

comann

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 153

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ALBA: AN COMANN CEILTEACH
BREIZH: AR C'HEVRE KELTIEK
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KERNOW: AN KESUNYANS KELTEK
MANNIN: YN COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE





A' Choille Ghruamach Part 2

Gaelic Original

7. 'N uair thig an geamhradh is àm na dùbhlachd
Bidh sneachda 'dlùthadh ri cùl nan geug,
'S gu domhain dùmhail dol thar na glùine,
'S ge maith an triùbhsair cha dean i feum,
Gun stocain dhùbhailt' 's a' mhocais chlàdaich
'Bhios air a dunadh gu dlùth le éill;
B'e 'm fasan ùr dhuinn a cosg le fionntach
Mar chaidh a rùsgadh de 'n bhrùid an dé.

8. Mur bi mi eòlach airson mo chòmhdach
Gu 'm faigh mi reòta mo shròn 's mo bheul;
Le gaoth a tuath a bhios neamhail fuaraidh
Gu 'm bi mo chluasan an cunnart geur.
Tha 'n reothadh fuath'sach, cha seas an tuagh ris,
Gu 'm mill e chruaidh ged a bha i geur;
Mur toir mi blàths d'i gu 'm brist an stàilinn,
'S gun dol do 'n cheàrdaich cha gheàrr i beum.

9. 'N uair thig an sàmhradh 's a miosa céitean
Bidh teas na greine 'g am fhàgail fann;
Gu 'n cuir i spéirid 's a h-uile creutair
A bhios fo éislean air feadh nan toll:
Na mathain bhéisteil gu 'n dean iad éiridh
'Dhol feadh an treud 's gur'-a mòr an call;
'S a' chuileag inneach gu socach, puinsionta'
'Gam lot gu lìonmhor le roinn a lainn.

10. Gu 'n dean i m' aodann gu h-olc a chaobadh,
Cha 'n fhaic mi 'n saoghal 's ann 'bhios mi dall;
Gu 'n at mo shùilean le neart a cunnagaidh,
Ro-ghuineach druidteach tha sùgh a teang',
Cha 'n fhaigh mi àireamh dhuibh ann an dànachd
Gach beathach gràineil a thogas ceann,
'S cho liutha plàigh ann 's a bh' air rìgh Pharaoh
Airson nan tràillean 'n uair 'bhàth e'n camp'.

11. Gur h-iomadh caochladh 'tigh 'nn air an t-
saoghal
'S ro-bheag a shaoil mi 'n uair bha mi thall;
Bu bheachd dhomh 'n uair sin mu 'n d'rinn mi
gluasad
Gu 'm fàsainn uasal 'n uair 'thiginn ann.
An car a fhuair mi cha b' ann gu m' bhuannachd,
Tigh 'nn thar a' chuain air a' chuairt bha meallt'
Gu tir nan craobh anns nach 'eil an t-saorsainn
Gun mhart gun chaora 's mi dh' aodach gann.

12. Gur h-iomadh ceum anns am bi mi 'n déis
làimh
Mu 'n dean mi saibhir mo theachd-an-tir;
Bidh m' obair éigheach mu 'n toir mi feum aisd'
'S mu 'n dean mi réiteach airson a' chroinn:
Cur sgonn nan teintean air muin a chéile
Gu 'n d' lasaich féithean a bha nam dhruim,
'S a h-uile ball diom cho dubh a sealltainn,
Bidh mi 'gam shamhlachadh ris an t-suipe

13. Ge mòr an seanachas a bh' aca 'n Albainn
Tha 'chùis a dearbhadh nach robh e fìor:
Na dollair ghorma cha 'n fhaic mi falbh iad
Ged bha iad ainmeil a bh' 's an tìr.

Ma nìtear bargain cha 'n fhaighear airgid,
Ged 's éigin ainmneachadh anns a' phris,
Ma gheibhear cunnradh air feadh nam bùithean
Gu 'm pàighear null e le flùr no im.

14. Cha 'n fhaic mi margadh no latha féille
No iomainn feudalach ann an dròbh,
No nì 'ni feum dhuinn a measg a céile,
Tha 'n sluagh nan éigin 's a h-uile dòigh,
Cha chulaidh fharmaid iad leis an ainbhfhiach
A reic na shealbhacheas iad an còir ;
Bidh fear nam fiachan is cromadh cinn air
'Ga chur do 'n phrìosan mur diol e'n stòr.

15. Mu 'n tig na cùisean á taigh na cùrtach
Gu 'n téid an dùbhlachadh aig a' mhòd,
Tha 'n lagh a giùlan o làimh na jury
Gu 'n téid a spùinneadh 's nach fiù e'n còrr,
Bidh earraid siùbhlach air feadh na dùthcha
'G an ruith le cunntasaibh air an tòir ;
Gur mòr mo chùram gu 'n tig e 'm ionnsaidh,
Cha ghabh e diùltadh 's bidh diùbhail oirnn.

16. Cha 'n fhaigh mi innse dhuibh anns an dàn so
Cha dean mo nàdar a chur air dòigh
Gach fios a b' àill leam 'thoir do na càirdean
'S an tìr a dh' fhàg mi 'rinn m' àrach òg.
Gach aon a leughas e tuigibh reusan
'S na tugaibh éisdeachd do luchd a' bhòsd,
Na fàidhean bréige a bhios 'gur teumadh,
Gun aca 'spéis dhibh ach déigh 'ur n-òir.

17. Ged bhithinn dichìollach ann an sgrìobhadh
Gu 'n gabhainn miosa ris agus còrr
Mun 'n cuirinn crìoch air na bheil air m' inntinn
'S mu 'n tugainn dhuibh e le cainnt mo bheòil.
Tha mulad diomhair an déigh mo lionadh
Bho 'n 's éigin strìochdadh an so ri m' bheò,
Air bheag thoilinntinn 's a' choille chruinn so
Gun duine faighneachd an seinn mi ceòl.

18. Cha b'e sin m' àbhaist an tùs mo làithean
'S ann bhithinn ràbhartach aig gach bòrd,
Gu cridheil sunndach an comunn cùirteil
A ruith ar n-ùine gun chùram oirnn,
'N uair thug mi cùl ruibh bha mi 'gur n-ionndrainn
Gu 'n shìl mo shùilean gu dlùth le deòir,
Air moch Diar-daoin a dol seach an caolas
'S an long fo h-aodach 's a' ghaoth o'n chòrs'.

*(Iain MacGhillEathain (John MacLean), anns an:
Clarsach na Coille, 1881, dd.98-103)*

English Translation

7. When the winter comes and the time of
December
There will be snow [in] piles on the top of boughs
And deeply, doubly, going up to the knees
And no matter the quality of [your] trousers, they
will not be of use,

Without double stockings and ragged moccasins
[That] are tightly fastened with laces
That has been our new fashion with the cost of
skins
As they are peeled from the brutes of the south

8. If I am not knowledgeable with my dressing
My nose and my mouth would turn to ice
From the northern wind that is deadly and
freezing
My ears will be in sharp danger.
The freezing is dreadful, the axe won't stand it
[Cold] cruelly blasts [it], although it was sharp
If I don't keep warmth on it, the steel will break
[Then] without going to the tinker it won't strike a
blow

9. When summer comes and the month of May
The heat of the sun will make us weak
It takes the spirit from all the creatures
that are feeling sorrowful in their dens.
The bestial bears begin to rise up
To go through the flock so that the loss is great
And the poisonous black snouted fly
Wounds me constantly with [the] point of his sword

10. It is his bite that does my face [this] harm
I can't see the world, I am blind
So that my eyes fester with the power of its venom
The lap of its tongue is too venomous [and]
penetrating.
I won't [even] try to list for you in verse
Every foul beast that raises [its] head,
There are as many plagues on me as there were on
King Pharaoh
When he flooded their camp for the slaves.

11. Of the many changes coming to the world
I thought too little when I was across [the sea].
These were my thoughts then, before I made [the]
move
Of [a life of] high fashion when I came here
[But] the lot I got was not to my advantage
Coming across the sea on voyage (it was deceptive)
To the land of trees but not of freedom
Without cows, without sheep and me with few
clothes

12. Of the many steps that my hands [must]
accomplish
Before I am able to make my livelihood
My work will be hard before I have what I need
for it
And until I put together the plough.
Putting blocks in the fire, [one] on the other
Enflames the muscles which are in my back
And [with] every article of mine as black as [you]
see
I compare myself to the wisp.

13. No matter how great their stories in Scotland
[My] case shows that [they] were not true
I won't see the blue dollars, they've left
Although they were popular in th[is] land.
If a bargain shall be made, it won't include money
Although some may be named in the price
If a contract is taken through the shops
That shall be paid out with flour or butter

14. I won't see a market or a fair day
Or a fortune [of livestock] driving in the droves
Or anything we can make use of all together.
The whole population is in our distress in every way
They are not an object of envy, those with the debts
Selling the titles to what they own
The man of debts and [his] bowed head
Is taken to the prison if he doesn't pay the store

15. As for the legislation, it will come from the law-house

[Then] it will be doubled at the court
That law is borne from the hand of the jury
Then [people] will be robbed, and that's not all.
The quick sheriff [runs] across the country
Chasing people with [their] accounts
So that my concern is great that he will come to attack me
He won't accept refusal and [pardon] will be denied to us

16. I [can]’t get into it for you in this simple verse
My nature won't even attempt [to tell]
Every piece of news that I might desire given to the friends
And the land that I left [where my] youth was nurtured.
Everyone reading this, understand [my] reason
And don't give an ear to boasting people!
Nor to false prophets that would beguile you
Without having [any] respect for you except passion for your gold

17. Although I may be laborious in the writing
[And] I may spend a month and more on [this]
On putting an end on that which is in my mind
And on coming to you with a song of my tongue.
The secret grief has filled me
From this crippling difficulty in my life
[And] of [the very] few pleasures and this forest around [me]
Without anyone to hear the singing of my song

18. That was not my habit at the beginning of my days
There I would be ?acclaimed? at every table
Merry, light hearted [was] the courteous society
Our time running [by] without a care
When I look back on you it is with longing
My eyes dripped, drawing forth tear drops
On Thursday morning going out on the channel
The ship is set sail and the wind's from the coast

Lee Ramsay

Summary

This is part 2 of the poem 'A' Choille Ghruamach' (The Gloomy Wood), with a rough translation into English. Readers are invited to immerse themselves into the world of the 18th century colonist, and, at the end of the text, decide for themselves the value of Scottish Gaelic and its literature tradition. See the last issue for the introduction and textual notes.

How Scottish are the Royals?

Here's a question for you – is the British Royal Family pretending to be Scottish? You might have seen them, kilts a-swinging, photographed at Balmoral or the nearby Braemar Gathering, in a coach going down Edinburgh's High Street, or being driven around in a black limousine somewhere else. You may have seen Princess Anne singing *Flower of Scotland* at Murrayfield, Prince Michael of Kent looking bewildered at the Mod, or heard Her Maj being invoked in some football stadium or another. If you watch the television, you may have seen Prince Charles wrapping his tonsils round the Gàidhlig, or cutting peat in the Hebrides. You probably know his son went to St Andrews University, his niece was married in Edinburgh and that the Royal Yacht is berthed in Leith.

And even if you have had none of those experiences, then you will definitely walked past plaques commemorating one of them opening something or other, seen their coat of arms on a building (and forgotten it) or seen the Royal whatever, even if it's the collecting boxes for the RNLI (in the shape of a lifeboat) or the RNIB (in the shape of a guide dog). Even the great dissident gets a look in, because while Scotland never really experienced those Evita-esque paroxysms over the death of Diana, you can still buy “her” tartan, from various kitsch merchants in central Edinburgh. This is despite the fact she couldn't stand Scotland, and preferred Alton Towers.

I think their basic problem is that they try and claim connections to a ridiculous number of places. The British Royals don't just wear kilts, they have been

photographed holding spears, South Sea garlands, and holding Zulu shields, on any number of their vigorous, expensive and somewhat clichéd international tours. According to the BBC, on recent royal tours of Quebec and the Republic of Ireland, only a “tiny minority” of people objected to their presence. Aye right... Window dressing does not make you grant you a nationality or background. Donning a grass skirt does not make you Polynesian, a few words in Cymraeg does not make you Welsh, wearing a yarmulke does not make you Jewish... wearing a kilt does not make you Scottish. It is not that simple. It is also incredibly patronising to these various peoples and backgrounds to assume one or two gestures somehow makes you part of their culture, anymore than eating a curry makes a person omniscient about South Asia. Don't get me wrong here, I do have an interest in Māori art, Welsh language activism and Jewish literature, but to be any part of any of these cultures I would have to put in a lot of effort, gain a lot of experience, and be respectful. Not to mention living in or around them on a long term basis.

Since their claim is based mainly on ancestry, it is worth examining that ancestry. For almost anyone else, this might be considered racist, but *it is their own criterion*. The main connection to Scotland, on which their claim is based, is very weak. Apart from the fact that it relies on excluding about fifty other claimants, such as Duke Franz of Bavaria, mainly on the basis of religion, it is a line which left Scotland in 1603. That line (through numerous twists and turns, such as the Hanoverians and House of Orange) did not visit Scotland in a state capacity for nearly two centuries after that. This connection is an extremely weak and tenuous one. Elizabeth, and her children, has a much better claim to a Scottish background through Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (“the Queen Mother”), a Scottish aristocrat. But despite her posturing, and being called “the Queen Mother” (a title created at her own request), Bowes-Lyon was not royal, and the Scottish throne does not come down through her.

The Scottish connections of the British Royal Family are just a tiny part of an incredibly diverse tapestry. To use post-modern jargon, they've got “hybridity” going on all over the place. It's an open secret that their ancestry is probably more



Sham Scots with tartan rug and kilts.

ENGLISH QUEEN IN SCOTLAND

German/Austrian than anything else, but they've also got significant links to Russia, Greece (Phillip), France (numerous), Holland (Orange) and beyond. There are even more exotic links – how many people are aware that the reigning monarch is a direct descendant of Muhammad?

Many notable people are distant relatives of the British royal family, including the likes of most American presidents, Oliver Cromwell, Robert the Bruce, Brian Boru and Oswald Mosley. Conspiracy theorists can say all they like about these connections, but they misunderstand the nature of heredity. Each of us may have only four grandparents, but we also have thirty two great-great-great-grandparents, and that number doubles every generation we go back. By the time one goes back a thousand years, we're talking about ridiculous numbers of ancestors. Some of these will be the same people (in different lines), but it is still mind boggling. Because of this, almost every member of the human race has at least some blue blood, and they will also have peasant ancestry. And unless it's written down, we aren't to know about such factors as rape, adultery, fornication or even the swapping of babies in our ancestry. The Royals are no different, except that their ancestry is much better recorded than ours. Many Scots and Irish are descended from Somerled, or Niall of the Nine Hostages. In Asia, at least 30 million people are descended from Genghis Khan, and I can guarantee that there's probably a good few living here as well. Elizabeth is one of the many millions of Europeans descended from Charlemagne, and through him, Attila the Hun.

What about popularity, or their frequent visits to Scotland? It's true currently enjoy more support here than any other royal claimants, including Michael of Albany and Duke Franz. But most of them, including Charles, Elizabeth, Harry and William (since leaving university) do not live here full time. They can never have a normal social experience with people in Scotland either. At best, they have holiday homes here. Popularity is something incredibly different to measure, but it fluctuates. It seems at least some of the old royal obsessives have transferred their "interests" onto more glamorous celebrities. However, they have attempted to marry into glamour in more recent times, à la Monaco. Diana Spencer lent Prince Charles the charisma he lacked, and the attractive Kate Middleton was probably allowed to marry in on such a basis.

Ray Bell

Regarding the English Queen's State visit to Scotland or was it, as one observer commented, a travelling circus? One of her stops was in the town of Greenock in the administrative area of Inverclyde. Here a strange ritual took place; all Scottish flags were removed from any public buildings etc and replaced by a political emblem, the Union Jack, The Butcher's Apron. The flag of a defunct empire, and which was probably, at one time, the most hated and feared flag throughout the world.

Its greatest infamy was when it flew above the first concentration camps in what was termed the Anglo / Boer War. Thousands of non-combatants, mostly women and children and their black farm hands and servants perished in those camps, later copied by the Nazis in World War II. Many evil Nazi War criminals were tried and executed, but the Anglo / Brits were never brought to trial for their war crimes. Why not you ask? The answer is simple; the Victors always write the history books, and when those War Criminals took over South Africa they quickly removed all those places of British Imperial Genocide. The flag of shame that flew above those camps of misery and deprivation was none other than the Union Jack.



Boer Child

One of the English generals whose brainchild those camps were was Lord Kitchener. Yes the same guy you see in the famous World War I poster pointing to say "Your Country Needs You". Henceforth droves of brainwashed lads, many underage, went to die under that flag of shame, not for a cause but for a family argument between three full cousins and all grandsons of the Concentration Monarch, Queen Victoria. What a shambles of history.



Memorial to the mothers and children who died in Krugersdorp Concentration Camp.

It should be admitted that the Union (I'm all right Jack) Flag of shame, was probably only once on what one could term, the right side in World War II, against Hitler's Third Reich. However in all actions previous and since, its credibility has been in grave doubt and its very legality in strong contention. Each time it is re-designed you can clearly see that the English Cross gets larger and wider, whilst the blue of Scotland is relegated to the periphery. So much so that when a young soldier's coffin returns from Afghanistan with the flag on top, you can clearly see the re-design. This is not a coincidence, and has to say the least, sinister implications. It says this may be a union but don't forget whose boss!!!

In the Anglo / Brit invasion of 1746, The Scottish Saltire was also hauled down and the same union rag put up in its place at bayonet point, and therefore becoming an emblem of occupation. Let's pray and trust that in 2014, the people of Scotland vote for Independence and reinstate the Scottish Flag and tell England at long last to mind its own business. Like the Swastika or the Hammer and Sickle, the Butcher's Apron can be lowered and consigned to the historical dustbin of obsolete political emblems.

Referring to Scotland, his country, Robert Burns said:

**"WHAT ARE THE BOASTED
ADVANTAGES OF THE UNION
THAT CAN COUNTERBALANCE
THE ANIHILLATION OF
HER INDEPENDENCE AND
EVEN HER VERY NAME".**

Next year I hope to lay a wreath of remembrance on the monument in Krugersdorp, South Africa to the victims of the British Concentration Camps, many whom were of Celtic origin, many Scots, Irish, Welsh, Cornish and Manx. They were also farmers defending their homes - after all Boer simply means Farmer.

Iain Ramsay

Scotland's Biggest Taboo?

Part 1

"Although colonised by the English, Scotland has long refused to consider itself as anything other than a separate country, and it has bound itself to historical fact and legend alike in an effort to retain national identity." - Encyclopædia Britannica (1)

Colonisation, Colonialism, Colony, Colonial. The concept of Scotland as "colony" is one of the biggest taboos in Scottish politics and historiography. If you hear these words at all in a Scottish context, it's nearly always to do with Scots overseas, or the profits Scots made in the British Empire, e.g. the book *Scotland's Empire*. (2) But it's not the overseas Empire I'm interested in here, it's the Near Abroad. Can we call Scotland a colony?

Few Scots would accept the idea of Scotland as a colony. This is for two main reasons, firstly their pride – Scotland is supposed to be a country in a union, not a conquered one – and secondly the definition – Scotland's not supposed to fit it. Even the politicians who *are* willing to discuss the exploitation of Scotland in the Union never use the word "colony". It's a taboo – supposedly colonialism happened *out there*, beyond Europe, it didn't happen within it. Yet no respectable historian, or politician for that matter, would ever deny Russia, Turkey and Austria had sizeable empires *in Europe* during and after the 19th century.

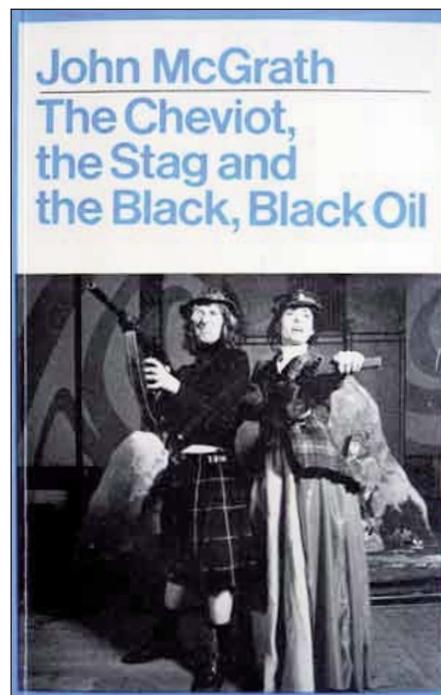
These days, you won't see "colonialism" used much in a contemporary context. Instead, diplomats, politicians and journalists the world over use euphemisms such as "overseas territory", "province", "dependency" or even "region" for colonies. Examples of textbook colonialism may be far less common than they were a century ago, but they do still exist – French Guiana, Guam, Tibet, and Tahiti all spring to mind. These are much more extreme examples of colonialism than what we have here. Oddly enough, the same diplomacy is not reserved for self-determination – major English language publications such as *Time*, *National Geographic*, or *The Journal of International Affairs* use pejoratives such as "separatist", "breakaway", "insurgent" or "rebel" for such movements, depending on the level of violence involved. Hegemony's not in it.

At a passing glance, many of the trademarks of British colonial rule just aren't there. Scotland has neither a lieutenant governor, nor a governor general. It *does* have representatives in Westminster, and Brussels, and it *does* have a devolved parliament. The British

Royal Family claims Scottish roots. People from Scotland have become leading figures in British politics, the last three British prime ministers – Cameron, Blair and Brown – all have some kind of Scottish background. Scotland was more similar to England, than say, Jamaica, Canada, New Zealand or Hong Kong. Its indigenous people were white Christian Europeans, with a similar level of technology. Some of the population already spoke a Germanic language. This allowed Scots to assimilate in ways that Indians, Chinese, or Africans could not. Do these factors mean Scotland was/is not a colony?

Here are some of the traits of colonialism in brief -

- * Exploitation of resources, particularly mineral, e.g. Australia (numerous), Zambia (copper); general economic exploitation, although it should be noted that many colonies do *not* make a profit for their colonisers, e.g. American Samoa, which was taken mainly because of the USA's Pacific expansion, and as a



The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil
Originally staged by the 7:84 Theatre Company, the play tells of the exploitation of the Scottish Highlands from 1746 until 1973, the suppression of the clans, the Clearances and the oil boom of the 70s

refuelling/repair base for ships, not economic benefits.

- * Absorption of that country's élite or aristocracy, by force, assimilation or purchase e.g. Ireland, India etc mainly by private education.
- * Denigration of the pre-existing local culture(s) and languages achieved by various means, most commonly the education system, and/or media. Promotion of the coloniser's own culture and values as being superior.
- * Large scale in-migration by the coloniser. This does not happen in all colonies, and is probably less apparent in Scotland, than say, Canada or Australia.
- * Population transfer. The use of colonial populations to fight, work in and/or hold down a third territory, e.g. Scots in Quebec, Indians in Africa, the black slave trade in the Caribbean. Sometimes this is voluntary, sometimes completely forced.
- * Territorial or strategic importance e.g. Guam in relation to continental Asia or the Falklands in relation to the Antarctic and Cape Horn. Scotland's territorial importance relates to the North Sea (and by extension the Baltic), and North Atlantic (and by extension the Arctic Ocean/Norwegian Sea). This was particularly important during the Cold War.
- * The idea that the colony in question is actually being helped by the coloniser, and needs it to be there for its own good. Many people in the colonising nation actually believe this, and people in the colonised nation internalise this notion as well.

Within Scotland, we can see some fairly similar processes. Until recently – and this is changing – the Scottish aristocracy quite literally had an English accent. The Scotsmen on the make such as Lord Reith, and Robert Watson-Watt sometimes had Scottish accents, but watered down ones. The aristocracy would send its children to English public schools, like the maharajahs, and failing that, to their Scottish imitators, many of which still exist.

The worst brutality in modern Scottish history was centuries ago, occurring between the Union of the Crowns (1603) and the radical revolts and Clearances of the early 19th century. There were other events before and after that of course. Before the Wars of Independence, England, and the Anglo-Normans made considerable inroads into Scotland and managed to marginalise Celtic culture in many areas, plant burghs of English,

continued on page 23



Breizh



**12 vloaz eo
Breizh-Bro-Skos !**

Diwan e-KerneVeur

Ur strollad eus skol Plijidi a zo bet oc'h ober un droiad e Kerne-Veur e-kerz miz Mae, eno o deus eskemmet enno kanaouennoù ha gerioù brezhoneg hag gerioù kerneveureg gant bugale eus ar c'hentañ derez. E miz Ebrel, D. Veillon, kelenner e skolaj Diwan Plijidi dipitet bras dre m'a oa nullet un abadenn aozet ganti e-pad pell ganti evit ar veaj da Gerne-Veur. Dre glask ha furchal war ar rouedad Deirdre he doa kavet ur skol kerneveureg. Divizet o doa mont e darempred gant unañ eus ar renerien evit gouzout a gellout a refent eskemm gant ar skol-se. Laouenn oa R. Tal-E-Bot, rener ar skol, da zigemer ar vretonek. Lavaret a reas da D. Veillon ne veze kelenet kerneveureg

Rhisiart Tal-E-Bot evit an aozadur e-giz divskouarn. Kinniget o deus kanaouennoù aes da gannañ asamblez. Displeget en deus e oa ar brezhoneg hag ar kerneveureg diouzh yezh-kar, o tont eus ar memes skourr yezhoù keltiek. Souezet e oa kelennerien Vreizh o klevet pegen heñvel oa ar gerioù brezhoneg ouzh ar gerioù kerneveureg.

Pell zo emañ D. Veillon, hag hi amerikanez, o vevañ hag o labourat e Breizh! Deirdre Veillon, ur vaouezh eus America o deus bevet ha labourat e-Breizh ! lavaret e deus: "Laouenn-tre oa ar vreizhiz o vont e darempred gant bugale vihan gouest da gomz ha da ganañ en hor yezh. Dre-se eo bet plijus ha dedenus ar veaj. Kelenez war ar saozneg



Deirdre Veillon, Diwan teacher, with some of the Cornish and Breton students

nemet d'ar sadorn. Youl o doa ar rener sikour Deirdre. Setu ma lakeas anezhi e darempred gant Penponds skol e ker Camborne. Ar skol-mañ a asantas digemer skolajidi Diwan d'ar pevar a viz Mae goude kreisteiz.

Kalz yaouankoc'h oa bugale Penponds eget krennard Diwan. Daoust da se o doa c'hoant ar gerneveuriz yaouank diskouez da skolajidi Diwan pegen barrek e oant war o yezh. Da gentañ, ur wech en em gavet er skol e oa aet ar vretonek en ur c'has el lec'h ma voe kanet ur ganaouenn da zihuniñ. Goude-se o vezañ ma oa tomm an amzer ha niverus ar vugale ez oant aet er-maez war al liorzh c'hoari. Eno o doa an daou strollad kanet a-bep eil, pep hini en e yezh. Skolaer eo

eo Deirdre e Plijidi war zu Gwengamp. Ar skolaj- nemeañ a zo en Aodoù an Arvor. Bremañ emañ-hi o klask ur skolaj er vro Kembre pe Kerne-Veur evit kas war-raok liammoù e kenver yezh ha sevenadur.

SUMMARY

Teenage students from Skolaj Plisidi went on a visit to Cornwall where they had the opportunity to meet with Cornish students attending Penponds School in Camborne. The two groups exchanged songs and learnt some basic language skills from each other. Thanks to Rhisiart Tal-e-Bot the students were able to discover how close the Breton and Cornish languages are.

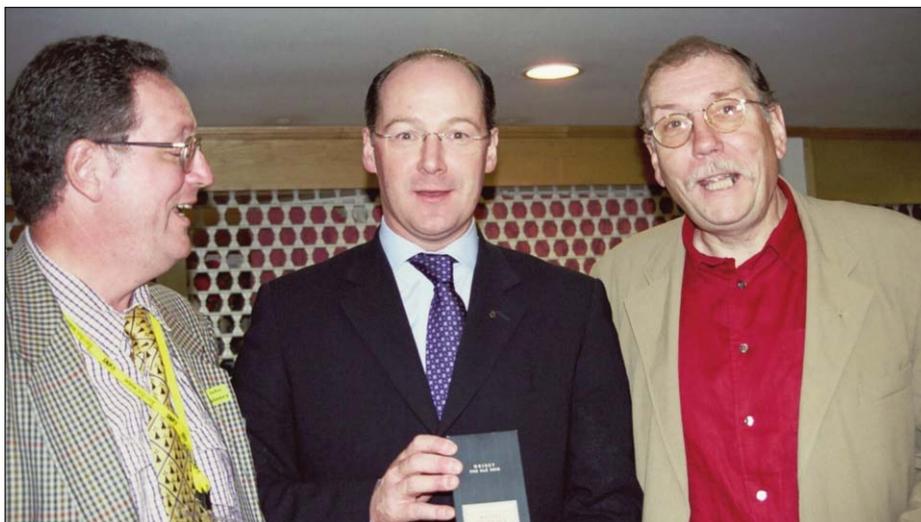
E-kreiz ar bloavezhiennoù 80, yantao, e voe bet loc'het un danvez kevredigezh etre Breizh ha Bro-Skos gant un nebeut Breizhiz tomm o c'halon gant o c'hendirvi tramor. A-benn ar fin e oa er bloavezh 2000, gant sikour ar gevredigezh gentañ, e voe bet krouet da vad Breizh-Bro-Skos.

D'ar poent-se e oa ar gevredigezh nemetiñ a oa he fal an darempredoù etrekeltiek. Hiziv an deiz ar strollad a lid e 12 vloaz. N'eo ket fall ar wiki, avat ! Ha petra a zo ennañ ? Er c'hontrol-mik eus ar c'hevredigezhioù koshoc'h, Breizh-Bro-Skos, er penn kentañ, ne oa ket he fal gevelliñ kêrioù an div vro. Ha mat hor boa graet ? Forzh penaos ne oa ket kreñv ar goulenn gevelliñ. Marteze emañ re bell an eil bro diouzh eben ? Pe n'emañ ket ar pennoù bras war an dachenn ? Marteze an doare da ober n'eo ket diouzh ar c'hiz ken ?

Bepred e oa bet enskrivet ar pal-se war statudoù ar gevredigezh. Kredapl-bras eo uheloc'h an eskemmoù etre Breizh ha Bro-Skos. Anv a oa da sikour ha da ziorren an darempredoù sevenadurel, ekonomikel ha melestradurel etre mignoned ha studierien an div vro geltiek.

Hag ar bilañs war-lerc'h 12 vloaz ? Ma'z eus bet kaoudoù ez eus bet kentelioù ivez da dennañ diwar an amzer-se. Adalek ar penn-kentañ, skipailh Breizh-Bro-Skos en deus hetet sevel ur rouedad tud e Bro-Skos. Ar remañ, hag int a-youl-vat, hervez o dudioù a zo gouest da sikour hor mignoned eus Breizhda vezañ heñchet ha bodet digoust pe get. Tu zo ivez lakaat sevel raktresoù e Bro-Skos. Evel-just, n'eo ket aes atav rak ar rollad diskriverien skos a cheñch a vloaz da vloaz. Daoust ma'z eo bihan niver an izili (Ha gwir eo ?), ur rouedad a seurt-se n'eo ket bet savet evit poent e Breizh. Dipitus eo !

E-pad ar bloavezh kentañ an traoù o doa bet kroget mat. Ar Prezidant en doa c'hoariet an dro da letioù ha da bretioù Din-Edin. Hag a-benn ar fin : Un dek a liseidi bennak eus Kemper o doa kavet ur staj micherel e kêrbenn Bro-Skos. Da c'houde, evit ober ar memes tra e Breizh, tud Breizh-Bro-Skos o deus kavet sapre skoilh ! Evit gwir ar stajoù en embregerezhioù n'int ket aozet er memes doare amañ hag e Breizh-Veur. E Frañs e vez savet stajoù berr, padal en tu all da Vor-Breizh e vez savet stajoù hir hag a bep eil. Ar pezh a seblant bezañ efedusoc'h. Goude un arnod hag ur bloavezh o labourat en un embregerezh, ar stajidi a ya en-dro d'o studi. Dre-se ar re yaouank (hag ar re goshoc'h boaz da zeskiñ ha da addeskiñ) a zo stummet mat evit mont war marc'had al labour e pelec'h m'eo dav bezañ prest atav. Gant-se, ma'z eo deuet a-benn Breizh-Bro-Skos da gas un nebeut studierien d'ober staj war bed an touristerezh, peurgetket, e-pad an hañvezh



Per Deligniere, John Swinney and Rob Gibson
(Courtesy Per Deligniere)

2008, eo bet kaset kentoc'h studierien war ar skiantoù politikel eus Skol-Veur Roazhon davet Parlamant Bro-Skos.

War-fed ar sevenadur, ar gevredigezh n'eo ket chomet da straniñ. Skipailh Breizh-Bro-Skos en deus sikouret sevel raktresoù bras, e-giz :Saloñs Etrebroadel Levrioù an Inizi en Eusa e 2007 pa oa bet degemeret Bro-Skos war an ton bras, pe e Begerel e 2008 pa oa bet degemeret ar vro da-geñver Gouel al Levrioù. Evit an daou saloñs-se ar gevredigezh he doa roet hec'h alioù hag he barrezhioù. Lakaet he doa he rouedad e pleustr evit degemer ha bodañ ar skrivagnerien, an arnodennerien, ar varzhed hag an arzourien e Breizh.

Izili zo o deus savet prezegennoù ha diskouezadegoù diwar-benn ar broadoù keltiek. Hor c'hevredigezh a zo lorc'h enni da vezañ lakaet war sav he raktresoù dezhi, peurgetket, o tiskouez Breizh e Bro-Skos: e S. Andrev hag e Din-Edin (Carn152).

Evit echuiñ, arabat eo disoñjal e vrud ingal ar gevredigezh hec'h izili a grou, pa vefent troet war ar seniñ evel Tristan Le Govic pe Alix Quoniann, pe pa vefent troet war ar skrivañ evel Kristin Luca, Kamilh Manfredi ha Beatris Balti.

Breizh-Bro-Skos a zo aet ivez war-zu ekonomiezh hon div vro ar Wareg Atlantel. Da heul 'produet e Breizh' ha labelioù all, e seblant posubl da lakaat da anaout embregerezhioù all, tro-spered kevelourel ha rouedadel dezho. Soñjal a reomp en heuliad ar mor, er pesketaerezh, e treuzfurmiñ ar produioù douar, pe c'hoazh er gremmoù padus. Diwar-benn ar gremmoù-se ez eus lañs bras gant Bro-Skos pa vez anv eus an enklaskoù hag ivez eus ar produiñ greantel. Petra 'virfe kenlabourat ha marteze, war traoù 'zo, krouiñ labelioù etrekeltiek ? Dre-se, e 2008, e-pad dek dervezh festival al levrioù Wigtown (anezhi kêr-benn al levrioù e-giz Begerel) skipailh Breizh-Bro-Skos en deus dalc'het ur stand produioù Breizh perzh mat enno pourchaset gant un dek embregerezh bennak. Eno e oa bet kavet boued lipous evel gwispid, fourmaj-kig

aozet er gêr pe wiski ar vro gant malt ha gwinizh-du (Eddu/ 'Strillherezh ar Peulvanioù' e Ploveilh). Buan hag aes e oa bet distaliet ar stand ! Siwazh eo deuet an enkadenn da zigalonekaat tud nevez mennet. Ur c'hilpleg o deus graet an embregerezhioù war-zu marc'had an diabarzh. Ur goulnenn all a zo : penaos ur gevredigezh, an arc'hant berr o lost ganti dre ma'z eo dister ar skoazell digant an embregerezhioù, a vefe gouest da ziorren hec'h-unan-penn raktresoù ekonomikel a seurt-se? Daoust ha n'eo gouest nemet da ober kinnigoù, prizidigezhioù ha lakaat an dud da gejañ an eil ouzh egile?

Breizh-Bro-Skos a zo bet atav dedennet gant an ensavadurioù. Hon eilprezidant, Rob Gibson e anv, hag eñ skosat, a zo bet dilennet kannad e Parlamant e vro. Penaos chom dievezh ouzh ar pezh a zo o c'hoarvezout e Bro-Skos pa'z eo bet raktreset ur referendom istorel da vare diskar-amzer 2014 da c'houlenn ma vefe dizalc'h pe get ar vro. Dalc'homp soñj ez eo an SNP o ren war Bro-Skos ! Dre-se, e-kerzh ar bloavezh 2008, Breizh-Bro-Skos he doa prientet ur c'hendiviz dirak ar mediaoù etre Rob Gibson hag ur c'hannad breizhat (gall, pa lavarer mat) diwar-benn an dereiñ mod Breizh-Veur hag an digreizennañ mod bro Frañs. D'ho soñj, piv a oa ar c'helenner ha piv a oa an deskard ?

Per Deligniere

Summary

The twinning Breizh-Alba has reached its twelfth year. From the outset the aim was to develop exchanges between people and businesses. A number of exchanges were successful between various educational institutions with the best result coming from Breton students involved in political studies in Roazhon who had long term work experience in the Scottish Parliament. The association has also organised and taken part in many different cultural events in Breizh and in Scotland.

An ERER-KOZH: 20 years on – A Major Musical and Social Success!

AN ERER-KOZH, (Les Vieilles Charrues) by Yves Colin. Published by Coop Breizh: <http://www.coop-breizh.fr/> Price: €30 plus post and packing.

The book, the “Old-Ploughs” i.e. “ERER-KOZH” by Y. Colin is a *must* for the Breton militants of the sixties. The ERER-KOZH has become a symbol of a success story with regards to music and social life. This festival manages to give “HOPE” to the Breton people of Central Brittany and to all Bretons. Yes... it's possible to exist outside of Paris!!!

We must keep in mind that the “Old-Ploughs”, set in the countryside of Karaez in the Poher County started in opposition to the “Old-Boats” festival in the navy port of Brest. This maritime event takes place every four years attracting thousands of boats. This huge show is part of a communications exercise by the French Navy to demonstrate its nuclear capabilities. Whilst this NATO show got a lot of public funding, the students of Central Brittany had huge difficulties to get even a few coins. The challenge, taken up by a few students in the 90's, willing to “live, work and have fun” at home in Central Brittany has changed the future of Brittany. The orange revolution, backed by the Christian trade-union CFDT started during this period. Both Kristian Troadec and J.Y. LeDrian were in support of this political revolution. As time passed the festival showed its commitment to these values. The strike by the musicians and technicians in 2003, succeeded in stopping big festivals directly linked to Paris, like Avignon or the Francophonies (cf.:FranceInter Radio).

The volunteers of the ERER-KOZH were opposed to the banning of their festival. Yann Rivoal, the manager at that time, said: “...it was the whole community of Central Brittany who was backing the festival ... it was a very strong emotion...” At the end of the day the artists could express their claims and the ERER-KOZH became a positive place for them and the festival. Today there are more than 5,000 volunteers coming from about 100 clubs or associations. As the ERER-KOZH now has more than 200,000 visitors it is making a profit; usually some €100.000 which is distributed to the different clubs. The festival itself still has a few goals to achieve, like Diwan-lise and Kerampuilh Castel, Kreizh-Breizh memories, GlenMor's Music-Hall and is now a centre to promote the festival as well as Central Brittany. As K. Troadec said, “we were not able to ignore this success story”. In order to celebrate this

French elections: President and MPs

One year ago the French political system favoured the two main parties: the Gaullist and Socialist Party who represented 20 to 30% of the votes. Without proportionality in the system, only deals between groups can help the smaller parties to gain some representation in the Congress. For more than a decade now the National Front (N.F. /F.N.) represented about 15% of the vote. On the other side, the Left Front (L.F. /F.G.) with the Communist Party (C.P. /P.C.) gained some 5 to 10%. The centre is split between two parties: The Gaullist party (UMP) integrated with the New Centre and most of the apparatchiks, which represented about 10%. Against, the UMP and N. Sarkozy, the orange movement, MoDEM, led by F. Bayrou represented about 10%. In the previous presidential election he gained 18%! .The others under 5%!!!

From the start the Socialist Party (S.P.) looked to be in a better position than N. Sarkozy, who had to face the financial crisis of 2008. Otherwise, with two primaries on the left side (Green and S.P.) the French population participated, favouring the democratic processes. There's some hope for the future, in a state where they are at the same time suspicious about the politicians lobbies and fond of politics.

During the primaries we had two surprises. On the green side the lawyer E. Joly beat N. Hulot a well-known TV producer (USHUAÏA). On the socialist side the sex scandals surrounding DSK in New York knocked out the main socialist contender as well as the second one as the G.S., M. Aubry

AN ERER-KOZH (Cont.)

success, Jeff Moran, Woodstock's Mayor came to Karaez last year.

The book is full of wonderful photographs and souvenirs of local or international artists like Joan Baez and Bruce Springsteen who spent "just a perfect day"...in Central Brittany. Ben Harper found just the perfect flag...the Breton one!!! Amongst others Iggy Pop, James Brown and Deep Purple also did well.

On the French side Yannick Noah and Johnny Halliday are featured and on the Celtic side, Alan Stivell, Shane McGowan and the Breudeurs Morvan with the Bronx-band etc. This is just a wonderful book full of memories for the fans who have attended over the years and it is full of some really good images for any reader. The texts are short but go a long way to explain this success-story. This book should be an essential read for the Breton people who hope to live and have fun in Central Brittany - and in the region as a whole.

Gi Keltik.

had a political agreement with DSK!!! Once more we must give our thanks to the foreign journalists for their coverage regarding this matter. We notice that the French press, in Paris, did not mention anything about DSK nor F. Mitterand's daughter Mazarine!!! Therefore, F. Hollande, the former General Secretary (Soc.Dem.) appeared to be the best candidate for the socialist voters.

The last round this year confirmed the two challengers: F. Hollande v. N. Sarkozy. N. Sarkozy started very late in order to profit from the meeting with the leaders of G8 or E.U., especially A. Merkel who is also in the PPE. Anyway, F. Hollande held onto the lead after the TV debate. Therefore, N. Sarkozy took his stance and leant to the right and focused on security and immigration, in order to gain the N.F. vote. As a consequence, F. Bayrou the leader of the centre (MoDEM=9%) decided to vote for F. Hollande. At the end of the day F. Holland beat N. Sarkozy by 1.5%!!! After seventeen years of government under the Gaullists parties and allies, the Socialist-Party is now in control to bring in a new era.

First of all we must keep in mind the fact that the French political system is very centralised and bipartisan. This type of organisation, without any proportional system of voting, is not democratic because the minorities were excluded under the Gaullist leadership. In order to be able to carry out his programme President Hollande needed about 300 MPs on his side. Of course 300 MPs from the Socialist Party would be ideal as he would then not have to depend on the Greens or the communist Left Front. The situation is very special, with a long process starting at the beginning of the century, when the S.P. gained power in most of the regions and a bit later most of the cities. As a consequence, they were in control of the Senate since 2010. One should keep in mind that unlike the USA, the Senate is not the most important chamber. Anyway, they needed to finish the job and win the parliamentary election.

Following his election success President Hollande appointed J.M. Ayrault to form the new government. The new members include four from Breizh. First of all the Mayor of Naoned, J.M. Ayrault then the President, J.Y. LeDrian (Defence!), M. Lebranchu (Devolution), B. Hamon (Consumer Affairs) I will add a typical Breton family name: St. LeFoll (Agriculture etc.). At the end of the day Breizh has a few ministers which is a huge change from the government under N. Sarkozy who had difficulties in coping with the Breton people and had no Breton ministers. We must also bear in mind however that J.M. Ayrault is opposed to the reunification of Loire Atlantique with Breizh. J.Y. LeDrian is very much in favour of the

Breton culture, However he is now head of Defence and therefore the French navy and army and I have some misgivings that he may have moved to the dark side. Only time will tell...

B. Hamon, from Brest, previous speaker for the S.P., is close to the communist Left Front. This Jacobin leader lives in Paris!!! M. Lebranchu who did not take Y.B. Thomin (S.P.) on her side and did attack C. Troadec (B.W.R.) during the regional elections is in charge of our most important goal: Devolution. We must remember that the budget of the French regions is about 1 billion Euros, like in Breizh. Nothing to do with what is going on in the other European regions!!! As agriculture is still the mainstay of the Breton economy we should be happy that St. LeFoll is in charge... but as the social challenges are huge we will have to wait and see. Charles Doux, of Groupe Doux, Europe's largest producer of poultry, launched the first economic battle...

The Presidency started with F. Hollande's stating his resolve that all should be *normal*, as a consequence the PMs will have more powers than under N. Sarkozy. Like in USA, N. Sarkozy was the leader and the PMs and Government were under his control. In the "normal" French political system, the PM is supposed to protect the President if things go wrong so the President can change PMs to safeguard position until the next elections...



Pol Molac

In the first round of elections for the MPs there was a strong move towards the socialist side. Pol Molac, with the help of J.Y. LeDrian (S.P.), the Greens and the UDB succeeded in winning in his constituency (cf.: Carn 152). Christian Troadec gained 20%, doing quite well for the new regionalist party (BWR). In so far as he was in favour of F. Hollande he asked for transfer votes for the S.P. Therefore he sent his dear enemy to Paris...far from Central Brittany!!!

Yves Pelle, the President of the other regionalist party (S.B) had more difficulties in Dinan and did not reach the 5%. Otherwise, we had a few surprises, especially in Penn Ar Bed (29) where all the MPs were on the left!!! J.L. Bleunven, mayor of Plabenneg, close to BWR, beat M. Lamour

Dastum Celebrates its Fortieth Year

Founded in 1972, the association Dastum, has succeeded in putting together an massive sound data bank of Breton popular music collected over the last four decades. To mark its fortieth year Dastum is organising about forty events throughout Breizh -5.

Dastum, means 'to collect, anthology' and a dastumer is the man or woman who gathers the information. It is also the name of the cultural association which undertook this work these last decades in Breizh. According to the former manager of the interceltic festival of Lorient, J.P. Pichard, no money had been invested in popular music and culture in Breizh..

A team of passionate people, mainly bag pipers, like: M. Premorvan, Y. Berthou, D. Lhermine and P. Crepillon decided to put



together different tape recordings they had gathered in Breizh. They started a sound data bank for their fellow pipers as well as the younger generation. In the minds of the founders, it should be a real tape library for Brittany. The situation, at that time was severe and with no concessions from the authorities. When J. Ferrat was singing: 'La Montagne', it was difficult to transmit a rich and diversified heritage as the youth from the countryside faced a lot of problems.

Collect, keep and transmit

In 1973, Dastum published a record of collected songs and stories and introduced a method of classification for the tapes recorded. As time went by the discography of Dastum expanded. In 1979, with its partner SKV (Sonerien ha Kanerien Vreizh), they started the newspaper "Musique Bretonne" with the aim of distributing new ideas and information. As a result Dastum became the top association in the Breton Cultural Movement.

In 1978, the Breizh Cultural Charter was introduced and later in 1982 the ministerial

office of Culture overseeing popular music came into being. Thus Dastum gained more credibility as a professional body. Their headquarters were transferred to Roazhon and Dastum opened local offices, which gave it roots at ground level. Today we have Dastum-Bro-Dreger, Dastum-Bro-Leon, Dastum-Bro-Gerne, Dastum-Bro-Erec and Dastum-Loier Atlantique, which works with other federations with similar goals, like La Boueze in Bro-Roazhon, Ti ar Vretoned in Paris, the Center M. LeBris in St-Caradeg and The Breton Cultural Group of Bro-Vilaine.

Now the association proposes to publish some 30,000 recordings. The oldest comes from the singer and storyteller M. Fulup from Bro-Dreger as well as recordings from F. Valle, The library of Breton songs gets about 15,000 items and the photographic library has more than 25,000 negatives.

Dastum today is in a strong position to celebrate its 40 years. The top event will take place in Lanrivain, with a mega Fest-Noz in November, to echo the candidacy proposed by Dastum for the Fest-Noz to be recognised at UNESCO as a non-material cultural heritage, and there will be a meeting about the non-material cultural heritage of Breizh at Brest University, in December. **Happy Birthday Dastum!**

Thierry Jigourel

FRENCH ELECTIONS (Cont.)

from the right wing in the constituency of Brest-Rural. Therefore, on the first day in the Parliament, we could listen to two young MPs speaking Breton on television!!! Something new which gave some hope for the future actions in favour of the European Charter for Lesser Spoken Languages. Next door, in the constituency of Landerne, in rural Leon, J. LeGwen, a close friend of D. Villepin who is an old enemy of N. Sarkozy was beaten by an unknown socialist contender C. Guittet. Her supporter, Guy Mordret, businessman and member of K.E.B. (Klub an Embregerezhioù Breizh) is an active promoter of Breton culture.

At the end of the day, Breizh was more than ever on the left political side. The socialists and their friends managed to get more than 300 MPs. The Green and the Left Front will have a group at the Parliament with 15 MPs or more. The National Front, (18% in the Presidential elections) got only two MPs, thanks to the UMP party who did not accept any deal, as a whole. Anyway, it's a democratic problem when a party which represent more than 15% of the voters cannot have elected members for more than 10 years!!! Proportionality should be put in the electoral system in the future. It will help the regionalist parties to exist and improve their goals.

The PM excluded the communists lobby of the L.F., but included two ministers from the Green Party, in his team. That is in line with the Social-Democracy that F. Hollande is trying to develop in France, decades after Germany or Great-Britain. On the political field, F. Hollande and his government are in line with the programme they promote.

The international meetings in EU or G20 are in line with the goals of the President. So, wait and see after the summer in order to have some real ideas of the French political realities... for Brittany.

Gi Keltik



SPORTS: Inter Celtic Links

Photo: From left, Kevin Owens, Pádraic Quinn (Velotec), Colin Morrissey and Jean Paul Mellouet (Tro Bro Leon President). After the Interceltic Water Games, initiated in Brittany in the last century, Pádraic Quinn (VELOTEC), started the Celtic Series in Brittany. Pádraic said, 'Colin Morrissey and I came up with the idea of a Celtic Cycling Series with Jean , who wanted to promote the Tro Bro Leon, and after discussing the options, we agreed that working with other events was the best way to promote Celtic heritage and culture through sport. More than 300 cyclists took part in the Tro Bro Cyclo in mid-April. The following month, the Celtic Series jumped from Penn-Ar-Bed to Pembroke (Wales) and in late May Connemara (Éire), with nearly 800 cyclists there. The last event took place in Scotland (Ayrshire), in July. For all cyclists who love nature, roots and sports, the Celtic Series is definitively the challenge to take on!!!

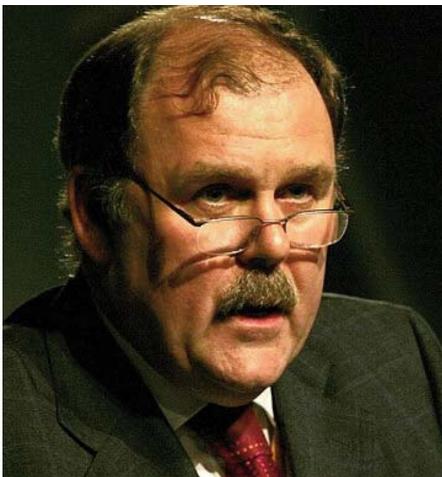
More info: www.celticseries2012.com.

(Photo courtesy www.sebastiendelaunay)



Araith wag Miliband am Seisnigrwydd

Beirniadodd arweinydd Seneddol Plaid Cymru, Elfyn Llwyd AS, araith yr arweinydd Llafur Ed Miliband am Seisnigrwydd ddechrau Mehefin, gan ei galw'n ddifeddwl a di-sylwedd. Dywedodd Mr Llwyd nad oedd yr araith bolisi yn ateb cwestiynau sy'n delio gyda "Chwestiwn Gorllewin Lleudduniawn" (y "West Lothian Question") na safle cyfansoddiadol y DU yn dyfodol.



Elfyn Llwyd MP

Mae Mr Llwyd, sydd a'i blaid wedi amlinellu cynlluniau trylwyr yn barod am newid cyfansoddiadol, yn mynnu y bydd Lloegr yn parhau i lusgo y tu ôl i bawb arall yn y ddadl os na fydd gwleidyddion unoliaethol yn dechrau cynnig syniadau adeiladol yn hytrach na chechu a chodi bwganod. Dywedodd Mr Llwyd "Mae Plaid

Cymru wedi galw am bartneriaeth gytbwys, ond safbwynt Ed Miliband ar Loegr yw nad yw'n haeddu'i Senedd na'i Chynulliad ei hun.

"Nid yw ei araith heddiw am Seisnigrwydd a'r cyfansoddiad yn cynnig dim atebion na syniadau newydd gan Llafur, sy'n methu gwneud dim ond sylwadau di-sylwedd a difeddwl.

"Mae'r Blaid wedi mynnu erioed y byddai creu Senedd i Loegr yn helpu i ateb Cwestiwn Gorllewin Lleudduniawn a thaclo diffyg democratiaeth y DU, ond mae'n debyg bod gwell gan y pleidiau unoliaethol edrych y ffordd arall ac anwybyddu'r sefyllfa na llunio cynlluniau adeiladol.

"Mae'n amlwg fod Llafur mewn llanast pan fo materion cyfansoddiadol yn y cwestiwn. Gwelwyd hyn yn ddiweddar pan oedd Llafur yn unig brif blaid i beidio â chyflwyno tystiolaeth i ran gyntaf Comisiwn Silk sy'n edrych ar drefniadau cyllido Cymru.

"Dylai pobl o bob cornel o'r DU gael yr hawl i siapio eu dyfodol eu hunain a chael eu trin fel dinasyddion cyfartal. Tra fod hyn yn ffurfio credoau craidd Plaid Cymru a'r SNP, mae'n rhaid bod pobl Lloegr yn gobeithio am rywbeth gwell na geiriau gwag arweinydd Llafur."

Summary

Plaid Cymru's leader in the Westminster parliament, Elfyn Llwyd MP (Dwyfor Meirionnydd), criticised Labour leader Ed Miliband's speech in June on Englishness and the unity of the United Kingdom, dismissing it as vacuous and lacking substance.



Leanne Wood

Albanaid i broblemau'r Alban.

"Mae Plaid Cymru yn gobeithio'n fawr y bydd y bobol yn gwneud y peth iawn ac yn pleidleisio IE i'r Alban yn 2014."

Dywedodd arweinydd Plaid Cymru yn San Steffan, Elfyn Llwyd AS:

"Hoffwn ymestyn pob cefnogaeth i'r ymgyrch IE yn y refferendwm hanesyddol hwn.

"Mae'r amser wedi dod i gael dadl trwyadl a chynhwysfawr am ddyfodol cyfansoddiadol y Deyrnas Unedig, a gobeithiaf fod pobl yr Alban yn dewis y ffordd i ffyniant, yn hytrach na bodloni gyda rheolaeth o Lundain.

"Yma yng Nghymru hefyd, mae'r chwant yn tyfu am fwy o bwerau i lunio ein dyfodol ein hunain, ac 'rwy'n gobeithio y bydd momentwm yr ymgyrch Ie yn yr Alban yn ysbrydoli mwy o bobl i gael mwy o ddyheadau am ddyfodol ein cenedl ni.

"Gobeithiaf y bydd pobl yr Alban yn achub y cyfle hwn i gymryd rheolaeth llwyr dros y penderfyniadau sydd yn effeithio ar eu bywydau bob dydd, a pheidio â chael eu twyllo gan yr unoliaethwyr sydd yn codi bwganod.

"Rwy'n hyderus y bydd yr ymgyrch yn llwyddiannus, a gallaf sicrhau pawb sydd ynghlwm ynddi bod ganddynt gefnogaeth Plaid Cymru bob cam o'r ffordd."

Summary

On the launch in May of the YES Scotland campaign for the referendum on independence, the leader of Plaid Cymru Leanne Wood said: "I offer Plaid Cymru's support and solidarity to YES Scotland. It is the beginning of a golden opportunity for people to shape the future of their country - to put all decisions which affect Scotland in the hands of the people of Scotland. It is now time for the people of Scotland to create their own prosperity, to create jobs and growth on their terms and to find Scottish solutions to Scottish problems. Plaid Cymru very much hope that the people do the right thing and vote YES for Scotland in 2014."

Arweinydd y Blaid yn cynnig cefnogaeth a solidariaeth i YES Scotland

Adeg lansio ymgyrch YES Scotland am y refferendwm am annibyniaeth, ym mis Mai, dywedodd arweinydd Plaid Cymru Leanne Wood:

"Rwy'n cynnig cefnogaeth a solidariaeth Plaid Cymru i YES Scotland.

"Yn 2014, gofynnir i bobl yr Alban bleidleisio ar ddyfodol eu cenedl. Bydd y bleidlais yn gyfle i bobl yr Alban bennu a fyddant yn cymryd eu tynged i'w dwylo eu hunain.

"Mae'r ymgyrch Ie yn yr Alban yn ymgyrch llawr gwlad, yr ymgyrch gymunedol fwyaf yn hanes yr Alban.

"Mae hwn yn ddiwrnod pwysig iawn i bobl yr Alban. Mae'n gychwyn cyfle euraidd i bobl lunio dyfodol eu gwlad - i roi'r holl benderfyniadau sydd yn effeithio ar yr Alban yn nwylo pobl yr Alban.

"Dyma'r amser i bobl yr Alban creu eu ffyniant eu hunain, i greu swyddi a thwf ar eu telerau eu hunain ac i ganfod atebion

S4C Campaigner, Jamie Bevan, Jailed Again!

Welsh language campaigner, Jamie Bevan was sentenced to 35 days in prison by Merthyr Tydfil magistrates on the 13th August for refusing to pay a fine he was ordered to pay in English-only. Jamie had already served a seven day sentence over proposed cuts to S4C when he broke into the constituency office of Cardiff North MP, Jonathan Evans, and sprayed a slogan on the building's wall. (See Carn 151)



Jamie addressing the crowd before his sentence.

Jamie Bevan from Merthyr used the case to protest against the monolingual correspondence he has received from the courts. Jamie is continuing his fight for justice for the Welsh language within the prison. He has lost many of his rights as a prisoner because he has not been willing to sign forms in English only. It is clear that Cardiff Prison, as a public institution, has no Welsh language provision, and several officers are scornful of the language.

In a statement Jamie told magistrates:

'Over the last year and a half I have followed completely constitutional means in complaining about the patchy and fragmented Welsh language service from the courts and justice system. I have received apology after apology with assurances that the systems are being put in place to make sure that these so-called mistakes don't happen again. But the monolingual letters continue, the phone service with a Welsh language option which leads nowhere, and the sneering and disrespect from the court's staff, the police and the security staff.'

'According to your language scheme, there is no right for a Welsh person to get a

hearing in front of a Welsh language court. It says that you will try to provide a Welsh language court, but if you can't do that you will provide a translator.

'Welsh speakers are under an enormous disadvantage when receiving a court hearing through the medium of a translator as a translator cannot enable the individual to communicate directly with the judge or magistrate. Actually, many lawyers advise their clients not to choose a Welsh language court case because they recognise that disadvantage. It's a disgraceful situation in the Wales of today.'

'Your language schemes also set out an employment strategy based on the area's language profile. So, employing Welsh language speakers to enable a court to provide a Welsh language service depends on the percentage of local speakers and the whim of the court manager. How can you justify the fact that a Welsh person from Merthyr gets a deficient service while someone else in another part of the country receives a better service? Welsh people in every part of Wales have a moral right to use Welsh to its fullest extent.'

'I have no intention of conforming. I have no intention of paying a single penny of the fine although I can do so easily financially. Do as you please with me. I accept any result gladly.'

In a joint statement of support Plaid Cymru President Jill Evans and Labour MP Susan Elan Jones said:

'I am keen to declare my support for Jamie Bevan in his court case today in Merthyr following his actions in the campaign to save S4C. The fact that Jamie has twice received an English language summons and an English language hearing is completely

unacceptable. There is a duty on the courts service to provide services in Welsh. I'm grateful that the Welsh Language Commissioner is investigating the situation. It's very important that the Commissioner shows she is able to secure rights for the people of Wales to use the Welsh language and that the 2011 Language Measure makes a positive difference to people's everyday lives.'

Cymdeithas yr Iaith has challenged the Language Commissioner, Meri Huws, and Minister for Welsh, Leighton Andrews, to take immediate action to remedy and insist that the governors of Cardiff Prison respect the Welsh language.

In a statement a spokesperson for the Cymdeithas yr Iaith said:

'The prisons are serving Wales Welsh speakers; Welsh services should therefore be available to anyone who wishes to make use of them. This complaint is on behalf of all Welsh prisoners in Wales. No one misses out on basics such as food choice and use of facilities. The prison and its officers are showing no respect for Jamie, other Welsh prisoners or the Welsh language.'

'Although we have gained ground in terms of the Welsh language, organisations and bodies do not take the Welsh language seriously. We see it every day by having to ask repeatedly for correspondence or services in Welsh. If you want to support Jamie's stance, don't accept correspondence that is only available in English, rather, return it immediately.'

'Jamie has made a stand and follows the example of many others, including Eileen Beasley who died over the weekend. He continues to make a stand within the prison but it is only so much that Jamie can do from his cell so it is now time for those who have the power to stand up for Jamie and all Welsh prisoners in Wales.'

Cymdeithas has asked for letters of support to be sent to:

A9459CFBEVA, Carchar Caerdydd, HMP Caerdydd, 1 Ffordd Knox, CAERDYDD, CF24 OUG.



Supporters outside Merthyr Tydfil Magistrate Court.



Some of the group who commemorated on Easter Sunday the Irish prisoners interned after 1916 in the Frongoch internment camp near Bala, North Wales. The commemoration was organised by Adam Philips (on left) and the Welsh branch of the League. Local historian Elwyn Edwards delivered a fascinating talk about the prison and he also talked about the history of the old Welsh Whisky works that used to stand on the same fields at Frongoch. (See release in News Archive on www.celticleague.net)

PLAID CYMRU PREPARES FOR 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

With less than 1,000 days to go before the 2015 Westminster election Plaid Cymru is preparing a strategy to strike a deal in a hung parliament. The party fully expects neither the Conservatives nor Labour to win an overall majority but is prepared to support a non-Tory Government if it has a great reformist programme.

Carmarthen East and Dinefwr MP Jonathan Edwards, a key advisor to party leader Leanne Wood, said: "We would be interested in offering a supply and confidence arrangement for a non-Tory government. However, we would insist on a programme which responds to the major political dynamics at play at the moment."



Jonathan Edwards MP

Mr Edwards said he personally would like to see a policy programme that included, among other things, devolution of powers to the Welsh Government. Britain is in a period of political climate change and the country is ready for a new era of politics, and notes the UK may have been radically altered by 2015. He said: "Scotland could have voted for independence in 2014 with the Westminster election dominated by the negotiations for the formation of new successor states". In Wales, successive opinion polls indicate that the unionist parties are far behind the curve of Welsh public opinion.

Plaid Leader, Leanne Wood, speaking on Scottish independence claimed that, "One thing is for certain: the future direction of my country is yet again linked to the fortunes of Scotland. We are both at a hinge point in history. The Scottish referendum is an exciting opportunity, not to discard but to redefine the ever-evolving relationships between the nations of these islandsthe question of independence was a bit of an anorak issue. But now it's in the mainstream: it isn't something that's such an impossible dream. It's now tangible for Wales: we're in a position to be able to start talking about independence in a normalised way...I'm sensing that people are looking for an alternative solution. And I think that independence is potentially it."

Letter - Playing Footie for England

The article on 'Team GB' was timely. English aspirations to success – whether at war, sport, empire-building, culture – always involved the use (abuse) of the Celtic nations towards their own ends.

Team GB is just another attempt. But your article (in Carn 152) goes some way to endorse the English aspirations. It does so in two ways. The first and most obvious one is the article's assumption that 'Northern Ireland' is a nation. It isn't, never was and never will be and the political interference of English sporting bodies in the history of athletics (in the inclusive sense) in Ireland maybe needs to be recounted again for younger readers.

The other and more insidious (and more widespread) term of note is the constant iteration of the phrase 'home nations'.

'Home' as the cliché has it, is where the heart is and I do not belong to any 'home' of the English Empire, nor should we accept any 'euphemism' of these concoctions designed to absorb/ re-absorb into their spheres.

A nation can't belong to another 'home'. The Celtic League aspires to the national independence of the Celtic nations however much the inclusion of Breizh annoyed some of our 'home' nations' orientated colleagues in the early days of the League.

We should have 'home rules' maybe excluding the use of phrases echoing or encouraging English pretensions, ignorance, aspirations or at least when using them (as needs must betimes) to indicate our disagreement with them.

P.Ó Snodaigh.

WELSH PLAYERS REFUSE TO SING ENGLISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

Welsh football players sparked further controversy when they refused to sing the English national anthem at the Olympic Games 2012. All five Welsh members had already caused an outcry when they initially declared their intent to be part of Team GB, in spite of the Welsh FA's declaration that it would not be taking part in the Games on the grounds that participation would be a threat to the identity and independence of the different

FA's in the Celtic countries. Welsh football supporters had severely criticised the Welsh players who opted to play for Team GB, with some current and previous Welsh national football players also criticising the move. Former Welsh international footballer Neville Southall said about the involvement of Welsh players in Team GB: "What flag are they going to put up if they win? The Union Jack? It's not my flag. My flag's a dragon."



Éire



Féile Idircheilteach Lorient faoi Bhláth



Banna Píob as Asturias sa mórshiúl

Is dócha muna dtaithníonn ceol na mbannai píob leat nó go deimhin ceol na mbagadou binou is bombarde nach é Féile Idircheilteach Lorient (FIL) an féile is fearr duitse b'fhéidir mar ní féidir éalú ó ceol na bpíob ariamh. Bíonn sé le cloisteál de ló is d'oiche, banna ag mairseál ar an tsráid, banna ag cleachtadh sa bpáirc, píobairí ag seinm lasmuigh de pubanna nó ar an mbealach abhaile. Agus é sin ráite tá neart eile ann agus rogha iontach leathan de cineálacha éagsúla cheoil ag an bhféile seo sa mBriotáin atá anois daichead is a haon blian ar an saol. Bunaíodh é ag Polig Monjarret, duine a rinne éachtanna ar son ceol na Briotáine i rith a shaoil agus, dál an scéal, a chur cúpláil idir cathracha, bailte agus sráidbailte na Briotáine agus cinn sna tíortha eile Ceilteacha go mór chun chinn, go háirithe in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain Bheag.

Thugas cuairt ar FIL faoi dhó cheana, don chéad uair na blianta ó shoin nuair a bhí Dan Ar Bras agus a ghrúpa le ceoltóirí as gach tír ceilteach, *L'Heritage des Celtes*, i mbárr a réime, le dul ag ceolchoirm dá gcuid agus don tarna uair cúpla bliain ó shoin nuair a d'fhreastalaíos le cara ar mhórshiúl na mbannai is grúpaí rinne, a bhíonn ar siúl i gcónaí ar an gcéad Domhnach agus ar imeachtaí eile ar an lá sin. I mbliana bhíos ann ar feadh na seachtaine ag cuidiú le cúrsaí feighlíochta san áras ina raibh an toscaireacht Éireannach ag lonnú agus bhí deis agam réimse iomlán an fhéile a fheiceáil níos fearr.

Bíonn an féile lonnaithe i lár an bhaile thart ar an ceanntar ina bhfuil an marina agus is ann a mbíonn pubaill na dtíortha éagsúla agus go leor cinn beaga ag ealaíontóirí, foilsitheoirí, lucht bí agus dí

agus agus díoltóirí earraí eile suite. Comh maith leis na sé tíortha Ceilteacha tá Galacia agus Asturias páirteach sa bhféile seo le fada. Is cinnte go bhfuil cosúlachtaí cheoil ann (agus seandálaíocht ceilteach sa dhá áit) ach níl aon teanga Ceilteach ná aon

don Bhriotánais ann ná aird a tharringt uirthi ins na himeachtaí. Bíonn roinnt comharthaíocht dhá theangach ann agus bhí 'Initiation a la langue bretonne' (uair a chloig) luaite mar imeacht móide aifreann i mBriotáinis (a bhí dáiríre dhá theangach is cosúil, dé réir Éireannach a d'fhreastal air).

Le tamaill maith de bhlianta bíonn sé mar nós ag FIL tús áite a thabhairt do thír amháin in aon bhliain faoi leith. Anuraidh b'é bliain na Briotáine é agus an bhliain seo chugainn sé bliain na hÉireann a bhéas ann. I mbliana ba bliain Acadie é. Céard é seo, a deir tú (agus mé féin freisin), Acadie ina réigiún Ceilteach? Ar ndóigh séard atá in Acadie ná lucht labharta na Fraincise atá scaipthe thar cúigí Atlantacha Ceanada - Nua Alban, Oilean an Phrionsa Eduard agus go háirithe Nua Brunswick. I gclár FIL deirtear go bhfuil deich mbliain imithe ó tháinig grúpa ó Acadie chuig FIL agus is i 2004 a cheangal siad go hoifigiúil leis an bhféile. Deir FIL gur 'diaspora ceilteach' iad, ach an fíor sin?

Dár le cara Briotánach liom cé gur tháinig cuid den dream a d'ímigh ó ríocht na Fraince go Meiriceá Thuaidh ó St Malo sa mBriotáin tháinig an mórchuid díobh as lár na Fraince. Deacair más ea 'diaspora ceilteach' a thabhairt orthu. Mar sin féin déanann FIL an pointe, a d'aontóidh mo chara leis, go naithníonn FIL saibhreas agus éagsúlacht chultúir. Trua nach mar sin atá ag stáit na Fraince! In eagarfhocal gairid *Lettre Ouverte aux Jacobins* (an dream sa bhFrainc gur mian leo leanúint le stát lárnach leis an Fraincís



Píobairí agus ceoltóirí eile as Galicia

gluaiseacht athbheochain teanga sna réigiúin sin. Bhí díospóireacht fada sa gConradh Ceilteach fadó ar iarratais ar bhallaíocht ó na réigiúin sin. Tairgíodh ballraíocht comhlach dóibh ós rud é nár chomhlán said an critéir teanga ach ní raibh said sásta le sin. Bíonn said páirteach go lárnach in FIL áfach, neart grúpaí ag glacadh páirt sna ceolchoirmeacha agus taispeántais cheoil ar siúl go rialta acu ina gcuid pubaill.

Reachtáiltear FIL go hiomlán i bhFraincís agus ní déantar aon iarracht áit a thabhairt

amháin i réim agus aitheanteas á cosadh ar na mionlaigh teanga agus cultúir) san nuachtlitr laethúil (*FestiCelte*), a fhoilsíonn FIL, dúradh ós rud é gur bhfuil FIL ag seasamh le mionlach 'francophone' trasna an Atlantach go bhfuil sé in am do na Jacobins éisteacht le hÉileamh na mBriotánaigh agus na Bascaigh.

Bhí sé deacair a dhéanamh amach an raibh mórán de ceol traidisiúnta fágtha in Acadie. Bhíos i bpuball Acadie ag amannta éagsúla i rith an lae agus is ceol nua aoiseach

is mó a bhí le cloisteál (roinnt amhráin i mBéarla), dreamanna ar nós na *Hay Babies* (a bhí go maith).

Mar a luas thuas bíonn clár an leathan ag an bhféile seo. Bíonn céardlanna cheoil agus rince, taispeántais ealaíona (ealaíon le Ruth O'Donnell as Éirinn), imeachtaí eolais, imeachtaí do pháistí, agus sraith iomlán de taispeántais rince agus cheoil agus ceolchoirmeacha saor in aisce sa bhreis ar na cinn a bhíonn ar siúl sna pubaill. Bíonn comortaisí ann freisin, cinn náisiúnta na mBagadou Briotánacha (bhuaigh Kemper



Buffy Sainte-Marie

aris in mbliana), cinn don bhosca agus don pháib as gach tír agus ceann don grúpa óige is fearr (buaite ag Ceoltoirí Cois Laoi). Ins an mórshuíl bhí seachtó seacht grúpa páirteach idir bannaí páib, badagou agus grúpaí rinceoirí agus thóg sé ós cionn trí uair a chloig orthu Stade du Moustoir a shroichint.

Bhí toscaireacht mór ann as Éireann i láthair. Banna Píob De La Salle as Port Láirge, Banna Píob Marlacoo as Co. Ard Mhaca, Rinceoirí Cois Laoi (Kiely/Walsh le Ceoltoirí Cois Laoi,) as Corcaigh, Cór Ghaoth Dobhair, Craobh Rua as Béal Feirste agus na Bonny Men as BÁC, a bhí ag críochnú a chéad camcuairt timpeall na hEorpa.



Buena Vista Social Club as Havana, Cuba



Cór Ghaoth Dobhair ag casadh sa 'Pub Irlandais'

Coinníodh iad uilig gnóthach ag seinm i go leor ionad i rith na seachtaine. B'é Tomás Mac Ruairí a d'eagraigh grúpaí na hÉireann ar feadh na blianta fada ach le tamaill maith de bhlianta anois is ar Reuben Ó Conluain atá an cúram agus tá moladh ag dul dó as cinntiú go raibh grúpaí as gach ceard den tír ann.

Bheadh sé dodhéanta cur síos a dhéanamh ar gach dream a bhí páirteach sa bhféile ach bhí scoth na gceoltóirí as gach tír i láthair. Thaitn sé liom Mactullagh Vannin a cloisteál beo arís, is iomaí uair a bhí mé ag seisiún leo ar Oileán Mhannain thar na blianta agus ba deas féiceál go bhfuil glún eile tagaithe chun chinn, i ngrúpa eile, Barule.

Bhí bannaí páib agus rinceoirí as Albain ann. Tháinig Banna Píob an Queensland Irish Association. Bhí Cór Morrístion RFC as Cymru i láthair, dream an nádúrtha.

Ó thaobh na ceolchorimeacha móra de bhí neart éagsúlachta ann agus cuid mhaith grúpaí mór le rá ina dtíortha féin páirteach iontu. Bhí Buffy Sainte Marie, an bhean mhisiúil sin (Cree as Saskatchewan), agóidí sóisialta, a chaith a shaol ag troid ar son dúchasaigh Mheiriceá Thuaidh ag seinm ar an gcéad Aoine. Bhí sí thar chinn agus i measc na namhrán a chas sí bhí an ceann cáiliúil sin *'Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee'*. Bhí iontas orm comh beag is a bhí an tinnreamh áfach, b'fhéidir nach eol do glúin an lae inniu, go háirithe Franciseoirí, mórán fuithí. Bhí Frankie Gavin agus Dé Dannan ann oíche - bheadh siad molta dá mbeinne i mo thost. Lean Afro Celt Sound System iad san ach d'imigh cuid mhaith den slua, rud a tharla freisin oíche eile nuair a tháinig Buena Vista Social Club ó Cuba ar siúl tar éis *'Émotion et Memoire de la Musique Celtique'*. An é gur fearr le furmhór an lucht éisteachta an ceol traidisiúnta?

Bhí *'Nuit Interceltique'*, meascán de bannaí páib, bagadou, rinceoirí, cóir agus grúpaí as gach tír ar siúl mórán gach oíche

amúigh faoi aer san Stade du Moustoir. In ionad eile bhí Fest Noz gach oíche. Ar an Aoine deireannach bhí ceolchoirm *'Celebration'* ag Dan ar Bras le Bagad Kemper sa bport. Bhí sé go maith, go háirithe Bagad Kemper, b'é tuairm duine ag scríobh i *FestiCelte* an lá dá gcionn nach raibh sé baileach comh maith le *'Les Heritage des Celtes'*.



Reuben Ó Conluain, ag casadh ag seisiún cheoil Éireannaigh i bpball Asturias

Is féile faoi leith é ceann Lorient, idircheilteach le gnéithe breise. Muna raibh tú ann ariamh is fiú go mór triál air ach glac scíth maith sula n-íomnó tú, go háirithe má tá rún agat fanacht ar feadh na seachtaine, agus déan áirínt go luath !

Cathal Ó Luain

Summary

An account of this year's Lorient Interceltic Festival in Brittany. A festival which has expanded and pushed out the boundaries. An enormous range of musical talent is on show here, from the Celtic countries and outside them, if you have never been you must visit it.

Stresses and Strains in Coalition

Could there be an election on the way? It is far too early to call just yet but the stridency of the tabloid press (especially) in their baseless but nonetheless damaging ‘campaigns’ against Sinn Féin in particular, independents – one of whom has been wounded by an imploding property bubble, and Fianna Fáil, (which despite its best efforts under Micheál Martin will not easily recover the thrust half of the population reposed in them on and off for half of a century at least) might be an indicator. Fianna Fáil has restored Éamonn Ó Cuív (a Euro sceptic) to its front bench in an obvious move to cover the cracks. They have gained slightly in opinion polls probably at the expense of Fine Gael.

Of course the government majority is large even if the parties have lost three TDs (Dail Deputies) between them to the independent benches. But the presidential campaign while returning the well-liked Labour Party radical, Michael D Higgins, showed the shallowness of Fine Gael support when an independent (often described as a Fianna Fáil Lite!) and a politically unknown candidate ran Higgins close.

The coalition of Fine Gael and Labour is holding well enough considering, but Labour in particular shows signs of worry. Opinion polls indicate a steady decline in support for them (and an almost exact improvement in Sinn Féin figures). Two obvious results of this are their continuous sniping at Sinn Féin for apparently supporting policies in the Six Counties at odds with those they propose in the Republic (conveniently ignoring the fact that the policies concerned are imposed on the Six Counties by).

Both Fine Gael (United Ireland in the subtitle despite no representation in the Six Counties) and Labour (which traditionally through the Trade Unions at least had a window to the north-east) are in themselves coalitions. Fine Gael was formed out a coming together of Cumann na nGaedheal (the ruling pro-Treaty party from 1922 to 1931) the fascist leaning Blue Shirts, a couple of Southern Unionists and the remnants of the Irish Parliamentary/ Home Rule Party Their apparent homogeneity may be actually more self interest with a middle-class and strong farming base.

Labour, one hundred years old, was firmly bedded in the Trade Union movement but there too were tensions throughout the years between craft and general unions, English based and Irish unions, Marxist and the more traditionalist (Larkin vs O’Brien say) , which led in time to a split and two parties being formed. They in time amalgamated and other smaller groups appeared and were absorbed such as the 1913 Clubs, Jim Kenny’s socialists and so forth. Absorbed or aspired to leadership. Of such was the arrival

of the Democratic Left (once The Workers’ Party, Sinn Féin / The Workers’ Party which came from a split in Sinn Féin originally). The latter group are very much to the fore in Labour now and include the Tánaiste (Éamonn Gilmore) as well as Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, for example.

There will be eight fewer TD’s after the next election and constituency boundaries have been re-drawn and the party most under pressure seems at this stage to be the Labour Party from murmurings on their backbenches, as deputies come under increasing pressure at local level, being



Pat Rabbitte,
Minister for Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources

blamed for the austerity measures and health cut backs being enacted by a Government which – in terms of popular support – cannot continue to blame Fianna Fáil alone for the economic woes (even if the history of the previous government supports such a position). From such murmurings one can detect early attempts to create an exit strategy.

It is a long time since the radicals of the sixties in boasted ‘the seventies will be socialist’. Politics change more than is apparent and while the history of the last administration will hardly leave Fianna Fáil peaking again in the near future nevertheless the new world beckons (if only the other new worlds did not attract so many of our youth!) and election politics will be a really absorbing contest again.

The English imposed a Proportional Representation voting system on us to try to avoid Sinn Féin landslides, but the Irish electorate has adopted it with sophistication unexpected by those who laid it cuckoo-like in the nest of Irish politics.

Pádraig Ó Néill.

Challenge to EMS Treaty goes to European Court

In the last issue of Carn we reported on the campaign against the Fiscal Treaty. Unfortunately fear ruled the day and as most people even outside Ireland will know the Yes side won, with a vote of 60.3% as against 39.7% voting No. It was Europe’s only referendum on the treaty and only five of the 43 Irish constituencies rejected it. The constituencies that voted No were Donegal North East, Donegal South West, Dublin North West, Dublin South Central and Dublin South West (all Dublin working class areas).

While the outcome was welcomed by the Government, Yes campaigners and EU institutions those who campaigned against urged the Government to at least use the result to improve the financing arrangements for Ireland. Now it seems if any improvement is to come it will be as a result of the deal agreed to save the Spanish banks but that could be some time away.

The other key issue was the High Court challenge initiated by Independent TD, for Donegal South West, Thomas Pringle, against the Government’s intention to ratify, without a referendum, the European Stability Mechanism Treaty (see Carn 152, p.15). His case appeared in the High Court in late June. He claimed the EMS treaty breached the Constitution and EU Treaties and that it could be used to force the state to make a capital contribution of some €11 Billion, an amount equal to one third of Government tax revenue last year, and with no limit to funding which might be sought in the future. This breach was exacerbated by the excessive discretion conferred on an international autonomous institution plus the fact it would act outside the control of the EU and the fact that decision would be taken by qualified majority voting. The governors and staff of the new institution would be immune from legal proceedings in the acts performed by them.

The High Court rejected Mr Pringle’s case saying that this conclusion was influenced by the view of the European Central Bank (ECB). However it found that he had raised legal issues which had to be determined by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Mr Pringle appealed the High Court decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, the Government and Mr Pringle later agreed on three issues to be referred to the CJEU and the CJEU was asked to address these issues under its accelerated procedures on the grounds that the matter is off exceptional urgency. The Supreme Court initially reserved judgement on Mr Pringle’s Constitutional argument and adjourned other matters pending the outcome of the referral



The Courts of Justice of the European Union, Luxembourg

to the CJEU. However at the end of July the Supreme Court ruled that the Treaty does not involve a transfer of sovereignty which would require a referendum to ratify it. The Court ruled that the Treaty was an agreement to pursue an already-defined policy of the Government.

Thomas Pringle TD has welcomed the CJEU announcement of October 23rd as the date for an oral hearing regarding the questions referred to it from his case in the

Supreme Court. Speaking in mid August he stated: *"I welcome the decision of the CJEU to use the accelerated procedure available to it to allow for an oral hearing in October. This shows that the Court recognises the urgency of this matter and its utmost importance to all EU states involved, including Ireland."* The following are the questions to the CJEU:

1. Is the ESM Treaty compatible with the EU Treaties?
2. Is the related decision by heads of government to amend the EU Treaties legally valid?
3. Can the ESM come into operation before the EU Treaty amendment comes into force (1st January 2013 at earliest)?

He continued *"We have seen how there is a new legal challenge being taken in Germany on the ESM. This is another example of the continuing and growing scepticism of this fund across Europe and Ireland, and I look forward to the outcome of the oral hearing in Luxembourg."*

CONTROVERSIAL FUNDING SCHEME FOR IRISH LANGUAGE BODIES DUMPED

The negative effects that the Foras na Gaeilge (FnaG) proposed scheme of competitive project based funding would have instead of regular annual funding (based on action and strategic plans) for Irish language organisations was covered in Carn 150. Submissions were sought by FnaG as part of a consultation process and it was reported that over 150 were sent in, all opposing the proposed new scheme on very sound grounds.

At a meeting of the North-South Ministerial body in Gaith Dobhair at the end of June it was decided that the proposed scheme should be dropped. Earlier that month, having heard evidence from Irish language organisations, the Dáil Committee on Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht issued a report recommending that regular funding be provided for Irish language bodies to support the important services they provide for the Irish language community and the promotion of Irish. A motion had also been passed in the Northern Local Assembly casting doubts on the proposed scheme.

FnaG said they would now examine other models and take into account the Dáil Committee report and recommendations of the Local Assembly Committee on Culture, Arts and Leisure as well as proposals made in the submissions. There was a need now for FnaG and the language organisations to cooperate on a partnership basis to determine the most efficient method to fund the Irish language voluntary sector. It seems the process has been kicked off with some workshops held in July under the direction of



**Ferdia Mac an Fhailigh,
CEO, Foras na Gaeilge**

language planners from Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge of NUIG.

It emerged later in the summer, as a result of a Dáil question from Sinn Féin TD and Gaeltacht spokesperson, Peadar Tóibín, that the process had cost FnaG just over €131,000 to date. This of course is only the tip of the iceberg as language organisations had to deal with these issues and undoubtedly a lot of time was wasted and diverted from productive activity.

Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) CEO, Julian de Spáin, said that it was a pity FnaG pursued the scheme having been advised of its flaws and unfortunate the money had not been spent in the community. He said however language organisations now appeared to be getting a better hearing from FnaG.

Flawed Gaeltacht Bill Pushed Through

When the Gaeltacht Bill 2012 was published in June the Language Commissioner, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, said that the bill was flawed unless parallel changes were brought in to the Official Languages Act making it a statutory requirement for State bodies to carry out their business through Irish in the Gaeltacht. He also expressed concern about the response of Gaeltacht communities to the Bill and pointed out that the Bill put most of the onus for language planning on the Gaeltacht communities themselves while the State was failing to provide services in Irish in the Gaeltacht.

Conamara language activist, Donncha Ó hÉallaithe, drew attention to anomalous features of the Bill in an article in the Irish Times in July. Under the Bill the Gaeltacht status of areas can only be withdrawn if no organisation within them formulates an approved language plan. The many areas and towns long English speaking within the official Gaeltacht boundaries could keep their status allowing the continuance of payment of, for example, to teachers of allowances of €3,000 p.a in areas which are no more Irish speaking than Clondalkin, Dublin or Carlow. Pointing out that the Bill was the culmination of 12 years of research, consultation and prolonged procrastination by officialdom he called on the Government to withdraw the Bill and redraft a more honest and courageous Bill in the autumn.

The Gaeltacht Bill, 2012 is the first piece of legislation dealing specifically with the Irish language and the Gaeltacht since The Gaeltacht Industries Bill of 1957. But a very short period was allowed for debate in the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Gaeltacht Bill, 2012 also aimed to provide for amendments to the board and functions of Údarás na Gaeltachta. (Gaeltacht Authority) doing away with elected representatives from the Gaeltacht areas..

Conradh na Gaeilge and Guth na Gaeltachta (Voice of the Gaeltacht) stated they believed it would be better to hold off enacting The Gaeltacht Bill, 2012 until the Dáil resumes in September 2012, as opposed to rushing such significant legislation through the Oireachtas before the summer break. This would mean that the Irish speaking and Gaeltacht community would have the opportunity to discuss The Gaeltacht Bill, 2012 in depth, ensuring that the legislation would support the Irish language via a comprehensive statutory language planning process, a purpose of the Bill explicitly expressed in the

continued on page 23

Kernow

Bresel an Norvys ha'n Akademi Godhelek

Erskine of Marr

Del yllir gweles der y hanow leun, nyns o Ruairaidh Erskine neb kenedhloger kemmyn: an Enoradow Ruairaidh Stuart Joseph Erskine of Marr. Erskine a veu genys yn Brighton yn 1869, nessa mab an pypmes Arludh Erskine neb esa ow servya ena yn kaslu sowsnek. Y floholeth a veu spenys yn Dunedin hag yn y yowynkneth ev a dhyskas Godhelek yn freth a'y vagores Hebridek.

An Lyver Termyn Keltik

Yn mysk hembrenkysi an SHRA (Kowethas Rewl Teythyek Albanek), Erskine a omgavas yn herwydh dew skoodhyor a vri a Wodhelek, an kaderyer J.S. Blackie ha'n islewydh Alexander MacKenzie. Prof. Blackie (1809-95) o skoler an klassegow neb a skoodhya ken an groftoryon (*crofters*) hag yth o dysker freth a Wodhelek. MacKenzie (1838-98) o perhennek ha pennskriker a'n *Lyver Termyn Keltik* hag a'n *Uheldiryer Albanek*. Kehaval orth MacKenzie, Erskine a alsa ha bos askorrer a worfalster a lyvrow termyn, del welyn diwettha.

Daswel Albanek

Tybyansow Marr a vedha avonsys der aray a lyvrow termyn a dhylli ev hag yn Sowsnek hag yn Godhelek. An moyha a vri a'n lyvrow termyn ma o *Guth na Bliadhna* yn tiwyethek (1904-1905) ha'n *Daswel Albanek*, yn Sowsnek (1914-1920). An lyvrow termyn ma a veu deskri-fys yn studhyans a vri HM Hanham a genedhlekter albanek avel "dew a'n bohes a veyn mildir a genedhlekter yn kynsa rann an ugensves kansbledhen". Hanham re argyas ynwedh "Kenedhlekter eth ha bos nerth gwiw dhe vos gwelys yn skiansek, hag avel neppyth diberthys a'n Parti Livrel gans dyllans a'n Daswel Albanek."

An *Daswel Albanek* a veu selys rag may fe gwelvaow Erskine moy hedhadow dhe'n poblans iseldirek, amkan may sewenis dre vras, redys a-les del o gans an kledh albanek. An *Daswel* a vira orth pub govyn oll dhyworth gwelva albanek glan hag y'n jevo gologva geswlasogek hag a'n kledh-barth. An *Lyver termyn* a ri ynwedh arethva dhe'n tregh gorthvreselek a'n omsav lavur albanek hag ev a dhegi

erthyglow skrifys gans James Maxton hag erel. Yn kompas efan, an rannelneth a'n *Dhaswel* a dhiskwedh an gwayans war-tu ha'n kledh a gryjyansow Erskine esa ow kressya. Kyn re bia ev pub prys gorthpredennek ha gorthvreselek, ny via ev bykken socyler hag yn 1906 ev re dhenaghas socyelogeth avel "kryjyans preydherek".

Geskussulyans Kres Paris

Orth diwedh an vresel, y ledyas Marr assay may fo dhe Alban y honan kannas dhe Geskussulyans Kres Paris, assay heb sewena wor'tiwedh, hag a waynyas skoodhyans efan a Eseli Senedh Lavur "Clydeside Rudh" y'ga mysk James Maxton, Neil MacLean ha Manny Shinwell, keffrys ha'n John MacLean meur y vri. Y'n diwettha nebes bledhynnyow a vywnans MacLean, y teuthons i ha bos, ev hag Erskine, keffrysi nes ha nes. Erskine a skrifa erthyglow rag paper MacLean, *Vanguard* y hanow, ha kesoberi ganso owth assaya difenna orth oberoryon Clydeside a dhannvon arwow an Governans dhe Iwerdhon.

Kemynegoreth Keltik?

Ny gavas an Kesunyans Kenedhlek Albanek (SNL) dalleth da awos y vos selys yn Loundres ha spena moy termyn y'n y gynsa bledhynnyow ow tadhla hag owth argemynna an savla iwerdhonek ages an huni albanek. Gweth es hemma, eseli an bagas a's teva tuedh fest gorth-sowsnek ha devnydhya yeth hilgasiethel yn y dhylansow. Nyns o Erskine y honan antavadow orth an tuedh ma, del welir a'y dhyskas "Kemynegoreth Keltik" hag a ventena bos kemynegoreth a neb ehen talvosogeth a-berthek an Geltyon hag a allsa bos, yn lies kas, askrifys yn kynradh dhe nasennow ahel. An tybyans ma o selys yn gwel enorys ha romansekhes a'n system kordhek albanek. Gwelva aral nebes kilwelek synsys gans Erskine, neb o herwydh usadow gwreydhyel, o onan a vyghternses. Yn despit dh'y gows socyelek, nyns o Marr poblogether, mes yn hwir Jacobeger. Byttegyns, nyns o hemma elven a'y bolitigieth a vynna ev hy fosleva ha del hevel hi eth ha bos le bosek ganso dres an vledhynnyow.

NPS

Erbynn termyn fondya an National Party of Scotland, Erskine e ha bos figur le bosek yn politegieth kenedhlogel. An Kesunyans re gordevsa y wreydh yn Loundres ha mos ha bos kreffa yn Alban, yn arbennik awos delanwes Tom Gibson. Gibson re aswonnsa bos edhom a bolitegieth kenedhlogel a vos junys orth daldraow pub-dydhiek rag mos ha bos meurgetys, hag ev a wre devnydh a'n *Anserhek Albanek* rag argya an difresow socyel hag erbysiethek a anserhogeth. Ha moy a genedhlogoryon bennfrosek tennys dhe'n Kesunyans, an Geltegysi y'n bagas a dheuth ha bos yn minorita ha'n messach kenedhlogel Godhelek o tanowhes. Hemm o a kas a-berth an Parti Kenedhlek Alban yn arbennik mayth esa Marr ha'y dhsykyblon yn minorita a'n dalleth.



Politegieth

Yn gordhiwedh, res yw leverel re dhegeras Erskine ha'y gowlriansow dyghtyans pur gemyskys y'n lyvrow istori. An Istorior Hanham a'n henow "onan a'n genedhlogoryon an moyha abel ha lel dh'y bennrewlys re beu askorrys gans Alban bys dhe lemmyn." Ny yllir doutya bos Erskine den koynt gans kemmysk anusadow a gryjyansow a omvyski yn sewen hag yn kettermyn Jacobegieth ha Leninieth. Moy ankresadow yw kows Erskine a agh ha diffransow ahel, tybyansow yw dampnys yn tien lemmyn. Byttegyns, res yw perthi kov nag o an Kesunyans Kenedhlek Albanek unnik yn y dhevnydh a gonsayts ahel awos bos an tybyansow ma kemmyn yn mysk kussulyow politek a bub ehen yn politegiethek europek ynter an dhiw vresel.

Skrifennow Godhelek

Nyns o skoodhyans a'gan gwelhevek katholik Jakobeger strothys dhe eryow, del

welir yn y attentys a-barth Godhelek dres an kynsa teyr degbledhen a'n gansbledhen. Omvyskys o Erskine y'n arhasans, dyllans ha pennskrifans a nebes lyvrow-termyn Godhelek: *Am Bàrd* (Misyek diwyethek 1901-2), *Guth na Bliadhna* (Trymisyek diwyethek, ha diwettha Godhelek hepken 1904-25) *Alba* (seythennyek, Godhelek 1908-9), *An Sgeulaiche* (Ihwedhlow misyek 1909-11) hag *An Ròsarnach* (Godhelek, owth omdhiskwedhes a dermyn dhe dermyn 1917-1930). Der an lyvrow termyn ma, govenek a'n jevo Erskine a dhrehevel lien ha jornalieth Godhelek dhe'n keth nivel ha'n re Sowsnek. Unn derivador, Donald John MacLeod, re dherivas *Guth na Bliadhna*, an moyha a vri a'n lyvrow-termyn ma, dhe "verkya an dalleth gwir a jornalieth yn Godhelek". Keffrys hag erthyglow a-dro dhe istori, lien hag erbysyeth, an trymisyek ma a synsi ynno erthyglow Godhelek gans Angus Henderson, jornalyas galwesik a skrifa erthyglow a-dro dhe gemmysk efan a destennow a'n Domhwelyans Russek bys dhe Genwerth Rydh. Erskine a avoncy a ynwedh fugieth Godhelek yn y lyvrow-termyn hag a brovia arethva rag skriforyon haval orth John MacCormick, neb a wrussa dyllo nebes diwettha *Dùn Aluinn* (1912) an kynsa romans Godhelek oll, hag o daspryntys nans yw nebes bledhynnyow hag yw kavadow hwath. Erskine y honan o skrifer a'n jeva mall, hag yn mysk taklow erel y skrifa kevres a hwedhlow gis Sherlock Holmes Godhelek, keffrys ha treylya hwedhlow gans R.B. Cunninghame Graham, Compton MacKenzie ha Neil Munro.

Àrd-Chomhairle na Gàidhlig

Y'n bledhynnyow a vleynta ewn an Ia Bresel an Norvys, Erskine a Varr o fondyer a dhew gorf Godhelek ambosadow hag a vira yn-rag. An re ma o Àrd-Chomhairle na Gàidhlig (Akademi Godhelek Albanek) ha Comann Litreachas na h-Albann (Kowethas Skrifennow Albanek), may tifygya an dhew anedha awos Kynsa Bresel an Norvys. Amkan an Akademi o dhe unnverhe poyntyow dadhladow yn kever gramasek ha tavoseth Wodhelek ha daskavos ha gwitha puredh an yeth. Strothys bys 21 o y eseleth hag i a omvetya yn hanter-vledhynnyek a-dhia 1912 bys dhe dhalleth an vresel. Amkan an kowethas liennek o dhe gennertha skrifennow Godhelek dre bennskrifha ha pryntya dewisyow dhyworth mammskrifow ha dre dhylllo oberennow Godhelek amowyth.

Yeth Vyth, Bro Vyth!

Pysk byhan kyn fe Erskine y'n poll bras kenedhlogek, yth o ev heb dout pysk fest bras y'n poll Godhelek byhan. Fest bras o

Student Launch of CD for Movyans Skolyow Meythrin

A CD and booklet of Cornish language songs for preschool children was launched recently by Cornwall College students.

The CD and booklet was produced by the students as part of their foundation degree studies at the College. The students were provided with a £300 budget, which was awarded to Movyans Skolyow Meythrin by several organisations who had granted money to the organisation to make the language resource. It was agreed that the students would take a leading role in the production of the CD/booklet and proceeds from the sale of the resource would go to Movyans Skolyow Meythrin.

As part of the launch the students presented their project to an audience made up of the funders and other invited guests and the CD/booklet was made available for general sale at £5. Most of the 45 songs on the CD/booklet have been used at Skol Veythrin Karenza over the last two years, but several new songs were also included that were created by the students themselves, a number of whom are currently employed in local preschools on a part time basis.

Emilie Champlaud, the project manager and Director of Movyans Skolyow Meythrin said: "The students did a wonderful job at producing what will be a fantastic Cornish language resource to use within the early years level of education. We have a severe limit of the number of language resources of any kind at this level



and I would like to thank all funders for supporting the project, especially Cornwall College who have been instrumental to the success of the project. It just shows what a small amount of money and bucketfuls of determination can achieve when people come together for the benefit of the community."

All proceeds from the sale of the booklet will go to Movyans Skolyow Meythrin to pay for one of the volunteers at Skol Veythrin Karenza to gain a level 3 qualification in childcare and education.

The funders of the project include Redruth Town Council, Gorsedh Kernow, Plymouth University, Cornwall College and a number of private donors.

The CD/booklet can be ordered for £5 plus postage and packing by contacting: emilie.champlaud@movyans-skolyow-meythrin.net or phoning 07787318666.

y gevrohaw dhe jornalieth ha yeth-plen Godhelek hag y dybyansow rag Akademi Godhelek ha kowethas liennek a dhiskwedha ragwel meur. Ev o onan a'n kynsa neb a argya bos Godhelek a vri rag Alban dhien hag y talvia dhe'n omsav Godhelek bos ha politek ha dasvywnansek. Y lavar "yeth vyth, bro vyth!" a heveli koynt gans kenedhlogoryon orth dalleth an gansvledhen martesen, mes ny'n gwra lemmyn, na gans gwreythresydhion Godhelek na gans kenedhlogoryon bennfrosek, del dheu an yeth ha bos rann a vri a honanieth albanek kenedhlek.

Summary

Further information on Ruaraidh Erskine of Marr, and discussion of historian HM Hanham's assessment of Marr in Scottish Nationalism (1969). Also Marr's influence

on Scottish writers in Gàidhlig, such as John MacCormick, who wrote the first full length novel in Gàidhlig, and Angus Henderson... and on writers in English and Lowland Scots such as Hugh MacDiarmid, RB Cunningham Graham, Neil Munro (of Para Handy fame), and Compton MacKenzie, whose Monarch of the Glen was bowdlerised by the BBC some years ago. It also mentions his diverse, and sometimes contradictory political influences, as well as his proposals for a language academy.

His life and activism make him a major link between the Scottish nationalism and Gaelic activism of the late 19th century, and that of the mid-20th. See also James Hunter's The Gaelic Connection: The Highlands, Ireland and Nationalism, 1873-1922 (1975)

POLICE VISITS AHEAD OF OLYMPIC TORCH

Several members of the Celtic League were visited by the police ahead of the arrival of the Olympic Torch in May 2012. The motivation behind the police visits is not clear, but it was evidently meant to intimidate people and deter them from protesting against the procession of the Torch at any point of its Cornwall leg.

A Freedom of Information (FoI) request by London based 'Big Brother Watch' showed that there were eighteen pre Torch visits by the police in Cornwall. Police intimidation turned to thuggery soon after the torch landed in Cornwall, with one protester being thrown into a stone hedge and one of the Torch bearers having his Cornish flag ripped from him by another policeman.

During a debate on the 'Pasty Tax' on 23 May in the House of Commons, Dan Rogerson Member of Parliament for North Cornwall said:



"To return to the Cornish perspective, the feeling is that there is a lack of recognition of a strong sense of identity and of Cornishness. To mention another visual aid, when the last runner with the Olympic flame left Cornwall and set off across the Tamar Bridge, he held in his hands a Cornish flag that was sadly confiscated by the police who were running alongside. To many in Cornwall, such things send out a signal that English, Welsh or

Scottish identity is fine, but we do not really want to know about Cornish identity."

The Branch Secretary of the League, Matt Blewett, has written to the Devon and Cornwall Police Constabulary to make a formal Branch complaint. Former Branch Secretary, Mike Chappell, who was one of the members visited by police, has also made a complaint to police for harassment.

<http://www.bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/>

Cornish Language Conference for Early Years

Movyans Skolyow Meythin helped to organise a conference at Coleg Kernow/Cornwall College in May last on the topic of the Cornish language.

The idea and title of the conference 'Why Cornish?' was decided upon by Skol Veythrin Karenza parent volunteer, Rhiaart Tal-e-bot, who worked with Coleg Kernow/Cornwall College and Maga to host what is hoped will be an annual event. The conference aimed to highlight the reasons why the Cornish language is spoken in Cornwall, how it is introduced in schools by Maga and what provision for learning the language is available at preschool level in comparison with the situation of early year's language provision in Wales and the Isle of Man.

Workshops were organised in the afternoon, which involved learning Cornish, discussing language use at home with bilingual families, providing ideas for games and activities for teaching Cornish and demonstrating Cornish language resources.

Approximately 30 delegates took part in the event which included parents from local preschools, staff from Coleg Kernow and students. Certificates were provided to delegates for attendance at the conference in association with Maga.

Don't Jubilee've it!

Members of the Kernow Branch travelled to London to take part in a protest against the English Monarchy, during the English Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London on 3rd June 2012.

The protest, organised by anti monarchy campaign group Republic, was billed as the biggest republican protest in London in modern times and was held on the banks of the Thames near Tower Bridge. About 250 protesters gathered in the restricted area near the River, with about 1000 more protesters gathering outside on the road. Peter Tatchell, one of the speakers at the event said:

"... in a democracy no public office should be inherited...nor should we have Heads of State who inherit their positions by virtue of being born into one very rich, powerful, privileged aristocratic family. ...in a democracy we should all have the right to choose our head of state...and if that Head of State does not perform their duties well, we should have a right to replace them. The principle is democratic choice and public accountability and that's one thing that Monarchy does not give us".



**Olwen Champlaud-Tal-e-bot,
part of the Kernow delegation**

Pasty Tax Reversal

Following a successful campaign against the imposition of a tax on the Cornish pasty, the UK Government announced a reversal of its decision in May 2012.

The plans to add a 20% VAT charge on hot pastry products would have had an adverse effect on the Cornish economy, because so many businesses in Cornwall are either directly or indirectly dependent on the production and/or sale of pasties. The campaign even attracted transatlantic support with a petition from Calumet in Michigan in the USA presented to the Mayor of Camborne.

One of the main events of the campaign was a rally in the town of Falmouth, where members of the Branch joined with 500 people in appalling weather to protest against the imposition of the tax.



Britaanish

Ta Britaanish ny çengey p-Celtish, gollrish Bretnish as Cornish. Haink Britaanish rish er oyr dy daink Britnee veih'n Vretyn Vooar dy chroo çheer noa sy Çheer Vooar Oarpagh ayns ny keeadyn lurg da ny Romanee er naagail y Vretyn Vooar as va poar ny Sostnee gaase. Ta ny scoillaryn gra dy vel Britaanish ny çengey 'Cheltiagh Ellanagh' er y fa dy daink ee veih ny h-Ellanyn Goadagh. Foddee dy row ny Britnee shoh scapail veih ny Sostnee. Ansherbee, hug ad y Vritaan er bun, haink dy ve ny çheer heyr. Tra haink y Rank dy ve myr çheer er-lheh, v'ee kinjagh baggyrt er y Vritaan. Er jerrey, va'n Vritaan voght sluggit stiagh ec ny Frangee as chaill y Vritaan e seyrnsys. Cha row eh feer foddey er dy henney dy row ny Frangisheyrin sy steat Frangagh nyn mynlagh. Adsyn as Britaanish, Baskish as çhengaghyn elley oc, va ny shlee na jeusyn ayn na'n earroo dy Rangisheyrin. Ren reiltys Paris caggey jeean dy chur mow gagh çengey 's'insley' gollrish Britaanish as Baskish sy steat Frangagh. Ta'n reiltys shen er ve speeideilagh dy liooar: mysh y vlein 1950 va ny shlee na millioon Britaanisheyrin ayn. Mysh 2007, va'n earroo shen er duittym gys 200,000 ny myr shen, y chooid smoo jeu shid ny shinney na tree feed blein. Nish ta UNESCO gra dy vel Britaanish 'ayns gaue mooar'. Cooinee dy dooyrt UNESCO dy row yn Ghaelg 'marroo'. Nish t'ad gra dy vel ee 'ayns gaue mooar'. Ta shin jannoo dy mie!

Eddyry nuyoo cheead lurg Creest as y nah cheead yeig, she Britaanish va çengey yn sleih oasle sy Vritaan. Agh ny lurg shen, hug y sleih oasle as ny brastyllyn meanagh toshiaght da loayrt Frangish, as haink Britaanish dy ve yn çengey v'ec sleih nagh row monney poar ny argid oc – y skeeal cadjin ayns ny çheeraghyn Celtiagh. T'eh jeeaghyn nagh row ny reeaghyn Frangagh boirit ec ny çhengaghyn ardjynagh sy steat Frangagh, ga dy row sleih eignit goaill ymyyd jeh Frangish son dellal-reiltys. Agh, faggys da jerrey yn hoghtoo cheead jeig, haink caghlaa mooar lesh y Ravloyd Frangagh. Hug y reiltys ravloydjagh polasee er bun ren cur er Frangish dy ve foddey erskyn ny çhengaghyn ardjynagh gollrish Britaanish. Va (as ta) sleih poaral gra 'patois' rish gagh çengey ardjynagh, eer roosyn va (as ta) ard-lettyraght as cultoor oc. She 'Seyrnsys, Braaraghys as Cormid' va sleih-gherry y Ravloyd Frangagh – agh cha row shen bentyn da çhengaghyn 's'insley'. Va ny ravloydjee smooinghyn dy row sleih

ayns foayr jeh reeriaghtyn pohlldal çhengaghyn ardjynagh ry-hoi cummal sleih-çheerey fo chosh. Myr shen, smooinee ny ravoydjee, bare dooin geddyn rey rish ny çhengaghyn ardjynagh. Er aghyn ennagh, ta'n polasee shen foast ayn. Ayns 1794, dooyrt ravloydjagh ennagh, 'Ta Britaanish ec conastagys as faasechredjue'. Hoilshee shen dy row ny ravloydjee dy bollagh ayns foayr jeh laaraghey – as shen ny ren ad. Haink Paris dy ve eer ny smoo casley rish mean y teihll Frangagh, as haink Frangish dy ve ny çengey 'gyn cron' – eer ny share na Ladjyn.

Dobbree reiltys Paris dy jeean rish daa cheead blein dy varroo yn çengey Vritaanagh. Ec toshiaght yn eedoo cheead, cha row agh Britaanish ny lomarcan ec lieh jeh'n phobble ayns Breizh Izel, y Vritaan Heear. Va'n lieh elley daa hengagh. Ayns 1950, cha row agh keead meeilley Britaanee foast er mayrn as Britaanish ny lomarcan oc. Neayr's y traa shen ta'n çengey er ny himman sheese y lhiargagh ny smoo as ny smoo, as s'cosoylagh nagh vel sleih erbee er mayrn as Britaanish ny lomarcan oc nish. Ayns 1997, v'eh feddynt dy row mysh 300,000 Britaanisheyr ayns Breizh Izel – va mysh 190,000 jeu shen ny shinney na tree feed. Cha row Britaanish ec monney dy leih va eddyr queig bleaney jeig as nuy bleaney jeig dy eash. Agh ta'n caggey son Britaanish foast goll er oi.



Roparz Hemon

Sy vlein 1925, va'n earislioar lettyraght Gwalarn currit er bun ec Roparz Hemon. Va shen jeant echey ry-hoi troggal Britaanish gys y leval jeh ard-çhengaghyn eddyrashoonagh liorish cur magh lettyraght va mie as noa ayns Britaanish. Va Galarn ayn rish nuy bleaney jeig. Sy vlein 1946, ghow Al Liamm ynnyd Galarn myr ard-earislioar lettyraght. Haink earislioaryn Britaanish elley rish as ny veggan as ny veggan va lettyraght mooar dy liooar er ny croo ayns Britaanish. Ta paart d'ilmyrn er nyn yannoo ayns Britaanish, as ta bardyn, çengeydeyrn as fir-screeuuee er nobbraghey ayns Britaanish as er chosney goo mie eddyrashoonagh. Ny mast'oc ta Yann-Ber Kalloc'h, Roparz Hemon, Anjela Duval, Pêr-Jakez Helias as Youenn Gwernig.

Y laa t'ayn jiu, she Britaanish yn ynrican çengey Cheltiagh nagh vel enney eck myr çengey oikoil ny çengey ardjynagh. Ta'n steat Frangagh gobbal caghlaa y nah olt jeh'n vunraght (currit stiagh ayns 1994) ta gra dy nee Frangish çengey yn Phobblaght. Creid eh ny dyn, y chield fockleyr Britaanish, y Catholicon, va shen y chield fockleyr Frangish myrgeddin. Hie yn Catholicon er femblal ayns 1464, as v'eh ry-hoi tree çhengaghyn – Britaanish, Frangish as Ladjyn. Sy lhing jeianagh, ta ny Britaanee er nobbraghey braew jeean dy chosney enney eddyrashoonagh son y çengey oc. Ta fockleyryn ayn ta kiangley Britaanish lesh Baarle, Ollanish, Germaanish, Spaainish as Bretnish. Chammath as shen, ta fockleyr un-çhengagh ayn ta soilshaghey magh focklyn Britaanish ayns Britaanish. Va feed meeilley fockle sy nah chur-magh ayns 2001.

Ayns 1977, haink scoillyn Diwan rish, raad ta sleih aegey goll er ynsaghey trooid Britaanish – coorse-thummey. Va kuse dy veeillaghyn dy leih aegey goll gys ny scoillyn shen. Fy yerrey, phrow yn reiltys Frangagh dy chur ny scoillyn Diwan stiagh ayns coarys-ynsee yn steat. Jinnagh oo credjal eh, agh va'n eab shen lhiettit ec Cooncil Vunraghtoil y Rank. Ren lhiasaghey jeh bunraght yn Wheiggoo Phobblaght gra dy nee Frangish çengey yn Phobblaght. Kyndagh rish shen, dooyrt y Choonecil shoh, cha nel çengey elley erbee lowit dy ve ny çengey ry-hoi gynsaghey da paitçhyn ayns scoillyn y Rank! Ta shen keeallaghey nagh vel argid-steat erbee lowit dy ghol gys ny scoillyn Diwan. Mastey scammyltn eddyrashoonagh elley, cha jean y reiltys Frangagh cur e ennym hug Y Kaart Oarpagh son Myn-çhengaghyn as Çhengaghyn Ardjynagh, kyndagh rish Leigh Toubon. Ta Leigh Toubon gra dy nee Frangish y çengey son ynsagh theayagh – as shen eh.

Chammath as scoillyn Diwan, hie yn saase-ynsee Div Yezh (Daa Hengey) er croo ayns 1979. Ta'n saase shen goll er ymyydey ayns scoillyn-steat ennagh. As ta'n saase-ynsee Dihun (Doostey) ry-gheddyn ayns scoillyn Catoleagh. Ayns 2011, va 14,174 studeyrin goll gys scoillyn Diwan, Div Yezh as Dihun

PETER KARRAN LOSES MINISTERIAL JOB

News that the government in Mannin has voted to gamble a huge amount of tax payers' money - £25,000,000 of reserves – by purchasing shares in Pinewood Studios (some reports say as much as £50m) has provoked gasps of public disbelief, following the devastating budget cuts in February.

Peter Karran (Minister for Education and Children) refused to subscribe to the Council of Ministers' block vote and was immediately sacked by Chief Minister Alan Bell.

On Tynwald Day, 5th July, the former Minister Mr Karran, paid his usual visit to the Mec Vannin stall. Unfortunately for him he was greeted with less than a sympathetic response because of his decision to close pre-school nurseries when Minister for Education and Children. It so happened that four teachers were present. He remained adamant that the decision was the only one that he could have taken without cutting teaching jobs in statutory school sector, yet the saving was, by his own admission, a mere £700,000 in a department whose annual budget is over £95,000,000 and whose budget has been increased by £170,000 despite the hatchet job and pay freezes.

He was asked how most EU countries which have more difficult budgetary constraints than ours, could manage to continue with free teacher-led pre-school provision when ours were cut. We did not get an answer to that particular question. One teacher recited a list of what she considered a waste of Departmental money and she was invited to write to him to arrange a meeting to discuss this. Most teachers agree that the department is top heavy with advisers who do little to advance education. Despite a huge reduction in actual teaching staff through natural wastage, administrative and "advisory" staff have actually expanded.

A petition of grievance (an ancient right of the people of the Island) against the closure

– as bee yn earroo shen goll seose blein lurg blein. Ta mysh queig meeilley dy leih aasit jannoo studeyrys er Britaanish er coorseyn ennagh. Lhig dooin guee nagh vel agh un raad ayn da Vritaanish nish: seose.

Summary

The history of the Breton language is sadly dominated by the persecution of the language and culture of Brittany by the French State, particularly following the French Revolution. But there are some hopeful signs for the language.

Brian Stowell

of preschools was presented to the annual Tynwald Court by Miss Amy Burns. She believes that since the Department was renamed The Department of Education and Children, it has abdicated from its responsibility to children.

Despite his less than warm reception at Mec Vannin's stall, Mr Karran was congratulated for his refusal to vote with the Council of Ministers' plan to gamble over two thirds of the £35million saved by the extreme budgetary cuts announced in February.

Mr Karran has since joined the Department of Home Affairs as part of a reshuffle carried out by the chief minister taking on responsibility for the Island's drug and alcohol strategy.

C.J.K.



Peter Karran

Bunscoil Ghaelgagh Celebrates its Tenth Anniversary

The Manx language primary school, Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, located in St. Johns, celebrated its tenth anniversary in June last. When it first opened some nine pupils were on the roll, this has since grown to



sixty; it is evident that many parents on the Isle of Man consider the preservation of the Gaelic language to be a goal of significant cultural importance.

The successful effort to revive Manx as a spoken language can be seen in a recent census, which showed that an increasing number of residents on the island (about 2.2% of the population) are claiming some knowledge of the language; an achievement helped, in no small part, by initiatives such as Bunscoil Ghaelgagh.

Concern over future for Manx studies

THE Centre for Manx Studies faces an uncertain future due to government funding cuts. The director of the Centre Dr Harold Mytum said: 'The University of Liverpool's Centre for Manx Studies, founded in 1992, is the only higher education research centre on the island, based at the University Centre at the Nunnery, Douglas. Two-thirds of the centre's core funding comes from the university and the rest from the Manx Government. However, this has been severely cut by the Department of Education and Children and the future for the centre is uncertain.'

Dr Mytum said: 'If the Manx contribution is not set at a viable level, the university has made it clear that the academic and other staff will move back to Liverpool, and their efforts will not be concentrated on the Isle of Man. The centre's research into the island's archaeology, history, music, language, and culture would be under extreme threat, and assistance and advice to Manx National

Heritage and government in areas including education, planning, tourism, and agriculture would be lost'.



Manx Studies director Dr Harold Mytum

Celtica

Celts in South America

Although Latin America is not as associated with the Celtic diaspora as traditional places like the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, there is a strong link that goes right back to the “discovery” of Latin America by the Spaniards and Portuguese.

The Iberian Peninsula always had a strong Celtic influence which has remained in the name of Galicia, a region in the north-western corner of Spain with its own devolved government. The Galician port of Vigo was the traditional departure point for hundreds of thousands of Spanish emigrants who set off to try



Peter Campbell

their fortunes in Central and South America in the 19th and 20th centuries. Large numbers, if not the majority, were Galicians, including the father of Fidel Castro. In many parts of Latin America, “Spanish” immigrants were referred to simply as “Gallegos” i.e. Galicians. Northern Portugal also has strong cultural and linguistic links with Galicia and many Portuguese have Celtic ancestry.

Freedom Fighters

Three outstanding Celts played leading roles in South American history in the 19th century when the Spanish colonies and Brazil fought for independence.

Bernardo O’Higgins (1778-1842) was the son of an Irishman and the main hero of Chilean independence. He is known as The Liberator and there is not a town or village in Chile that does not have a street named after him. Another Celtic hero is a

Scots aristocrat, Thomas Cochrane, Lord Dundonald, (1775-1860) who was made admiral of the Chilean navy and a Chilean citizen by O’Higgins. Cochrane was created the Marquis of Maranhão by the first independent Brazilian government. He is still a revered name in the country’s history despite the fact that he fell out with the new government over payment for his services and fled after taking (or stealing depending on your point of view) public funds and sacking ships in São Luiz harbour. Cochrane was also head of the Brazilian and Chilean navies and helped both countries (and Peru) throw off imperialist rule. Peter Campbell (1780-1832) known as “Pedro” was born in Ireland and served in the 71st Highland regiment. He was part of the British army which failed to occupy Buenos Aires in 1806. However, he stayed on in the region and became a right-hand man of the Uruguayan national hero, Artigas, who made him commander of the newly independent country’s navy. The lives of all these men were filled with adventure and excitement and they played leading roles in freeing other countries from tyranny.

Hard-working Immigrants

On a more peaceful note, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile attracted thousands of Scottish, Irish and Welsh immigrants in the 19th and 20th century who made a tremendous contribution to building their new homelands. The signs of their presence are visible today in place names and surnames. For example, the first Argentinean president after the ending of military rule in 1983, Raul Alfonsín, was of Scottish descent. A pipe band festival is held in Buenos Aires every year attended by dozens of bands from all over Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and further afield. One of the main educational institutions in Buenos Aires is the St Andrew’s Scots School. A recent Argentinean finance minister was called Ricardo Lopez Murphy. Che Guevara’s full name was Ernesto Lynch Guevara and there is a district in Buenos Aires called Villa Lynch. Argentina is reckoned to have the fifth-largest Irish diaspora community in the world. Buenos Aires was the site of

the International Irish Diaspora Congress held in June 2011 90 years after the first such meeting was held there, highlighting the long contact between Ireland and Argentina.

While some of these immigrants arrived as individuals, others were part of organized groups and established settlements as part of the Argentinean government’s attempts to settle the country, particularly the vast southern stretch of Patagonia. The Welsh were the most politically-minded and left Wales for cultural rather than material reasons. They set up several settlements in Patagonia from 1865 onwards in their bid to establish



Welsh Patagonia Flag

a “little Wales beyond Wales” where they could speak their own language and be far from English influence. Places like Trelew, Gaimin and Trevelin and an estimated 50,000 Argentineans were founded by the Welsh and still maintain links with Wales. Communities of Scottish settlers were established in Buenos Aires province and many Scots shepherds also worked on huge farms called estancias in Argentina, Chile and the Falklands/Malvinas. It was on one of these estancias that the most famous Scots associated with Argentina, Robert Cunninghame Graham, began his love affair with the country. “Don Roberto”, as he was known, lived and wrote about life among the Argentinean cowboys, the gauchos, and was a founding member of the forerunner to today’s SNP. He died in Buenos Aires in 1936. Cornish miners were also present in Argentina and Chile and Scottish engineers and railway workers helped set up railways in Argentina and Brazil. A team called the Scottish Wanderers played in the São Paulo state league in the early 20th century. The father of Charles Miller, the man who introduced football to Brazil, was a railway engineer from Glasgow and Charles Miller was born in São Paulo. Brazil’s most famous poet of the 20th century, Carlos Drummond de Andrade, was also of Scottish descent.

John Fitzpatrick in São Paulo, Brazil

Note: You can contact the writer at johnfitz@terra.com.br

Welcome for Irish Exam results but...

56,000 students sat the Leaving Certificate this year there was an 11% increase in the number of students taking the higher level Irish paper. The Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn TD claimed that changes to the oral Irish examination were the main factor in the higher demand for the higher level paper. According to statistics issued by the State Examinations Commission, 42,965 students sat an Irish language paper in this year's exams. Of them 15,937 took the higher level paper .17.4% of students received an A grade at higher level this year in comparison to 13.9% who received top marks last year. 22,875 students took the paper at ordinary level and 74.2% of these candidates achieved A, B or C grades.

The format for the new oral Irish examination is a joint exam for those sitting higher and ordinary level exams which is worth 40% of the overall mark. However many groups including Irish teachers have expressed concern that the subject is being overly simplified at Leaving Certificate level in a manner which is unchallenging for students attending Irish medium schools in Gaeltacht regions and in Gaelscoileanna and they have called for the introduction of a new subject to compensate for this, a call so far rejected. It should also be noted that 7,000 students got a derogation from taking Irish, and there was an increase of 35% from 2007 in numbers not studying the language at second level.

Flawed Gaeltacht Bill

continued from page 16

memorandum. Both groups lobbied and submitted many amendments, through opposition TDs, to strengthen the proposed legislation.

Minister of State for Irish, Dinny McGinley, ignored all appeals. The Government refused to accept even one of the more than 150 amendments submitted and voted the Bill through in late July after Opposition TDs walked out of the Dáil in protest at that. Éamonn Mac Niallais, Guth na Gaeltachta, said 'Every step of this process showed a lack of democracy and consultation with regard to the Bill, legislation which is supposed to be addressing the needs of Irish and the Gaeltacht but which totally ignores the opinions, proposals and amendments of that community.'



Donncha Ó hÉallaithe
(Courtesy Mick Shaughnessy and beo.ie)

Meon Eile - Media Resource in Irish

A new online media resource for Irish speakers – Meon Eile (meoneile.ie) – has been launched in Belfast. It aims to give browsers regular written news, sport, music and cultural features as well as videos in Irish. Meon Eile's producer Sinéad Ingoldsby said they intended to produce high-quality material and "interesting stories on a user-friendly site" to cater for Irish speakers on the web. Raidió Rí-Rá (rrr.ie), an Irish-language station which plays popular music for young people, also announced that they would begin to broadcast live on the Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) platform in Dublin and Waterford and in Cork and Limerick by the end of 2012 and nationally after that. As well as being online, Raidió Rí-Rá is available on iPhone, Nokia and Android phones through the TuneIn application.

'This is anything but Cornwall' and their curious opinion polls

The London based Northcliffe Media group, owners of the near fascist Daily Mail as well as the Western Morning News, the West Briton, the Cornishman and the Cornish Guardian newspapers amongst others, has run a series of curiously Anglo centric articles in their publications based in Cornwall and accompanied them with opinion polls.

The poll results must have caused a slight quiver to a few English stiff upper lips at Northcliffe!

One attached to an article about support in Cornwall for the England football team showed a remarkable 93% of respondents 'didn't know and didn't care' about football. Another article talking up St George's Day was accompanied by a poll where 89% to 90% of respondents were against a bank holiday in Cornwall to mark the adopted English Saint. On the other hand, an ageing poll, strangely still open at time of writing, accompanied by an article regarding St. Piran's Day celebrated on 5th March annually, showed 83% of in excess of 3,500 respondents in favour of a holiday to mark Cornwall's National Saint.

Other polls showing a decided lack of interest in the Olympic Torch relay and then the Queen's Diamond Jubilee were quickly removed from the newspapers' combined website, 'This is Cornwall', which has been described by some observers as 'This is anything but Cornwall'.

Jo Wood, the journalist writing the article expounding the benefits of St. George entitled her piece 'The bank holiday conundrum - Should St. George's Day be a holiday?' Apparently in everyone else's mind, the question is hardly a conundrum at all!

Mind you, Northcliffe who have a substantial media presence in Wales as well, describe that country as a 'region' so perhaps nothing should come as a surprise to readers of their rags!

Michael Chappell

Scotland's Biggest Taboo ?

continued from page 5

Flemish and Norman merchants, and destroyed the Culdee church. This led to the confusion and annexation that Edward Longshanks attempted. However, I believe a section of the Lowland Scottish aristocracy never quite let go of the colonial mindset between the Declaration of Arbroath and the Union of the Crowns. Most notably this can be seen in their persecution of Gaelic language and culture, and an attempted plantation of Lewis by the so called "Gentleman Adventurers of Fife". And because the colonial mindset perhaps never entirely disappeared, Scotland faced first the abolition of its crown, and then its parliament a century later. We still exist within the Union, and we have gained a parliament, but I think we still face a colonial mindset in our media, civil servants and business community. This is partly down to education, particularly the private schools.

With a few exceptions, I do not believe that this issue has ever received proper attention. Unionists (and many nationalists) would deny Scotland was ever colonised. The idea rarely gets serious attention. I have heard a few rants by nationalists, in which emotion seems to have gained the whip-hand over fact and reason... and also numerous rebuttals by unionists, along the lines of "Africa/Asia suffered from X, Y & Z, and Scotland didn't, so therefore it was not colonised". While I do not think this matter can be fully discussed in *Carn*, for reasons of space etc, I hope that this article may inspire other people to study this question further. I also hope that readers will think about how much the colonial traits listed above do and don't relate to Scotland. Some are certainly much more applicable than others. Are Scots in denial, or am I plain wrong?

Notes:

1 - The quote at the beginning was taken from "Scotland" (2009 *Encyclopaedia Britannica 2009 Ultimate Reference Suite*. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica). I include it because it is unusual to see such language used in a mainstream context.

2 - Genuine Scottish imperialism was actually a paper mouse, involving a tiny colony in Panama and Nova Scotia. When the Panama colony (Darién) failed after a few months, the Scottish economy imploded which led to the end of independence. There is also the matter of Orkney and Shetland, which has never been discussed (to my knowledge) in *Carn*.

Ray Bell

CELTIC LEAGUE FLAG



The new Celtic League flag, a composite of the flags of the Celtic Nations with the Celtic Knot in the centre, was launched by Gi Keltik, Breton Branch Secretary, at the 50th AGM of the Celtic League last year. The Celtic Knot, an intertwining design with six interlinked nodes representing the six Celtic nations, is the symbol of the Celtic League and of Celtic Unity. The design of the new flag was proposed by Gi and agreed at the 2010 AGM and Gi undertook to have it produced to mark the 50th year of the League. Our thanks to Gi for all the effort involved and ensuring it was ready to fly outside the Town Chambers in Falkirk in 2011.

The flag is full flagpole size 1.8m x 1.2m, it is hoped to produce other smaller sizes soon. It can be obtained directly from Gi Keltik for €30 plus p&p. Address alongside this or email: keltikpressbz@yaho.com, Tel: 0033(0) 698750555

We encourage all members to buy one, buy one for your friends also. All language bodies and cultural bodies would be interested, ask them. Your local authority and tourist office would like one too to welcome Celtic guests. Sports organisations and their clubs, traditional music bodies and cultural organisations will be interested. Canvass them to buy some.

Help us have this flag fly all over the Celtic countries!

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

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Membership and Subscriptions

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

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