pengelly, Kernow**

laghyn. My va sleih laccal tooilley spoar-cadlee, hrog ad sorch dy hamyr-cadlee va booghey magh boayl ennagh ayns boalley. Loayr Brynley Roberts mychione bea Edward Lhuyd – ny Llwyd - y dooinney hug yn ennym 'Celtiagh' er ny chengaghyn ain. V'eh ruggit ayns Oswestry sy vlein 1660 as hooar eh baase tra v'eh aeg dy liooar ayns 1709. V'eh aynr jeh'n chaghlau mooar shen ayns bea yn teihll t'ad gra yn Toilsheraght rish. Ghow sleih toshiaght dy yeeaghyn er y teihll myr v'eh as dy yannoo ny briwnysyn oc hene syn ynyd jeh cur geill da sleih elley nagh row jannoo shen. Ayns yn Oarpey, ghow sheanse toshiaght sy lhing shoh. Ren Llwyd studeyrin er chengaghyn er agh sheansagh as hoig eh dy row caslyssyn mooarey ec Yernish, Bretin, Britaanish, Cornish, Gaelg as Gaelg Albinagh. Hoig eh dy nee lught-chengey v'ayn, as dooyrt eh 'ny chengaghyn Celtiagh' rish y lught-chengey shen. She yn toshiaght jeh Celtiaghys v'ayn.

Cha dod y Dr Éamon Ó Cíosáin cheet gys y cohaglym kyndagh rish chingys sy lught-thie echey, agh lhaih Étáin Nic Cinngamhna magh e phabyr er e hon. Screeu eshyn mychione Edward Lhuyd neesht, agh hug eh geill myrgeiddin da obbyr Guillaume Roussel as Louis Le Pelletier, Britaanee ren toiggal y kianglely eddyr ny Celtee mysh y traa cheddin as Lhuyd. She yn troor shoh hug scoillarys eddyr-Cheltiagh er bun. Ymmodee bleantyn lurg shen, shimmy sorch dy

eddyr-insh Celtiagh ta fo raad. Screeu Ó Cíosáin dy vel Yernee er neiyrt er sampleyr mie ny Bretnee. Lurg da Conradh na Gaeilge v'er ny chur er bun sy vlein 1893, ren y Conradh arrish er yn eisteddfod dy chur er bun immeeaghtyn-kiaullee, daunsin, skeealaght as myr shen dy chooney lesh aavioghey Yernish. Ass shen haink Oireachtas na Gaeilge ayns 1897. As bleantyn lurg shen ren ny Yernee cur geill da'n ghleashaght Meithrin ayns Bretin dy chur er bun ro-scoillyn Gaelagh ayns Nerin. Ny sodjey na shen, va bree currit da Slattys Bretin ayns 1967 as da Slattys Bretin elley ayns 1993. Ta ny slattysyn shoh feer scanshoil er y fa dy dug ad staydys leighagh da Bretin as hug ad pooar da Bretinisheyrin. Cha nyrrys dy ren ny Yernee studeyrin er ny slattysyn Bretin as ad gaarlaghey da Slattys Chengaghyn Oikoil va bree currit da ayns Nerin ayns 2003. Ta shoh niartaghey Yernisheyrin as ad laccal gymmydeg Yernish tra t'ad dellal rish oikyn y steat. Dimraa Éamon Ó Cíosáin Iomairt Cholm Cille (Shalee Cholum Killey) myr sambyl jeh eddyr-insh eddyr-Cheltiagh – shalee ta co-chiangley Yernee as Albinee. Screeu Ó Cíosáin mychione De Valera as yn agh ren eh cooney lesh ashooneyryn Britaanagh va eginit cheet gys Nerin lurg y nah chaggey mooar. Va polasee 'neuchommeaght veigh' ec De Valera. Chammah as shen, ren De Valera cooney lesh Mannin as eh cur Caoimhín Ó Danachair harrish dy recortyssey loayrtee dooghyssagh jeh'n Ghaelg.

Cha nel y Dr Éamon Ó Cíosáin jeant booiagh ec y stayd jeh ny chengaghyn Celtiagh (er lhimmey jeh Yernish) ayns ollooscoillyn Yernagh. Ta'n studeyrin jeh Bretin er ghol ergooyl, as she gaueagh y stayd jeh studeyrin jeh Britaanish. Cha nel Gaelg ny Cornish erbee ry-gheddyn. As s'treih lesh nagh vel ny Yernee as ny h-Albinee co-obraghey ayns cooishyn lettraghey as focklyn noa ayns nyn jengaghyn.

Ec y Cohaglym Celtiagh shoh ayns Doolish er y gherid, heill chaghteryn ennagh dy nee ny leaghtyn son y Chorn as son Mannin va ny leaghtyn smoo bioyr as smoo anaasagh. Son shickyrys, va'n daa leaght slane soit ayns cooishyn ec y traa t'ayn as v'ad jeeaghyn dy jeean gys y traa ry-heet. Loayr Nigel Pengelly son y Chorn as loayr eh mychione yn agh ta fysseree clouit goll sheese y liargagh as y feme dy gheddyn aghtyn noa ry-hoi eddyr-insh (jannoo ymmyd jeh'n eddyr-voggyl, son y chooid smoo). Ghow Nigel Pengelly yn earishlior 'Cornish World' ayns laue. Shoh earishlior feer speeideilagh ta roshtyn mysh queig millioon jeig dy leih jeh slught Cornagh feiy ny cruinney. Agh cha nod 'Cornish World' tannaghtyn er mayrn son dy bragh. T'eh cosney 45% jeh'n cheet-stiagh echey veih soilsheenyn as t'adsyn goll sheese car y traa. Hed earishliorayn

clouit magh ass, ta Nigel Pengelly gra, agh fodmayd cur stoo er yn eddyr-voggyl.

Shegin goll ny smoo as ny smoo gys ny eddyr-voggyl as Facebook as Twitter as myr shen. Dimraa Pengelly 'Yn earishlioar Cheltiagh smoo sy teihll'. Shen 'Celtic Link' ayns Canada, ta mysh 40,000 lhaidher echey. Sheeu jeeaghyn er. Ta Adrian Cain ny Oaseir Gaelgagh jeh Undyns Eiraght Vannin, as she eshyn loayr son Mannin. Hoilshee eh magh dy baghtal dy nee cheer noa Mannin nish – ta'n shenn seihll ersooyl dy bollagh nish as cha lhisagh shin ve jeeaghyn ergooyl car y traa. Shegin cummal sy teihll t'ayn nish. Ta Mannin er chaghlaa dy bollagh er y gherid kyndagh rish ram sleih garraghey stiagh veih ymmodee cheeraghyn. Shegin cleayney sleih dy vel y Ghaelg myr aymn jeh'n teihll noa shoh as shegin streeu car y traa dy chur y chengey er e toshiaght. As shegin toiggal dy vel sleih ennagh foast noi yn chengey as dy vel ad tannaghtyn nyn dost son y traa t'ayn. Beemayd er nyn dwaiaie.

**Brian Stowell**



**Máire Ní Choilm, Éire (Amhránaí)**

#### Summary

*The 2010 International Celtic Congress was held in the Isle of Man just after Easter. The theme of lectures delivered there was Inter-Celtic Communications. This theme was approached in a variety of ways, with something like wake-up calls coming from the Isle of Man and Cornwall.*

## Pan Celtic Festival - Feailley Pan-Cheltiagh 2010 Yn Dein, Countee Kerree, Nerin

Y Chaairliagh, y Chione Soie Pan-Cheltiagh as y Chaarjyn veen. Fastyr mie !

Ta blein elley ceaut. Y traa shoh nurree va shin ayns Çheer Chonnal as nish mleeaney ta'n feailley er çhee goaill toshiaght aynshoh ayns Yn Dein. Ta shin jeeaghyn rooin lesh shiaghtin vooar haitnyssagh, goaill stiagh cohirraghyn, cuirraghyn kiaull as cooidjaghtys marish y cheilley.

By vie lhiam cur failt vooar Yernagh er dy-chooilley çhaghter as ynnydagh as keayrtagh ta er jeet voish Nalbin, voish y Thalloo Bretnagh, voish y Vritaan, voish y Chorn, voish Nerin son shickyrys, as cur failt er l'heh er nyn gaarjyn veih Mannin veg veen.

Ayns aghtyn, ta shin jannoo ass y noa ny shenn-voandaghyn ta kiangley y daa heer, Nerin as Mannin, boandaghyn ta goll sheear foddey er dy henney gys rey Pherick as Vreeshey as Cholum Keeilley, er y chooid sloo.

Ta mee shicker jeh nagh eh shoh y chied cheayrt dy row sleih loayrt ass y Ghaelg ayns Yn Dein. Mysh keead blein er dy henney va easteayryn Vannin cliaghtagh rish geeastagh skeddany as brick varrey magh ass slystyn Corkee as Kerree. V'ad loayrt y chied çhengey oc, y Ghaelg, çhengey ny mayrey, as v'ad hene, Gaeil Vannin, as Gaeil Nerin taggloo heese er y phurt as ad toiggal y cheilley yn chooid smoo jeh'n traa. As cre'n fa nagh?

Ta Manninee dooghasagh elley aynshoh jiu, goail aymn ayns y feailley Pan-Cheltiagh as ta y Ghaelg er ny loayrt ayns Yn Dein reesht. Smie shen. Mie Mannin, mie Nerin.

By vie lhien cur ard-voylley da'n gholl er oai ta jeant ayns aachroo ny çhengey sny bleecantyn shoh chaie, ny bleecantyn jeinagh, by vie lhiam gra. Ta obbyr vooar jeant, dy jarroo, as ta'n obbyr vooar tannaghtyn, laa lurg laa. S'feer eh, dy vel y çhengey va geddyn baase, lane dy vree as feer-vio reesht. As ny ellyn elley ny sodjey, y kiaull, ny rinkaghyn as y çhengey scrut neesht, t'ad ooilley bishaghey.

Ta'n Ghlare Vanninagh ry-chlashtyn reesht er straiddyn Ghoolish as Rhumsaa as Phurt ny h-Inshey; t'ee ry-chlashtyn sny

scoillyn as ny kialteenyn; er Radio Vannin as er yn ard-raad fysserree er feie ny cruinney. Agh, my ta, she y red smoo scanshoil, erskyn ooilley, dy vel ayraghyn as moiraghyn ayn reesht ta troggal y cloan oc trooid Gaelg.

Cha noddym agh gra dy vel y çheet my laue shoh yindyssagh, dy firrinagh. Agh ta ny smoo yindyssagh, as feeu moylley, y sleih shen ren cooilleeney yn ard-obbyr shoh. Cha nel ourys erbee agh dy vel booise mooar toillit ec ny mraane as ny deiney



jeelys ynrick shen, er yn oyr dy vel adhene ooasle as dooie ayndoo hene dy firrinagh.

Erskyn ooilley, fastyr jiu, ta shin cur keead milley failt er ny Manninee ta aynshoh ny mast'ain nocht. Ta treisht ain dy bee Gaeil Vannin as ooilley ny Celtee goaill soyllay jeh'n çhiaghtin, shiaghtin shoh yn eailley, as dy bee caarjys noa, lajer, niartal, eddyr ooilley ny Celtee. As dy bee cooinaghtyn braew taitnyssagh ec dy-chooilley cheayrtagh, traa vees ad sy valley reesht.

Gura milley mie eu.

**Seán Ó Brádaigh**

#### Summary

*Speaking at the Official Opening of the 2010 Pan-Celtic Festival in An Daingean, Co. Kerry, Ireland on April 6th., Seán Ó Brádaigh welcomed the visitors from all the Celtic countries, especially the Manx representatives. He then paid a warm tribute to all who have worked so hard and with so much success to restore and strengthen the Manx language in recent years.*

### CELTIC LEAGUE AGM 2010

will be held in PEEL,  
ISLE OF MAN

**SAT 10th / 11th JULY**

Contact your Branch Secretary  
for full information

### International Branch Internet Site

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

Email: International Branch Secretary  
[mlockerby@enterprise.net](mailto:mlockerby@enterprise.net)

### celtic League press releases

Those who would like Celtic League press releases via Electronic Mail can subscribe (free of charge) to the mailing list at:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic\\_league](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league)

## Leslie Quilliam R.I.P.

Well-known Manx scholar, author, teacher and Manx speaker Leslie Quilliam passed away at the age of 77 in March last. Born and bred in Peel, Les received the prestigious award, Reih Bleeaney Vannanin for his contribution to many and varied aspects of Manx culture.

In his youth, Les went to train as a teacher at Worcester; his first teaching post was in London where he met his wife Val. On his return to the Island to live in Peel he taught at Onchan and Ashley Hill schools before his appointment as Head Teacher of St. John's Primary School. Having learnt Manx from Lewis Crellin and Jack Irving, he went on to teach others and was happy that some of his students became teachers of the language themselves. As well as his interest in languages, he was a true polymath – he studied history, natural history and music, especially jazz and could play the piano and the accordion. He was a keen watercolorist and photographer amassing a large collection of family photographs, landscapes, wildlife, headstones and Peel sunsets. He also took part in archaeological digs, among them the important excavations at Peel Castle. In his book, A History of Peel, Les captured the uniqueness of his hometown, its people and its heritage AND WAS A FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE Peel Heritage Trust. His love for the Island was expressed in his books, Surnames of the Manks, The Lifeboats of Peel an A Gazetteer of the Isle of Man and he wrote a number of



**Leslie Quilliam at the ceremony receiving the Reih Bleeaney Vannanin award.**

pamphlets including Peel Walks and contributed articles to Manx Worthies. For the Isle of Man Society he recorded churchyard inscriptions and birth and death registers, qualifying as a Blue Badge guide.

His National Service with the RAF stirred his interest in aircraft, the internee camps and European history, people and cultures – a man with much and varied learning; his interests expanding beyond the Island which he loved most dearly.

Brought up in Stanley Road Les and Val moved to Peveril Road in Peel to raise their family. They have four children, Steve is

now a GP in Northumbria; Janice is a support officer with Moinjer Veggey the Manx nursery group; Lesley and her husband Tony emigrated to Canada and Carol is the wife of Peel MHK, Tim Crookall. A close knit family, Les and Val were proud of their children, who I am sure will continue to support Val through these difficult times. Les will be missed by many people and his contributions to all things Manx cannot be over estimated. He was a gentleman in the true sense of the word. It was a privilege to know him and work with him.

**Pat Bridson**

## CULTURAL AWARD 2010 - JOAN CAINE R.B.V.

In January this year Mrs. Joan Caine received the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan, Manx Heritage Foundation's most prestigious cultural award.

Chair of the Foundation and Minister for Education, Anne Craine MHK, presented Joan with the award at a special ceremony in the Millennium Room.

Joan has worked for many years teaching Manx in evening classes for the Department of Education and as a member of Caarjyn ny Gaelgey for the last ten years and more, has organized and taught Manx classes at St John's House, St John's.

Joan began learning the language herself about forty years ago, and for well over thirty years, has given so generously of her time, passing on her knowledge to students of Manx Gaelic, from beginners to those studying at a more advanced level.

Other related activities include her membership of Cooinseil ny Gaelgey, the official body which provides translations and new terminology. For a number of years Joan served as secretary to the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee.

Joan is a quiet, unassuming person who never draws attention to herself, or her achievements; someone who has worked tirelessly for the Manx Language and this

award is well deserved. The Mannin Branch has nominated Joan for this award several times and is delighted that her contribution has been recognised by this honour.



**Joan Caine receiving the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan from Anne Craine MHK (courtesy Isle of Man Examiner)**

# Celtica

## 40th Celebration for Éire- Alba Cultural exchange

The longest running interceltic exchange marked its 40th year at a rather low-key event in Dublin in late April. Some of those associated with the event over the years were present but only one it seems who was at the inaugural events in both countries, the present writer!. It began in 1970 as a poetry exchange and quickly expanded to include a musician and singer on each side. The Scots visit Ireland in April with the Irish returning the complement in the autumn of the same year. Venues have varied with Gaeltacht areas now always on the agenda and Dublin is usually included. This year's tour took in Cork and the west Cork Gaeltacht and was judged a success. Despite a valley period in the nineties when it was restricted to one visit each way in one year it recovered to maintain the two-way exchange in each year and still thrives. All that is needed now is to include Mannin, a long-standing call



**Thriving for Forty Years**

from the Celtic League. Surely with all the progress in Manx language affairs such would now be possible with the assistance of Manx Heritage. Such a development would breath new life into the exchange and make it an all encompassing Gaelic one.

**Cathal Ó Luain**

educationalists even start to fear excessive pressure from their managers. I often encounter educators of evident good will, but completely dispirited...

**Carn: In spite of everything you continue the fight! Will there be great festivities for the 20 years of Dihun?**

Yannig Baron: Yes, certainly. On the 11th May next, in the Place of Arts, in Vannes, the children of eight bilingual schools are going to realise a beautiful, historic fresco on the theme of *Barzaz Breiz* (Breton Bards). On the 4th June there will be a wonderful concert. The pupils from ten schools from Leon will sing with Jean-Luc Roudautand and Gwenynn, notably. On the 12th and 13th of June, in partnership with the Institute of Locarn, we are going to organise an international conference on the them of "What linguistic policy for Brittany in the 21st Century?" There will also be a debate to know what is thought of the economic world and the political world of Brittany. They are clearly the important issues. For this event we will probably have the support of the EU.

**Carn: Realistically, how do you see the evolution of bilingual education in Brittany?**

Yannig Baron: I think that you cannot save the language without installing a tru multilingual policy, of which Breton would clearly be a prime example. It is what has been understood for a long time by numerous friends in the "regions of Europe" starting with the Basques and the Catalans who are well advanced over us in matters of linguistic policies, notably scholastic.

**Interview by**

**Thierry Jigourel for CARN.**

*Twenty Candles for Dihun!, continued from page 9*

received a reply! Sometimes the DDEC accept the opening of a bilingual class, such as at Saint-Renan in Finistère. But it is not so much to respond to the demands of the parents but to avoid the fleeing of pupils to the Diwan school already in place. Besides that, they are going to refuse openings in communes where there are demands but where the children do not have the possibility of enrolling in Diwan! It does not make sense! However, the demand from parents is ever stronger. The official position of the highest authorities of the church – including the former Pope John-Paul II – is very favourable towards linguistic diversity and to so-called "regional" languages.

**Carn: In these conditions how do you foresee the future?**

Yannig Baron: Alas, we are very pessimistic. For years our progression rate was an increase of 450 per year. Last year we had a drop of 80 pupils. And we fear the worst for the new term to come, even though bilingual public education is a good progression.

**Carn: What are the arguments of the DDEC?**

Yannig Baron: We have to refuse children into the bilingual circuit because of a lack of education. But we have placed our feet on

the centre of a formation for bilingual education, Stumdi, which is functioning well! In addition, we know cases where bilingual education has been nominated as monolingual posts. The bilingual



**The Administrative Council of Dihun, Yannig Barron is third from left**

## Gaelscéal – New Irish Weekly Paper

Gaelscéal was launched on 24th March in Dublin and Belfast. It retails for €1.65

Foras na Gaeilge awarded a contract to two companies, the Connacht Tribune and Eo Teilifís to produce a weekly national paper in Irish last December. Trevor Ó Clochartaigh was appointed as Project Manager for the newspaper and the editor is Paul Dunbar from County Down. Before his current position with Gaelscéal, Dunbar wrote for Lá Nua, An tUlltach, Comhar, Nuacht 24, The Irish News and The Scotsman, and has broadcasted on Raidió Fáilte and on BBC Raidió Uladh.



Gaelscéal is a 32 page full colour newspaper, which will target those who speak the Irish language on a daily basis, there will be no distinction made between Gaeltacht readers, and readers outside the Gaeltacht, and all reports will appear in the Caighdeán Oifigiúil, or standardised Irish. The newspaper will focus on international, national, and regional current affairs, as well as education, sport and lifestyle matters, and also Irish language and Gaeltacht news. It is made available digitally on the internet at gaelscéal.ie. The logo reads 'A Gaeltacht without boundaries'

## FOINSE REFRESHED

The previous Irish language weekly Foinse, which went out of circulation in June 2009 (as Foras na Gaeilge funding was no longer forthcoming), has been given a new lease of life as a free supplement included in the Irish Independent each Wednesday. This began on 18th November. Emer Ní Chéidigh, editor of Foinse, said, "This is truly a landmark day for the promotion of the Irish language. Not only is Foinse back in production but now through the established circulation of the Irish Independent, the Irish language will be brought into every household and family in Ireland. The new Foinse remains a stand alone publication and all editorial control continues to remain with the publication and company." It features seven pages of Irish learning tools and texts.

Can two Irish language newspapers survive considering the closure of various newspapers over the years and given the current climate? The Foinse editor hopes so. She says that the two newspapers will be covering different stories and that they will hope to attract readers to the Irish language with well-known columnists and with a younger perspective as well as an emphasis on various sectors.

## World Cup - Not in Cornwall's Co op Stores says Bewnans Kernow

Coweth wheag

I have received the below from Colin Roberts of Bewnans Kernow. I have emailed Co op and phoned with my complaint. May I invite you to do so as well? The Co op can also be Emailed on:

[customer.relations@co-op.co.uk](mailto:customer.relations@co-op.co.uk) as well as free phoned on 0800 0686 727

Oll an gwella

Mike Chapell

Dear BK colleagues

I have been liaising with the Co-op Head Office requesting the removal of England/St George merchandise from Cornish stores. They do not sell these in Welsh or Scottish outlets. They say they cannot because they have not received any other complaints and believe Cornwall to be part of England.

If anyone wants to support me in this endeavour please call on 0800 0686 727 ASAP and register your support. In St Columb there is a whole window given over to this and a number of residents and visitors have spoken to me about their distress of the total disregard to Cornish sensitivities. If you do feel you can support this cause please let me know the response.

Meur ras

Colin Roberts  
Secretary - Skrifennyas  
Bewnans Kernow

*The Partnership of Cornish Cultural Organisations*

## Celtic League WEBSITE

[www.celticleague.net](http://www.celticleague.net)

*Interested in Gaelic?  
Make it part of your  
future too...*

## Cli Gàidhlig

Quote this publication of a free info pack from:

Cli, North Tower  
The Castle, Inverness  
IV2 3EE Scotland

+44(0)1463 226710

[www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk)

Email: [cli@cli.org.uk](mailto:cli@cli.org.uk)



## Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership/subscription rates (including *Carn*) are: €24.00, Sterling £14.50, Europe (airmail) £20.00, Outside Europe £22.00. US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank).

**For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:**

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

**BREIZH Gi Keltik** Plougerne, BP44 -29880 Breizh/Brittany.

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

**ÉIRE Caoimhín Ó Cadhla**, 16 Ascaill Gairbhille, Ráth Garbh, B.Á.C 6

Email: [eire@celticleague.net](mailto:eire@celticleague.net)

**KERNOW M.J. Chappell**,

3 Edwards Apartments, Gweal Pawl, Resrudh/Redruth TR15 3AE Kernow

Email: [kernow@celticleague.net](mailto:kernow@celticleague.net)

**MANNIN Ruth Black**, Thie Meanagh, 7 Michael St., Peel, IM5 1HA

Tel No: 07624 474159

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

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

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

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

**Rhisiart Tal-e-bot**,

5 Chyandour, Resrudh/Redruth TR15 3AB. Kernow/Cornwall

Email: [rhisiart.talebot@gmail.com](mailto:rhisiart.talebot@gmail.com)

**EDITOR Ms P. Bridson**,

33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.

Email: [patriciabridson@eircom.net](mailto:patriciabridson@eircom.net)

Articles for *Carn* should be e-mailed to the Editor. Appropriate photographs should be sent with them.

Material for the next issue of *Carn* should reach the Editor no later than 20th June 2010. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Celtic League.

ISSN 0257-7860