• Gaelic Scotland and the Wars of Independence

• An Bhreatnais sa Phatagóin

• Union Democratic Bretonne and Greens Beat French Socialists

• Gaol for the Welsh Language – the tradition continues

• EU Lisbon Treaty Rerun – Only Independent Celtic State Cedes Sovereignty!

• My Cornwall.TV!

• Manx Language News

• Kernow Hosts Successful Celtic League AGM
Alba

Linn Dealain nan Gàidheil

Thòisich an Comann Ceilteach cumntas air Twitter anns a’ mhìos seo chaidh, agus b’ e seo an rud a thug orn a’ smaoneachadh air na goirisean teicneolais Gàidhilg mar an eadar-lìon.

Tha mi cinnteach gum bi gach leughadair a’ clùiminn seo gu tric. Gur e aach cànun beag a th’annn a’ Gàidhlig, agus ‘maiar a dh’thag Gàidheil a’ Ghàidhealtachd, chaidh Gàidhlig dheànnamh nas lugha. An tair sin, clùiminn sibh mu dheudhinn budach na Gàidheal, agus am bás na Gàidhlig gum biodh e air tachair mur thàith.


Lee Ramsay

Summary
This article discusses all the Gaelic resources you can find on the Internet today.
Above Aberdour, not far from the Forth Bridge, is an unassuming memorial to Alexander III, which it describes as "the last Celtic king of Scotland". In 1286, that King Alexander and his party were riding above the cliffs here, when fog scattered the party, and Alexander and his horse fell to their deaths. It has been claimed that he was murdered, but this has never been proven satisfactorily and probably never will be. Alexander had a successful reign which had effectively ended the power of the Norse in Scotland at the Battle of Largs (Na Leargaidh Gallida) in 1263. But Alexander's death led to chaos. He had one heir, Margaret, the "Maid of Norway". Margaret was an infant, and died before reaching Scotland. No fewer than 13 Competitors claimed the Crown of Scotland, and the resultant chaos led to English intervention.

It is debatable whether Alexander III really was the last Celtic King of Scots; rather he was the last of the Dunkeld or Cannmore (Cearn Mòr) dynasty. The Stewarts were the last rulers of an independent Scotland, and they have as good a claim as any. Their family origins lay in the Fitz Alans, who were Stewards of Scotland, and who came from Breton origins. We know from the testimony of Pedro Ayala, the Spanish ambassador to the court of James IV (1488-1513) that the King spoke the language of the "Wild Scots", and he is presumably the last one, although it's been claimed, with little evidence that his son, James V (1513-42) could also speak the language. Lastly, although much of Scotland was rapidly being Normanised and Anglicised, especially in the burghs, there was in fact a degree of intermarriage between the native and Norman nobilities.

What constitutes a "Celtic king" is as complicated a question as what exactly the word "Celtic" means. In the case of the Stewarts (later Stuarts), the Gaelic claim never evaporated fully, even when the rulers were oppressing the Highlands, and were de-Gaelicised themselves. It crops up in Jacobitism. Both Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) and his father James exploited it to the full in order to win over the clans, and Gaelic poetry of the 18th century often mentions their remote, semi-legendary Gaelic ancestors. (It is possible that Charles picked up at least some of the language on his sojourns across northern Scotland, and he was also considered the legitimate king by some people.)

### The Background

In the early middle ages, Scotland was a multilingual country, like its neighbours. The Gaelic language was spoken over a much wider area, including almost all the Lowlands outside the cities. During the 1200s, there would have been Gaels in areas such as Buchan, Fife, Galloway, Dumfriesshire, and even some of the more rugged parts of the Lothians. The remnants of Brythonic and Norse populations still remained.

Scotland itself had started in the merger of the Gaelic kingdom of Dalriada, with Pictland, and Brythonic Strathclyde, and the Hebrides were later conquered from Norway. Up until the Battle of Largs, there had been regular Norse attacks, and for centuries there were attacks from Anglo-Saxon Northumbria and England. The Scots conquered Northumbria down to the Tweed in 1018, which was partly Anglo-Saxon, but also partly Brythonic. Gaelic influence on all of these areas predated political union, and the similarity of Brythonic and Goidelic at this time, meant that Scottish Gaelic’s structure and vocabulary were irreversibly changed by this contact, and many place names, such as Aberdour, Penicuik and Tranent (Trentan) come from it. Brythonic and Goidelic names can be found in all parts of mainland Scotland, with Norse names mostly in the coastal areas, and islands, and Anglo-Saxon names in the far south east.

The first major blow to Gaelic culture in Scotland came with Malcolm Canmore's second wife, Margaret, known as St Margaret to her supporters and Mairead nam Mallachd (Accursed Margaret) in Gaelic. Margaret was an Anglo-Saxon who had been raised in Hungary – she never bothered to learn Gaelic, but on the other hand, there is no clear evidence she spoke English either. Because of the Norman conquest of England in 1066, a flood of English refugees came into Scotland. Her main legacy was to mainstream the church, bringing in English and Norman clerics. Her stepchildren bore Celtic names, but her own children by Malcolm generally bore Anglo-Saxon and continental names, such as Edgar.

David I (1084-1153) was one of Margaret’s offspring, and a noted reformer. Many of his reforms were necessary, for example, he minted Scotland’s very first coins. However, many of the reforms involved copying English examples wholesale, installing Norman families, and the policy of "civilising" the country by planting merchant burghs, which were mainly filled with Anglo-Normans, Flemings and English to improve trade. (Unlike England, Wales or Ireland, the Normans were originally invited into Scotland.) David also started the policy of Scottish kings being feudal lords in England, taking manors in 11 English counties. This meant that he had to swear fealty to the King of England, who was then Henry I. The Kings of Scots saw this as fealty for the manorial holdings in England, but the Kings of England saw this as applying to the realm of Scotland as well. This policy led to much confusion, particularly as the Scots would also conquer large swathes of England, particularly after the Norman Conquest – at one point David’s capital was Carlisle, and the border was the River Ribble south of Blackpool. Like traditional Scotland, this portion of Cumbria contained Norse, Brythons and English, and even a few Gaels. Alexander III was David I’s great-great-grandson, or more succinctly, fionn-ogha as the Gaelic has it.

The policy of Anglicisation/Normalisation was not wholly successful, at least not to begin with. Many of the Norman families would “go native”, as they did in Ireland.
Ray Bell

ROBERT TANNAHILL: THE GREAT PAISLEY POET

Next year (2010) sees the 200th anniversary of the death of the great Paisley poet Robert Tannahill. Robert Tannahill’s ancestors had been weavers for several generations in Kilmarnock. In 1756 however the family moved to Paisley, then a town of 4000 people with 1300 working looms. Robert was born in 1774. He attended school from the age of 6 until he was 12, when was then apprenticed to his father as a handloom weaver.

In 1786 Tannahill’s father James was chosen as Deacon or Boxmaster of the Paisley Old Weaver’s Society.

His mother meanwhile was related to the Brodie family which had produced several artistic/cultural figures -including Robert Brodie, a local poet of some renown. Robert Tannahill however suffered from poor health and had a deformed right leg. In his youth he sought to strengthen it through long walks in the countryside round Paisley. Places like Stanely and the Gleniffer Braes, where he frequently strolled, would later provide material for -and feature in- his poetry and songs.

Indeed by 1791, when his apprenticeship ended, Tannahill was already showing literary talent. That was the year Burns’s “Tam O’ Shanter” was published. The people of Paisley noted the reference in the poem to “cutty sark o’ Paisley harn.” Tannahill is said to have walked to Alloway with 1300 working looms. In 1796 he also became Secretary of the Paisley Burns Club. The Club, by the way, is arbitrated by alcohol.

In 1805 he also became Secretary of the Paisley Burns Club. The Club, by the way, is active to this day and claims to be the oldest formally constituted Burns Club in the world. In 1807 a 175 page volume of Tannahill’s poetry was published. There was an advance subscription of 900 and the book made Tannahill a profit of £20. Amongst the poems were “Thou Bonnie Wood o’ Craigie-leca” and “The Braes o’ Gleniffer.”

However Tannahill thought seeking subscribers was somehow degrading. For the proposed second edition he sought to approach publishers direct. Unfortunately publishers in Greenock and Edinburgh turned him down.

Tannahill took rejection badly and there were signs of deep emotional distress. On May 16, 1810 he was seen to his bed by his mother. However he got up later and left his house in the middle of the night. His body was recovered soon after from a nearby canal. Robert and his youngest brother Hugh moved to Bolton for a time for work but he returned in 1801 when he heard that his father was ill and close to death.

Paisley weavers at this time were famously well read and in 1803 Tannahill and his friends formed the Paisley Literary and Convivial Association. Proceedings of the associations were by all accounts well lubricated by alcohol.

As its ruling class spoke a form of French, Coincidentally, it was only during the rule of Edward I, that English gained any official recognition. Even before 1066, some of the rulers and nobles of England were Norse speakers, such as Canute. However, England was more successful at combining its native and Norman traditions than Scotland. A strange kind of Creole/pidgin had emerged, a compromise between Anglo-Saxon and Norman French, with some Norse thrown in. It would evolve into the language, which I am writing in now.

Calman Commission Calls for more powers for Scottish Parliament

After the SNP’s election victory in May 2007 and the setting up by the Scottish Government of a “National Conversation” on Scotland’s constitutional future (including its plan for a referendum on independence) the main opposition parties -Labour, Liberal Democratic and Conservative- established a Commission under Sir Kenneth Calman to see how Holyrood “could serve the people of Scotland better” (Daily Telegraph 15 June 2009).

The Commission has now reported and its’ “head-line recommendation” is that the Scottish Parliament should be “responsible and accountable for a proportion of the taxes it spends.”

Essentially, under the Calman proposals, the basic and top rate taxes in Scotland would be cut by 10p in the pound and then the block grant paid annually by the Treasury to the Scottish Government would be cut by an equivalent amount.

It would then be up to the Scottish Parliament to levy a separate Scottish Income Tax and to decide at which rate to set it.

However the Scottish Parliament would not be able to vary the differential between the basic and top rates of tax. They would not be allowed, in other words, to target the rich as part of a move towards a more progressive/redistributive tax system!

Broadly speaking, the Commission’s recommendations have been welcomed as both serious and radical. The Commission does propose that the Parliament should gain control also over stamp duties, landfill taxes and air passenger duty.

The SNP does point out though that the Commission never set out to look at the issue of independence itself. No has it considered handing Scotland back all its’ financial powers.

Alan Stewart

People. Crop failures in 1799 however led to a steep rise in the price of food and there were soup kitchens in the streets. Robert and his youngest brother Hugh moved to Bolton for a time for work but he returned in 1801 when he heard that his father was ill and close to death.

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Tannahill took rejection badly and there were signs of deep emotional distress. On May 16, 1810 he was seen to his bed by his mother. However he got up later and left his house in the middle of the night. His body was recovered soon after from a nearby canal. Tannahill was fondly remembered after his death however. In 1866 locals funded a monument, which was erected by his grave on Canal Street. Then in 1883 open-air choral concerts of his songs held on Gleniffer Braes raised money for a statue of the poet (which is to be found by Paisley Abbey).

Alan Stewart
Reiñ ton da filmoù Kerneveur

Gouel Filmoù Kerneveur a voe dalc’het e kreiz miz Du. Ur prenest rigor war sinema ar vr eo an emgav-mañ, o lakaat war raok ar filmoù liessuret a vez savet gant tud, ret mat dezho diskouez ijjin evit tremen dreist an diouer a arc’hant. Ur gouel na zisoñj ket yezh keltiek ar vr kennebeut rak pep bloaz, e vez roet gantañ ur yalc’had skoazell a benn sevel ur film e Kerneveureg.

En ur sinema nevez flamm, ar Phoenix, e kreiz kêr Aberfal (Falmouth) e tigoras Gouel Filmoù Kerneveur d’an 13 a viz Du., ahezd an dibenn sizhun e padas. Digeriñ a reas gant ur genstrivadeg filmoù bet savet gant tud yaouank eus ar vr etre 8 ha 18 bloaz, dizhoutou ghou e vez graet ton d’ar sinema kenneveurek.

D’an deiz kentañ ‘ta e voe embannet pesuret raktres a ‘c’houezes ar bloaz-mañ Priz Govyn Kernewe, ur yalc’had 5000 lur saoz a ya da skoazellañ un danvez film e kenneveureg. Diskouezet evoe evit ar wech kentañ Skath, ar film oa bet sikouret warlene. Un diellfilm diwarr benn ar roeñviñ evoe Skath (bag), ur sport a ra berz bras e Kerneveur. Savet eo bet gant Paul Farmer, ur skrivagner ha saver-filmoù en deus bet paket brud er c’hoariva dija hag evit e genlabour gant ar gevedreghzh skrivagnerien Savel an Gow. Un tamm mat e voe ar wech ducet bet ar vr gant, ur film gant an yezh hengounel:  kerne-veureg kozh, krenn ha saoznegkerne-veureg.

Diger eo ar Gouel war ar broiou all izev gant ur genstrivadeg ispisial a zo bet savet evit an estreñien. «An Other Country» zo ur priz mil lur saoz a vez roet gant Skol-Veur Aberfal evit reiñ ton d’ur film berr dindan 10 mn, bet savet gant an estrañjour, forzh peseuret lec’h e vefe. Diaouzh Australia, Kanada, ar Stadoi Unanet, diaouzh broiou evoe europat all evoe, ha diaouzh Azia zoken e teus ar filmoù oa war ar renk. Martez e vo kavet an henti-se gant ur filmozer breizhat, un deiz bennak? Kreñvaet eo bet al liammour bet ozañj zo bet savet gant ar filmoù berr bennak zo bet gant Skol-Veur Aberfal evit reiñ ton d’ur film berr dindan 10 mn, bet savet gant an estrañjour, forzh peseuret lec’h e vefe. Diaouzh Australia, Kanada, ar Stadoi Unanet, diaouzh broiou evoe europat all evoe, ha diaouzh Azia zoken e teus ar filmoù oa war ar renk.

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The financial crisis has created a new era for a new electorate of nearly 500 million inhabitants: the EU. The results of the European parliament gave few surprises - the winners were ... the conservative parties, despite the financial crisis!!!

In the state of France it’s personal satisfaction for the president Nicolas Sarkozy who did a good job as Euro-president. He fought hard against the Russians during the war with Georgia. A personal fight for this man, whose roots are from Hungary during the Soviet era. Otherwise, the president’s party, UMP, did quite well against the National Front and Libertas, on the far right...

The movements came on the left, especially e Breizh, where the Greens joined with the regionalist UDB (on the Europe Ecologie list) to beat the Socialist Party (SP). For the very first time the new parties (<30 years) with a European background did as well (gaining 2 MPs) as the old SP, where personalities are more important than policies, for the moment. In the western electoral area of the French state (Breizh + Vendée + Poitou-Charentes) the 2 MPs for the Green / UDB coalition are former Greenpeace activist Yannick Jadot, and Nicole Kiel-Nielsen of the Greens. It’s also worth mentioning that Dany Cohn-Bendit, founder of MoDEM and the Green / UDB coalition are former Greenpeace personalities... a European background did as well (gaining 2 MPs) as the old SP.

The other surprise of the election was the poor results of the Mouvement Démocrate (MoDEM). E Breizh, MoDEM are the 3rd party but with a new technocrat at the top they gained only 8% of the vote, and one MEP in Strasbourg. A lot of democrats switched to real European leaders and therefore voted for the Green / UDB list. This change is important for the future in our region, and also in Europe as a whole, if the Green parties are the third grouping after the EPP and the Socialists. The competition for third place today e Breizh is between MoDEM and the Green / UDB coalition. The addition of the Breton national party made a good mixture to grab open minded voters in favour of Peace Processes, e Breizh and all over the Celtic nations. Therefore the question is...should the Celtic nationalist parties (UDB + MK + Plaid + SNP + SF + ...) work hand in hand with the green parties, our common ground being – Nature ??

Another surprise of the Euro-Vote e Breizh was the 2.5% of the brand new nationalist party Strollad Breizh (Breton Party), founded in 2002. This centre-right party, campaigning in the five départements of Breizh, demonstrated that Breton voters are ready for a regional party instead of a Democrat party with state goals only. This election has been a huge opportunity for Strollad-Breizh one year before the regional elections. Therefore, in less than ten years they are in a good position to have regional MPs. If both Strollad-Breizh and UDB (+ Greens) will keep up their own dynamism, then the next elections e Breizh, in 2010, should be very interesting.

Yannick Jadot, Former Greenpeace activist

Breizh's Vision for the 21st Century

Part 1

Ten months after the Financial Big Bang, the Lokarn-Institute Conference was very well attended for the 2nd Summer-University about Breizh vision for the future...

The Lokarn-Institute (= L.I.) is the most important think-tank in Breizh. The new generation of managers made a good attempt last year. Gaëtan Bourge, Yann Morin, Jakez A.Stephan and their friends worked hard with the board and the strategic committee lead by Joz LeBihan, in order to secure this second summer-university

With more than 150 managers this annual RDV is now on track for a few years... An important success based on celtic values e-Breizh. President Alan Glon, welcomed a strong delegations from Asia (Japan, China, Vietnam, etc...).

The opportunity to see if we can develop business in the globalised world.

The event began on Thursday 27th August with an historical and cultural introduction of Merzhin’s prophecies by Yann-Berr LeMat. This engineer, who is working in the farming industry, is the author of: “History of Brittany”, which is in English. So, it’s a must for all members of the Celtic League.

The prophecies of Merzhin came from Geoffrey of Monmouth (12th.C). Is Geoffrey of Monmouth Welsh or a Breton from DOL, e-Breizh? “G. Arthur”, as he often signed his texts, one of those Bretons who crossed the channel with William the Conqueror? As most of them he got some land, in Wales after Hastings (1066). Anyway, Breizh was concerned by the prophecies as Wales & Scotland. They were important because people like Yann Monfort(1364), Llewelyn ap Gruffydd(1282), Robert Bruce(1315) or Owen Glendower(1400) fought their “usual” enemies in the name of Merzhin’s prophecies. The psychologist Jung understood the prophecies as pre-existing ideas or thoughts called archetypes. They are instinctive. In the past a lot of people have realized prophecies with placebo pills or Rosenthal tests.

Thomas’ theorem says: “if people see situations as real, they are in their consequences...” The prophecies are part of the management skills used during crisis because individuals need to cope with new challenges in unstable situations. During a crisis a manager needs a VISION immediately and for the future...

Joz LeBihan, a former teacher for business schools, started with an overhaul view of civilizations’ history. After the credit crunch we need new challenges for our globalised world because “harmony in globalisation” is gone. N. Taleb thinks that the financial crisis was the 1st one, of a new list. Now we need to rebuild the production system, which means a lot of new challenges...

D. Rothkoph from The Carnegie Foundation thinks that we are now in a new era in which the links between the global warming and the energy needed will change a lot of situations, in all kind of fields. History of earlier civilisations gives us the opportunity to look to the past in order to understand the junctions in History.

For example, in the 16th C. China was ahead of Europe, for various reasons and the mandarins’ leaders decided to stop business with the outside world. They sank their own ships and put aside all technical improvements...

Jean-Jacques Henaff courtesy (Courtesy ARMR Magazine)

continued on page 7
It's only after WWII that the Chinese leaders changed this strategy. Therefore, Deng Xiaoping speech announcing the end of communism was a starting point for a new era. Japan who made the same mistake as China, but over a shorter period, is now ahead of the 4th technological revolution. This century new technologies on the WEB allowed the financial markets to be open for 24 hours a day. Business is going faster and faster! As far as China is the 3rd GDP in the world it’s possible to imagine technological transfer happening in Asia. What about E.U.? What about the USA? In 2007, Goldman Sachs forecast that by 2030 the GDP of China would be rated 1st in the world just ahead of USA.

The main problem is the weakness of the politicians. They mainly exist through their showbiz periods of office for a short time. “The politicians live in the moment and do not act for the future,” said, Max Weber. Globalisation will need new common values. Wait and see how the Celtic nations will cope with these new challenges!

Jean-Jacques Henaff vice-president of the L.I., started with Merzhin’s prophecies, not only to reflect on the past but also to see what we can learn from it and how to use it in the future. A VISION for a manager is a challenge to open his mind to the new world…to the new technologies. The manager must share common goals with his teams in the long term and develop a strategy focused on actions with a strong will to achieve the goals. Nowadays, in a globalised world, regional values must be shared at a world level. The Breton people hold good values today, which they must share with others to realise a good future. “The VISION is the will to be” J. Paitra said in 2000, at L.I. So J.J.Henaff’s hope for Breizh to be beautiful, rich, open to the world and with a strong sense of solidarity and humanitarianism… Breizh believed in J. Verne (Naoned: 1828), when he said: “all things a man can imagine, other men will…”

In order to introduce next chapter, on Asia, L.I.’s Chairman, Alan Glon, told them that: “we put imagination into our products”. Breizh is also strong on “tracking foods” and “safe products”. Something that is also important in Asia today. After explaining the importance of the Halal business in the Muslim world, and a videoconference with Vietnam, the PM of Malaysia signed an agreement between Lokarn-Institute and the agronomic University of Kula Lumpur in October. Another agreement was reached between Product e-Breizh (PEB) & Benefiq-Asia in order to create new businesses in Singapore, which means that this body will be the centre for all the Breton farming industry in Asia.

Then KL University responded to confirm their commitment to the same values and motives, which underpin Breizh’s outlook on the tracing and safety on food in the future.

Part 2 concludes in the next issue of Carn.
Druids of Armorica

Founded in 1792, the Welsh neodruidic movement has known an important development on both sides of the English Channel. The Goursez of Druids, Bards and Ovates of the Breton peninsula, its continental branch, has taken on quite a large degree of autonomy and evolved into a form of Celtic spiritualism. Carn has met the new Grand Druid Morgan, Per-Vari Kerloc’h.

This summer, at the culmination of the sun, the Goursez of Druids, Bards and Ovates of Brittany blew out its hundred candles. A respectable age, which makes it the doyen of druidic, or rather neo-druidic, colleges on the continent. The tradition was interrupted from the moment when the “very wise” were constrained, under the double impact of an empire which arose a thousand years ago and a religion with a universal calling, to take refuge in the depths of the forests, or in Ireland, in the shadows of the scriptoria…

Was some of their knowledge and their spirituality discreetly transmitted through certain “far sighted” monks such as Bernard of Clairvaux? Or through Freemasonry at first practical and then speculative appearing with our Scottish cousins and later through the mouths of the wandering bards, such as Theodore Hersart de Villemarqué thought? It is definitely possible.

In the 18th Century, in the Pommier Tavern in London, the three controls of neo-druids were born, who have since had many children, more or less legitimate and recognised. The first two, John Toland and Henry Hurle rapidly evolved towards a spiritual society for the first and a mutualist association, which enjoyed a certain prestige. Neo-druidic colleges have appeared here and there, in a more or less spontaneous manner. But the old association created by Le Braz and his friends continues to follow its path.

It works hand-in-hand with its big Welsh brother and little Cornish sister appearing in 1927, whilst still enjoying autonomy of action.

create an Armorican Breton branch of the Welsh college. His tentative steps alas long past. But the challenge was awoken again in 1889 by eminent literary men who were all more or less involved in the Breton Regional Union, the embryo of a Breton political movement. In Guincamp, in the inn of the Widow Le Falher, on returning from an enchanting trip to Cardiff, Anatole Le Braz, author of “The Legend of the Death of Armorican Bretons”, with Taldir Jefferenon, author of “Bro Goz ma zadoù”, the national anthem of Brittany, and the academic, Charles Le Goffic and others, inaugurated the “Goursez of Druids, Bards and Ovates of the peninsula of Brittany.” This was an association, which enjoyed a certain prestige in the first half of the 20th Century. Today the Goursez, as in all Breton and Celtic history, has known the crisis of schism. Neo-druidic colleges have appeared here and there, in a more or less spontaneous manner.

We are part of the divine. We are not all on the same plan."

Numerically the Breton neo-druids, of all tendencies, do not regroup into larger battalions to organise some future Druidic Republic of Brittany. But one of the great works of the new Grand Druid is that of Legibility. “It will be necessary to think about re-founding the statutes to give them more democracy.”

Whilst waiting, greater and greater numbers of them in Breton civil society are calling on these sons of the oak for certain private ceremonies of baptism or marriage. The motivations of these new “faithful” are various. But the research into the sacred and wishing to renew links with the Celtic civilisation of their ancestors is playing an ever-greater role in the spontaneous approaches. But then, “The Goursez is not a proselytising society. We respect the commitments and reasons of everyone.”

Druidism, this thousand year old ancient wisdom, ought it to be dressed in new clothes which will allow them to be imposed on the 21st Century and the ruins of ideologies surrounded by iron and barbed-wired and that of Judeo-Christianity more and more messed about?

Thierry Jigourel
Cymdeithas yr condemnio penderfyniad Cofnodion Uniaith Saesneg y Cynulliad

Mae Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg yn cael cyngor cyfreithiol i weld a oes modd hero penderfyniad Comisiwn y Cynulliad ddechrau Awst i roi’r gorau i gynhyrchu fersiwn Cymraeg o drawsgrifiadau cyfarfodydd llawn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol. Dywedodd Dafydd Morgan Lewis o brif swyddfa’r Gymdeithas: "Yr ydym wedi cywno mewn llythyr at y Comisiwn ynghylch à’r mater honwn eisoes. Yn y llythyr hwnnw bu i ni bwysleisio bod y penderfyniad yn dangos gwendid yn y Ddeddf Iaith breisennol lle mae cyff bynnag yn gallu creu polisïau i anwybyddu iaith a dechrau cwtogi ar eu gwasanaethau gyhoeddus i anwybyddu eu Cynlluniau esiampl wael i gyrff eraill yn y sector hanwybyddu yn llwyr.

"Bu i ni hefyd bwysleisiog bod hyn yn nosod ei asthma'i wael i gyf ryf y xerau y sector breifat gan fod penderfyniad y Comisiwn gael effaith yr un "Yn yr un modd tybiem y gallai Cynulliad fel esgus dros wneud hynny dros iaith ac a o eu hanwybyddu yn llwybr.

"Yr ydym wedi cwyno mewn llythyr at y Lewis o brif swyddfa'r Gymdeithas: Cenedlaethol. Dywedodd Dafydd Morgan penderfyniad Comisiwn y Cynulliad cyngor cyfreithiol i weld a oes modd herio Mæ Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg yn cael pobl cymuned rymuso ei hunain drwy gynl-munodau Penllyn. Amcan y cyllun yw i bobl cymunedymu eu haniadryniad drwy gynlluniu dros eu cymuned, a defnyddio’r cynlun fel arf i ymateb i ffygythiadau i’r gyfrynthu eu rhyddhau i ddadl a ddefnyddir gan y sector breifat dros beidio â defnyddio'r Gymraeg. "Mae’n drist meddwl bod Llywydd y Cynulliad yn rhan o’r penderfyniad hwn gan ei fod yn adlewyrchiada i feddyfryd trefedigaethol a thaeogaidd sydd yn gwbl anhrefnonw y wlad sy’n mynnu ei bod yn trin y Gymraeg a’r Saesneg yn gyfartal. "Ond fel y preswyliaiâr ar y dechrau eich nod yn yr awr fyd ystyrfa a oes modd hero’r penderfyniad hwn yn gyfreithiol gan ein bod o’r farn bod y Comisiwn wedi torri’r gyfryth.”

Summary:
Cymdeithas yr Iaith have condemned a decision by the Commission of the National Assembly to stop producing Welsh versions of the minutes for full Assembly meetings, saying that this sets a dangerous precedent for other public bodies to ignore their own Language Plans. Cymdeithas are seeking legal advice on the legality of this decision.

Eisteddfod Cymdeithas yr Iaith

Traffod ein Cymunedau Cymraeg a degau yn gweithredu’r uniongyrchol erbyn y Llywodraeth – gweithredu'r uniongyrchol erbyn y Llywodraeth a gwerthfawreda phams. Cymdeithas yr Iaith yng Nghymru ystod Eisteddfod Gynalaidh 2009 yn y Bala.

Cafoedd Cymdeithas yr Iaith wythnos fwylym-mus arall ym mis Awst e. i’r Grwp Cymdeithas yr Iaith a threfodd i’r Gymdeithas yr Iaith a threfodd i’r Gymdeithas yr Iaith. "Yr ydym wedi agor cystadleuaeth am wneud addysg, Ffred Francis: "Rhaid i ni enwi'r rhai sy'n eu gwadu nhw, 'Yn y cyfarfod

Cynllun logo'r Coleg Ffederal ar Faes yr Eisteddfod:

Dyddyl Llun y 3ydd o Awst, roedd Cymdeithas yr Iaith yn lansiio cystadleuaeth logo ar gyfer y Coleg Ffederal Gymraeg a mae dweud yr Gymdeithas yr Iaith ymgynghoriad os o’i sefyllu. ‘Roedd Angharad Tomos - cartwnwyd ac aelod bleanfawr o’r Gymdeithas - yn breisennol ym na’r Gymdeithas yr Iaith. ‘Yn y cyfarfod

Summary:
"An account of Cymdeithas yr Iaith activities for the language on the field of the National Eisteddfod in August, including a public meeting about creating sustainable Welsh-speaking communities, a protest rally against the deficiencies of the Welsh-language LCO, and an extension of the campaign for a Welsh-medium federal university college."
Cumbrian Welsh - an update gan Colin Lewis

Last year (Carn 140, 141, 142) when writing about Cumbrian Welsh, I wrote that Wikipedia, the on-line encyclopaedia, had mentioned that there was an embryonic Cumbric language revival movement. It also mentioned that there was some disagreement, with two possible choices being suggested for the revival to take. One view held that the revived language be based on the Old Welsh of Aneurin and Taliesin, whilst a second view was that, by the time of its demise, some 700 years later, Cumbrian Welsh would have markedly diverged from the Welsh of Wales and become a separate language, and that this Late Cumbrian should be the basis for the revived language. A third option, which I put forward, was to use the direct successor to the language of Aneurin and Taliesin, namely the modern Welsh of Wales with its rich literature, culture, and media accessibility. Perhaps understandably, the revival, led by former web-producer Anthony Harrison, has chosen the second path as a starting point for revived Cumbric, or Cwmbraic as Mr Harrison calls the language.

CWMBRAIC

At the time of my article the revival consisted of word lists published on the Web. However in May this year, Mr Harrison, as Anthony ap Anthony o Rheged, published a 440 page book introducing the revived language, called ‘The Dragon’s Voice’. The book, available on his website, is the result of years of study on Mr Harrison’s part, and it is possible that, just as Henry Jenner’s ‘Handbook of the Cornish Language’ started the Cornish language revival in the early 20th century, so too might Mr Harrison’s book do the same for Cumbric, or Cwmbraic in its revived form, in the early 21st century.

WHAT IS CWMBRAIC LIKE?

Revived Cumbric/Cwmbraic, being derived from the classical Welsh of Aneurin and Taliesin, is still similar to modern Welsh. However, Cwmbraic differs in that it retains some grammatical features that are now archaic in Welsh, more like Bishop Morgan’s Biblical Welsh e.g. ‘mi a mwnd’ instead of modern Welsh ‘rydw i’n mynd’, and draws on local dialect, in Cumbria and southern Scotland, for some of its vocabulary. Also there is a noticeable difference from Welsh in how the language sounds, with Cwmbraic drawing on both dialect and place-name evidence for its spelling and pronunciation.

Here are some of these differences:

Welsh ‘oe’ changes to Cumbric ‘ai’ e.g. Welsh ‘coed’ (trees) becomes Cumbric ‘cain’. Here the Welsh final ‘d’ has also changed to Cumbric ‘th’ e.g. Cumbric ‘Penrith’ Welsh ‘Pen rhyd’ (main river crossing).

Welsh final ‘dd’ also becomes Cumbric ‘th’ e.g. Welsh ‘blaidd’ (a wolf) becomes Cumbric ‘blaith’.

Welsh ‘ll’ becomes Cumbric ‘lh’ e.g. Welsh ‘Lloegr’ (England) becomes Cumbric ‘Lhaigr’.

Welsh ‘ou’ and ‘au’ become Cumbric ‘ow’ e.g. Welsh ‘cogau’ (cuckoos) becomes Cumbric ‘cogow’.

Welsh ‘ae’ changes to Cumbric ‘ai’ and Welsh ‘sh’ changes to Cumbric ‘sp’

Welsh final ‘g’ changes to Cumbric final ‘c’.

Here is a sample sentence taken from the new ‘Cumbri Revival’ entry in Wikipedia:

“Cwmbric yr eno yath P-Celtic a’r yin planth val Cwmrayc (Cymraeg), Cernwecc,ac Brethhonec. Cwmbric leidasa achrais yr Alban, Cleth y Laigre, ac cleth parthow Canol y Laigre.”

Translation: “Cwmbraic is the name of a P-Celtic Language of the same family as Welsh, Cornish and Breton. Cwmbraic used to be spoken in across Scotland, the North of England and northern parts of the English Midlands.”

COMMENT

It is perhaps understandable that the revival has chosen a reconstructed Late Cumbrian as a basis for ‘Cwmbraic’. Although it lacks the literary base of the earlier language of Aneurin and Taliesin, it is more uniquely Cumbrian in accent and character and therefore more acceptable to modern Cumbrians seeking their roots. Hopefully, however, as Cwmbraic is so similar to Welsh, those learning it may also wish to gain a nodding acquaintance with modern Welsh as well in order to share in our common cultural traditions.

Find out more about the Cumbrian Language Revival at www.thedragonsvoice.co.uk and www.cumbricrevival.com.

Irish phone inspires Welsh language mobile

Samsung has launched the world’s first Welsh language mobile phone, inspired by the success of its ‘Gael Fón’ in Ireland. The company, in partnership with operator Orange, will make its S5600 mobile phone available in Wales from 1 September. The phone offers all options in Welsh as well as predictive texting in the Celtic language.

“This is another first for Samsung Mobile following the launch of the Irish language phone in 2008,” Samsung vice president for UK and Ireland, Mark Mitchinson, said.

“That was enormously successful. The appetite is definitely there and we’re extremely proud and deeply honoured to be part of this ground-breaking initiative.”

Samsung launched its Irish language enabled Tocco phone last year and has said it will include the ‘Gael Fón’ option on all new mobiles it launches in Ireland.

Welsh wins its place at the European Commission

Plaid MEP Jill Evans welcomed the news in July that Welsh-speakers would henceforth be able to correspond with the European Commission in Welsh. This change followed a long campaign by Ms Evans to improve the status of the Welsh language at European level.

She commented “I’m pleased that we’ve taken another step forward in boosting the status of the Welsh language at European level and raising the profile of Wales. It’s right that Welsh-speakers should deal with the European Commission in their language. I am continuing to push the European Parliament to adopt better rules which allow the use of Welsh. I will be taking this up with the new President of the Parliament to be elected next week.”
Plaid Cymru MPs have launched a campaign following extensive public reaction to the plight of two young women from Y Wladfa (the Welsh colony), Patagonia, Argentina, who wanted to travel to Wales earlier this year to visit the land of their ancestors and improve their Welsh, having arranged to stay with Welsh-speaking acquaintances. They were refused entry to Britain at Heathrow airport, London, by British border officials who rejected the reasons they gave for their visit. It was reported anecdotally that one official had never heard of the Welsh language. Elfyn Llwyd MP (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy) and Hywel Williams MP (Caernarfon) first raised the plight of Evelyn Calcabrini and Shirley Edwards at Welsh Questions in the House of Commons in the spring. The Wales-Argentina Society then set up a fund for the two young women and hopes that enough money will be available to travel to Wales in time for the National Eisteddfod in August. However their second application, made while they were in Argentina, was also blocked by the border agency. Apparently they had been “blacklisted” on account of the first refusal.

Elfyn Llwyd MP said: “Many people have become acquainted with the case. When Evelyn Calcabrini’s story was first related to me – I was absolutely appalled. What this young lady was subjected to as an invited visitor to Wales is shocking. Evelyn is a 20-year-old resident of Patagonia, which is an area of Argentina. Like many in the area, she speaks Welsh and Spanish.

“Evelyn travelled for over 36 hours from Patagonia to Buenos Aires and then on to London Heathrow. She was detained for several hours inexplicably, and eventually turned away by the border authorities and not given a reason as to why she was being deported. Similarly, Shirley Edwards was recently dispatched in similar circumstances. In that instance, it was alleged that she had no work to go back to, implying that she might stay as an illegal immigrant instead of returning home.

“Even if this was true, does this now mean that every single young person, student or otherwise, from outside of the EU should be refused entry? Clearly these excuses are invalid and ridiculous.

“I am going to campaign vigorously to ensure that this injustice is put right and that visitors to Wales are never treated like criminals. I would also like to see Evelyn and Shirley warmly welcomed back which is something that this fund will hopefully make a reality. I will continue to champion this cause in the Commons and with the Home Office as I believe that this is an important issue of principle with international implications.”

Brits block Welsh-Argentinean visits to Wales

Cymdeithas Welcomes Report on Welsh Language College

On the day Professor Robin Williams’s recommendations to the Education Minister about the Government’s policy on the establishment of a Welsh medium Federal college were published, Cymdeithas yr Iaith welcomed some of the strong recommendations of the report and called on the Government to establish a robust multi-site College with a substantial budget.

Rhys Llywd, Cymdeithas spokesperson on a Welsh-medium Federal College, said:

“We are extremely happy that Robin Williams’s report has recommended that a new independent establishment be created to develop Welsh-medium education in the higher education sector. Both Cymdeithas and Students’ Unions have argued for years now and are glad that Prof. Williams has come to realise that this is the only credible option to increase the Welsh-language provision in this sector. Cymdeithas are also pleased that the report stipulates that such developments should be adequately financed.”

However Cymdeithas are concerned about the relationship between the proposed Federal College and the present Universities.

Rhys Llwyd again:

“Although I understand that it is of central importance that the new Education establishment should co-operate on every level with the present Universities, Cymdeithas believe that there is a danger that people could misinterpret the report’s words to mean that the Federal College would be a subordinate body, some kind of little brother to the present universities. It is of central importance that the new college should be of equal status to the other Universities with its own Vice-Chancellor who will be of equal status in this sector as the Vice-chancellors of the other establishments.”

But the main challenge now lies in the lap of the Welsh Government.

“The Government must now act quickly to budget in order to realise the promise of a Welsh-medium Federal College. Prof. Williams’s recommendation to establish such a Federal College must be put into practice before the end of the present Assembly term rather than dragging its heels. But Cymdeithas yr Iaith are calling on the Government to go even further than the report’s recommendations in relation to the autonomy of the new establishment within the education sector.”

Cymdeithas believe that establishing a Welsh-medium Federal College is an important step in the task of creating a complete Welsh-medium education that will, in turn, be a key part of creating a completely bilingual workforce in Wales. There is increasing demand in Wales for specialists in their fields who can work through the medium of both Welsh and English - from nursing to rural conservation, to speech therapists. A Federal College will be a substantial contribution towards Wales’s economy and the status of the language.

Cymdeithas condemn USA ban on Welsh Folk-Singer

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg sent a letter to the US Embassy concerning a shameful decision not to allow folk singer Arfon Gwilym to enter the USA to take part in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. This is because of a criminal record he acquired as a result of his involvement in campaigns connected with Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg.

Dafydd Lewis, speaking on behalf of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg said: “Arfon Gwilym has played a key role in the struggle for the future of the Welsh language and it is a matter of great shame, that he is, because of this, banned from going to the United States of America. Not only has he been a prominent language campaigner but his efforts to promote the folk-singing tradition in Wales have been outstanding. Refusing him entry into the United States would be equivalent to the British government refusing Martin Luther King entry into Britain in the 1960s.”
Ffred Ffransis, the veteran language campaigner, was sentenced to 5 days in prison at Llanelli Magistrates court and was taken to Parc Prison, Penybont-ar-Ogwri/Bridgend, Glamorgan. He had been arrested eight years previously his part in a protest against the language policies of chain stores in Heol y Frenhines/Queen Street, Cardiff, part of the campaign for a comprehensive Welsh language measure which would include the private sector. He had not paid the fine because the attitude of these shops had not changed.

In a telephone conversation with his wife Meinir Ffransis during the imprisonment Ffred reported that there was no Welsh-language provision in Parc prison. There were no bilingual forms or signs and no Welsh Bible. The court at Llanelli refused permission for Ffred to take his Welsh New Testament with him to prison, saying that there would be Bibles at the Prison - but these were only in English.

Ffred also said that he had refused to sign the remission form which would allow him to be released after serving two thirds of his sentence, i.e. after three days, because the form was in English only. He also said that he had refused to fill an English-only form to request vegetarian food and was confined to eating only potatoes.

Although the prison is run by the private Group 4 Company, they are answerable to the government and have a responsibility to have a Welsh-language policy. They have made no effort to serve the Welsh-speaking community though most of their prisoners come from Wales.

The above is once again proof of the need to devolve fully the powers over the Welsh language from London to Cardiff so that it will be possible to create a comprehensive Welsh Language Measure that will make the language official in Wales, giving Welsh speakers the right to use their language in every sector, and also to establish a language commissioner.

Ffred has been sentenced to around 6 years in total over the last 40 years, and has served around 4 years in prison. He has been sentenced to prison a total of 8 times. Here are the times he was sentenced to a lengthy period: 1987 (Cardiff court) - Campaigning for a body to develop Welsh-Language Education (1 year - served 9 months) 1973 (Huddersfield court) - Welsh-language channel (1 year - served 9 months) 1971 (Mold Court) - Welsh-language channel (3 years - served 2 years)

It looks unlikely that sufficient powers in the present process will be devolved with the LCO to allow the National Assembly to pass a strong enough language measure to change the situation in Cardiff’s main shopping street. How many more imprisonments will there be until the language receives justice?

In June’s European parliament elections Jill Evans of Plaid Cymru held her seat comfortably but Plaid could not gain a second of the four seats that make up Wales’s single four-seat constituency. The Conservative party also held their one seat. Labour lost one of the two seats they held previously, which, regrettably from our point of view, went to the British nationalists of UKIP (the United Kingdom Independence Party, who stand for the abolition of the Welsh National Assembly and Scottish parliament as well as British withdrawal from the EU)

In terms of votes the Conservative party came top with 21.8% (the first time ever they have come top in an all-Wales election), Labour took 20.3%, Plaid took 18.5% (their highest ever percentage in an all-Wales vote), with UKIP on 12.8%, and the Liberal Democrats on 10.7%.

Plaid’s vote was an increase on the previous 1999 election result though they dropped from second place (behind Labour) to third.

On a parliamentary constituency basis Plaid came first in seven of the forty constituencies. As well as in the seats they hold at Westminster (Caernarfon, Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, and Carmarthen East & Dinefwr, though boundaries will change for the next election) they came first in Ceredigion and Ynys Môn (Plaid’s top two targets), and also in the Llanelli and Conwy seats (where the unionist hold at Westminster is stronger). Plaid already hold all these constituencies in the National Assembly, but this is an encouraging sign for their prospects in next year’s Westminster elections.

Following the election Plaid’s newly re-elected MEP, Jill Evans said:

“Labour have been greatly punished by the people of Wales for dismal record of their MEPs before this election. I hope that all Welsh MEPs will now stand up for our country rather than blindly follow the instructions of their party machines in London.

“Due to Labour’s huge drop in support, UKIP now have a Welsh MEP. That party have so far decided to abstain as a matter of principle from voting in the European parliament – however important the issue is to the people of Wales. I challenge the new UKIP member from Wales to reject the unconstructive tactics of his party and put the people of Wales first.”

In the reformed parliament Jill Evans has become First Vice President of the Green/European Free Alliance Group (EFA). Ms Evans was elected as President of EFA which has formed a joint group with the Greens since 1999 and automatically becomes the First Vice President of the group as a whole.

The European Free Alliance was formed in 1981 to work for a Europe in which nations, regions and language communities would have the right to their own identities and would work together to help shape a democratic and effective Union. EFA brings together like-minded parties from nations seeking independence or greater autonomy and those campaigning for minority rights.

Speaking after her election Jill Evans said: “I am honoured to have been elected to lead our parliamentary group at such an important time in Welsh and European politics.

“If the European Union is to effectively support us through the economic crisis and lead the way in fighting climate change then it needs the input of all of us. That includes Wales, Scotland, Catalonia, Corsica, Flanders, and all the nations and regions that are not yet represented in their own right in the EU.

“We believe the European Union has a key role to play in these issues as well as in defending human rights and contributing to international peace and disarmament. But it has to be a Europe in which people feel they matter.

“The European Parliament is a parliament for Wales as much as the House of Commons (in London) is, but it is seen as irrelevant and distant. The most effective way to reform Europe is to base that reform on the real Europe that exists rather than on the so-called nation states.

“In my new role I will be working with MEPs from across Europe and with the people of Wales to achieve that reform.”
B'héidir go mbeadh scéal eile eile ar fad ag na teangacha Ceilteacha dá n-eireodh leo a dtéangacha a bhuntaí mar theangacha a phobail sa domhán úr. Tríd is tríd, thitheadh cáinteoirí teangacha Ceilteacha ar an mbéarla láithreacht donn nach mór tar éis dhoibh dul ar eisimhir. Tá dhá eiseacht uaidh sin, Gaeilge na hAlban in Albain Nua, Ceannada agus an Bhreatnais i bPatagóin na hAirgintíne. Ábhar iontas é scéal na mBhreatainacha agus mar a mhair an Bhreatainis ansin anuas go díthi an lá inniu más ar éigean é. Meastar go bhfuil 20,000 duine de shliocht Breatnach i gcónaí in Chubut, agus go bhfuil Breatnach ar a dtóil ag 1,500 diobhais an rachadh cé go luaithe. Is é go luaithe linn iomlán eile a tháinig in aon 1880í. Ba é an dream mór deireanach a chuir slua eile ón mBreatain Bheag go luath sna Cuireadh leis an bpobal Breatnach nuair a ball d'fás cairdeas idir an dá phobal. Tháinig na hAirgintíní tríú shaisteach ar an chuid sin. Bhí mórstaraí na i mbun earcú daoine don tionscadal agus leis na gealltanís ó na cúis mhaith acu le bheith sásta lena bhfaca mBhreatnach in úsáid sna cúirteanna agus sna siad na Malvinas. Mar sin féin bhí an Bhreataínseachtaí sa Phatagóin ar náisiúnaíocht Bhreataínseachtaí sa Phatagóin na hEíreann.

Continued on page 14
The result of the second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, held on 2nd October, is of course now widely known, 67% in favour, 33% against. The voter turnout was 58%. The dangers of this treaty for the Republic of Ireland and the influence of small states within the European Union have been dealt with in Carn many times, the most recent being an article in Carn 143 (p15). In conclusion that article, referring to European Union President, José Barroso, said “But ultimately it seems he is putting his faith in the economic crisis which he declared at an employment summit in Prague some weeks ago was likely to make the Irish people vote Yes in a second Lisbon referendum!”

And so it happened. In fact all those on the Yes side and their media supporters declared as much in their post referendum analyses and reportage. So if they do not want what the result you gave them the first time make them vote again and scare them, democracy EU style. Not surprising in view of the amount of outside interference and the numbers of Yes groups the political and business establishments set up and the barrage from self interested companies with business establishments set up and the EU style. Not surprising in view of the economic crisis which he declared at an employment summit in Prague some weeks ago was likely to make the Irish people vote Yes in a second Lisbon referendum!”

The appeal to retain independence and defend the erosion of democracy was swamped by the linking of recovery from the economic crisis with a Yes vote. the rerun was Sinn Féin, other NO groups were vocal but numerically small. Libertas, on the right, who played a major part in the first referendum, came late to the campaign, having initially said they would not enter it after their poor showing in the European elections. Declan Ganley claimed the amount of untruths been put out by the YES side made him change his mind but in the end their effort was too little too late. The media coverage was totally biased towards the Yes side. There is much more that could be said about the whole conduct of the referendum but the following statement from Anthony Coughlan of the National Platform sums matters up pretty well.

“Not the will of the people, but the fear of the people, has led a majority of Irish voters to approve ratifying the Lisbon Treaty in yesterday’s re-run referendum. Ireland’s voters voted not on the content of Lisbon but on membership of the EU, on fear of political isolation if they did not say Yes to the same Treaty as they said No to last year, and on the promise of jobs and economic recovery which the Yes-side bullied and bamboozled them into believing was they would get if they only voted Yes. Thus the bankrupt Irish political Establishment, which has ruined its country’s economy, has opted through stupidity and fear to clamp an undemocratic Constitution on itself and most of Europe. This year the Republic of Ireland will suffer a decline of nearly one-tenth in its economic output; it will have a Budget deficit equivalent to 12% of GDP, an unemployment rate of some 14% of its labour force and resumed net emigration from the country.

One accepts the result of the Lisbon re-run as a fact, but it is not a result that democrats need morally or politically to identify with or approve. This result does not have political legitimacy, whatever the voting percentages amount to, because of the fraudulent and undemocratic way in which the referendum was run, making it unique in these respects among the 30 or so referendums that have been held in Ireland since its Constitution was adopted in 1937.

With limitless money provided by the Brussels Commission, the political parties in the European Parliament, the Irish Government and private business firms, Ireland’s Yes-side forces easily outspent the Nos by at least ten to one in a referendum campaign which was unique in modern Irish history for its massive unlawfulness and breaches of the country’s referendum law. There were at least six dimensions to this illegality:

1) The intervention of the European Commission, entailing massive expenditure of money to influence Irish opinion towards a Yes, the running of a web-site and the issuing of statements that sought to counter No-side arguments, and the advocacy of a Yes vote by Commission President Barroso and other Commissioners and their staffs during visits to Ireland. This is unlawful under European law, as the Commission has no function in relation to the ratification of new Treaties, something that is exclusively a matter for the Member States under their own constitutional procedures;

2) The part funding of the posters and press advertising of most of Ireland’s Yes-side political parties by their sister parties in the European Parliament, even though it is illegal under Irish law to receive donations from sources outside the country in a referendum and even though, under European law, money provided by the European Parliament to cross-national political parties is supposed to be confined to informational-type material and to avoid partisan advocacy;

3) The Irish Government’s unlawful use of public funds in circulating to voters a postcard with details of the so-called “assurances” of the European Council, followed by a brochure some time later containing a tendentious summary of the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, as well as other material - steps that were in breach of the 1995 Irish Supreme Court judgement in McKenna that it is unconstitutional of the Government to use public funds to seek to obtain a particular result in a referendum;

4) The failure of the country’s statutory Referendum Commission to carry out its function under the Referendum Act that established it of explaining to citizens how the text would affect the Irish Constitution.

Instead the Commission’s Chairman, Judge Frank Clarke, turned the Commission into an arm of Government propaganda, while the...
judge indulged himself in various “solo-runs” on radio and in the newspapers, giving several erroneous explanations of provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, even though this was quite beyond his powers under the Act;

5) Huge expenditure of money by private companies such as Intel and Ryanair to advocate a Yes vote, without any statutory limit, in possible breach of Irish company and tax law, and undoubtedly constituting a major democratic abuse;

6) Breaches by the Irish broadcast media of their obligation under the Broadcasting Acts to be fair to all interests concerned in their coverage of issues of public controversy and debate. Newstalk 106, owned by Mr Denis O’Brien, a committed supporter of the Yes side, was quite shameless in its partisanship on its current affairs programmes.

Democrats across Europe will now hope that the brave President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, will hold back Czech ratification of the Treaty until the constitutional challenge that has been launched there is completed and there is a change of Government in Britain by next May. In that way the promise of a referendum made to the British people in the Labour Party’s Election Manifesto may yet be fulfilled under the Conservatives - something that would give our fellow countrymen and women in Northern Ireland a chance of voting on this EU Constitution.

In June the German Constitutional Court laid down that the basic principles of democracy required that there should be parliamentary control of how Government Ministers from the EU Member States exercised various implementing powers under the Lisbon Treaty - for example the “simplified revision procedure” of Article 48 TEU whereby policy areas can be shifted from unanimity to majority voting without need of new Treaties or referendums.

Germany instituted such parliamentary controls in September. Ireland has done so in the Constitutional Amendment people voted for yesterday. Similar parliamentary controls should now be sought through Court actions in as many EU countries as possible in the interest of defending what is left of democracy in Europe.

If Lisbon however should go through and come into force for all 27 States, giving the post-Lisbon EU the constitutional form of a Federation and turning 500 million people into real EU citizens for the first time without their being asked, that is bound to make the question of national independence and democracy the main issue of European politics for years and possibly decades to come - not least in Ireland, whose modern political history has been largely a struggle against the drawbacks of its people being made citizens of another country.

The Lisbon Two referendum has exposed the moral and political bankruptcy of Ireland’s main political parties. There is a vacuum in Irish politics, as there is in many other EU countries, when all the “Establishment” political parties line up on one side and so many of the country’s citizens are on the other. Across Europe huge numbers of citizens are not being properly represented by those who have been elected to represent them. The coming period in history will see many attempts to fill this political vacuum, in Ireland and elsewhere.”

Of course the Treaty is not in force yet. The last country to complete the process is the Czech Republic and the Czech President has refused to ratify it. A new challenge to the Treaty was launched in the Czech constitutional court and President Klaus said he would not ratify the Treaty while this was ongoing. Now he has introduced a new condition calling for an opt out resembling that secured by the UK and Poland granting them exemption from some parts of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. This is driven it seems by fears that Czech Republic could be exposed to restitution claims on property confiscated from more then three million Germans expelled from Czechoslovakia at the end of the second world war. At this stage this could only be done by way of a declaration by EU leaders (similar to those given on neutrality, taxation and abortion to the Irish, not worth much in the end of the day) which is unlikely to satisfy Klaus and a request for any such would have to come from the Czech government. The Eurocrats fear that Klaus will continue to withhold his signature until a Conservative government comes to power in the UK next year.

David Cameron, the British Conservative Party leader has promised a referendum (the result of which is expected to be a foregone conclusion to reject) if the Treaty is not ratified by the time he becomes prime minister. It would be quite ironic if this scenario actually came to pass. However there are some signs recently that he is becoming equivocal on the issue and may not welcome being in that situation. Of course like Tony Blair before him (who had committed the Labour party to a referendum) he can change his mind as soon as he is elected!

Every Celtic country is suffering an onslaught on its heritage of age-old place-names which are often replaced by relatively meaningless, badly thought-out neologisms in (a kind of) English or French. Developers, house builders, roadbuilders and even local authorities are introducing nice pleasant English-sounding names into areas with a rich heritage of place-names. This was one of the main complaints heard at this year’s Celtic Congress in Sligo. Another complaint was the anglicisation of names into forms which obliterated the original meaning. A further universal complaint was the failure of authorities to ensure the correct spelling, or the correct pronunciation was used. The 120 participants heard some of the leading experts on Celtic place-names and participated in two workshops on the subject.

Hywel Wyn Davies reviewed a large variety of Welsh place-names from simple topographical descriptions to more complicated names, to places named after historical or mythological figures or natural features or buildings. Craig Weatherhill demonstrated the huge difference between English place-names and those of Cornwall, while George Broderick in his paper (read by Brian Stowell) concentrated on what he called the “pre-Scandanavian” names of Mann. Simon Taylor showed how Scottish place-names derived from a number of languages in that country and the proportion of, for example, Gaelic names, varied from region to region. Jean-Yves Le Moing reviewed a long list of Breton place-names and cited linguistic comparisons to these names in Cornish and Welsh and even the Gaelic languages. Art Ó Maolabháin detailed the process of authentication of Irish place-names since the original Ordnance Survey in the 19th century.

Music and song and dance play an important part of every Celtic Congress regardless of venue or academic theme. Participants were well and truly entertained by the Scottish piper Calum Mac Coll from Lochaber; Céistein na Tràthnach from Britanny, Céistein on the harp and Tristan on the diatonic accordion; Helen Adam, Welsh fiddler; Hazel Curnow sang in Cornish and English; and another gifted fiddler was Katie Lawrence from the Isle of Man. Ireland was well represented by Aíne Í Fhiannsú, singer, dancer and entertainer par excellence. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann organised a well received evening of music.

Eoghan Mac Corrcaí demonstrated his multilingual glossary of the Celtic languages and participants watched a number of Irish-language films. A bus tour took in the neolithic cemetary at Carrowmore and the early Christian site at Drumcliffe. Next year’s Celtic Congress will be held in Douglas, Isle of Man, during Easter Week.
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Rights and Revelry – Irish Language Act for North?

Rights and Revelry, a fun day to mark three years since the announcement of the St. Andrews Agreement took place in St. George’s Market. Belfast on Sunday, 11th October 2009. POBAL (The umbrella organisation for Irish Language Organisations in the North of Ireland) organised the event. Under the St. Andrews Agreement between the Irish and British Government a commitment was given in 2006 that an Irish Language Act would be introduced to enhance and protect the development of the Irish Language in the North of Ireland.

However, three years later the public in the North of Ireland are still waiting for the British Government to deliver on that commitment. The public have demonstrated their support for the campaign to introduce an Irish Language Act for Northern Ireland on an ongoing basis, and this event is being organized by way of thanks for that support. Speaking about this event, Janet Muller, Director of POBAL, said that the event received lots of support both nationally and internationally.

Free Legal Advice in Irish

The independent human rights organisation FLAC has teamed up with Conradh na Gaeilge to provide free legal services to Irish speakers in Dublin and Galway on the first Wednesday of every month again this autumn. Barristers from the Four Courts’ branch of Conradh na Gaeilge will run the Free Legal Advice Centre in Aras na nGaal, 45 Dominick Street, Galway and from 18.00 – 19.00 in 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.

Proinsias Ó Maolcháin, a practising barrister and secretary of the Four Courts’ branch says: “With everyone tightening their purse-strings in these recent recessionary times, it is more important than ever that people realise there is a free legal advice service being provided by Conradh na Gaeilge in conjunction with FLAC to everybody, every month.”

Clients of the Centre have been successful in the cases that followed from consultations between applicants and the Free Legal Advice Centre, such as in the case of Ó Gríbhín v. The Teaching Council for example. Sine Nic an Ailí, director of the organisation FLAC has teamed up with Conradh na Gaeilge to provide free legal advice on Irish to everybody, every month.”

The best Irish site on the web

The shortlist for the Irish Internet Awards was announced in October and 13 websites were short listed in the Best Irish language website category. This year’s shortlist is made up of entirely new nominations from that of last year, a fact that reveals the growth of Irish language websites in recent years.

Last year’s winner of the prestigious award was Focal.ie, the national terminology database for the Irish language.

As always, the Irish language media feature prominently on the shortlist and two radio stations make the cut this year, Raidió Fáilte and Raidió Rí Rá as does Nosmag.com and the news blog An Druma Mór.

The growth of Irish language e-commerce websites is striking with the nomination of Litríocht.com, the Irish language online bookshop which won a Golden Spider Award last year and which represented Ireland in the WSA world e-commerce awards earlier this Spring.

The new online shop, which specializes in books and Irish products, Udar.ie is also nominated as is GaelShirt which sells t-shirts and clothing with printed Irish language slogans.

Two new projects focusing on Irish language learners also get the nod with TalkIrish.com, a website which was launched last Spring and which is going from strength to strength with the recent announcement of over 2,000 registered users. GaelNet is also nominated this year- this resource also focuses on Irish language learners and speakers. Nominated also is Acadh Fódhla, an association based in Cúl Aodhla in the Muskerry Gaeltacht. Their website focuses on the work of the Academy in promoting a greater understanding of scholarship and the Irish nation. A mix of the old and the new is to be seen on the list where more established organisations such as Conadhrá na Gaeilge and Údarás na Gaeltachta rub shoulders with newer more recently established projects. Conadhrá na Gaeilge, a member organization of Comhdháil Naisiúnta na Gaeilge, aims to provide information on various campaigns and projects run by the organization on its website as well as listing Irish language classes and events run by the organization across the globe. The Corporate site of Údarás na Gaeltachta features information on the Údarás and business development in the Gaeltacht.
Call the Cornish Quarters


Summary
The Cornish language is being used in many more places in Kernow and the appointment

of a Cornish Language Education Officer forming part of the Cornwall Council team and Cornish Language Partnership has now been announced. Indeed, the Cornish Language Board - Kesva an Taves Kernewek - announced that this year, increased numbers are learning the language all over the world. However, there is something special, almost magical, about hearing the use of the language in its homeland and the poetic words above formed part of a recent Druidic Ceremony held in the heart of Kernow to mark the coming of Autumn.

Words by Andy Norfolk, Bard and Druid, Kernow with additional piece by Mike Chappell (International Branch)

Calling the Cornish Quarters

‘Kernewek rag Flehes’ (Cornish for Children) is one of the latest leaflets published by MAGA, the Cornish Language Partnership and is aimed at further inspiring children and young people to learn more of the native language of Kernow. The leaflet, one of a series, gives six good reasons for youngsters to learn Cornish:
* learning Cornish helps to understand the place they live in
* learning another language helps to improve learning ability in general and literacy in particular
* learning one language helps with learning others
* parents and children can learn together
* learning Cornish helps in understanding diversity
* it’s fun!

MAGA also offers to help anyone use Cornish by way of a free translation service for up to 40 words which will be translated on receipt by the MAGA team. Over a thousand requests have been dealt with over the past two years coming from businesses, public bodies and private individuals. They also offer a service for longer pieces of translation offering to introduce clients to suitable translators. There may be a small charge for larger items which can be negotiated directly with the translator.

A series of free pocket guides are also available, ‘Sport in Cornish’, ‘Food and Drink in Cornish’, ‘Cornish for Beginners’, ‘Cornish for Young People’, ‘Animals in Cornish’ and ‘Cornish in the Classroom.’ These publications contain great phrases such as ‘Vreusyas, res yw dhis a dhieweder!’ (You need glasses, ref!) All requests for information are warmly welcomed by MAGA, the Cornish Language Partnership at Dalvenie House, Cornwall Council, Truro, TR1 3AY, Kernow, by phone: 01872 323497, by e-mail: cornishlanguage@cornwall.gov.uk, with the website to be found at www.magakernow.org.uk. The website is interactive allowing people to listen to pronunciation of Cornish and the subscriptions are available there to the free MAGA e-magazine.

Kernewek rag Flehes

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Bucking the recession-fuelled trend for broadcasters and media businesses to pull out of the regions, Thursday 2nd July saw the launch of mycornwall.tv, a new online broadcaster based in Cornwall and dedicated to all things Cornish. The new collection of television channels is available on the internet at www.mycornwall.tv and via selected third party web platforms, aimed amongst others at the tourist market, expatriate Cornish people and those relocating to the West Country. The channels will broadcast original commissioned programming that showcases the most distinctive and recognisable elements of Cornwall, from its world-famous sights, scenes and attractions, to award-winning local food and drink, as well as the latest news from the green and eco scene to the best in extreme sports and outdoor pursuits.

From the company’s commercial launch on July 2nd it will be broadcasting television channels online in partnership with some of Cornwall’s most recognisable brands, including the Eden Project, Fifteen Cornwall, The Hotel and Extreme Academy and South West Tourism. mycornwall.tv channels at launch were: Eden Project TV: The channel for lovers of all things green! Produced in partnership with the eponymous organisation of the same name, Eden Project TV is a window into what goes on at the Eden Project. This channel will disseminate the organisations sustainability agenda to global audiences through www.mycornwall.tv as well as via the Eden Project website and through a series of partnerships with other platforms.

Gastronomy: One for the foodies! Focused on Cornwall’s unrivalled culinary scene is Gastronome, a channel created in partnership with Jamie Oliver’s restaurant Fifteen Cornwall. From the freshest fish and how to cook it, to the tastiest treats from local suppliers, Gastronome will bring the Cornish epicurean scene to life.

Adrenaline Junkie: For all things Extreme Sports, particularly the wet and wild ones! The Adrenaline Junkie channel is produced in partnership with the Hotel and Extreme Academy at Watergate Bay, home of six times World Waveski Champion, Carl Coombes. Adrenaline Junkie will give viewers an addictive taste of the adrenaline-fuelled sports scene in Cornwall through a series of exclusive features on the local outdoor sporting fraternity, including some of the world’s best beaches and most rugged coastline and countryside.

MyKernow: For those of Cornish descent far from home. MyKernow is the channel that helps you keep in touch with and learn more about Cornwall and its history, culture and heritage. mycornwall.tv plans to roll out additional channels in due course covering the Arts, Culture and Property, offering new services to an even wider audience.

Dorian Spackman, managing director of mycornwall.tv said: There are an estimated 10 million Cornish descendants around the world, as well as 5 million plus people who visit Cornwall annually and over 10,000 people who relocate here every year, not forgetting the 500,000 people for whom Cornwall is already home. mycornwall.tv offers a unique way for businesses to communicate with these numbers in a sustained and targeted way, at the same time as connecting consumers with a particular interest or passion for Cornwall with the brands and companies that really matter to them. Cornwall engenders strong emotions amongst many people and by tapping into this powerful allegiance and passion, mycornwall.tv will offer viewers compelling programming, highly relevant to their particular interest in Cornwall, as well as offering local, regional and national brands a chance to be associated with “Brand Cornwall,” through a service that matches ultra-local content with geo-specific audiences and advertisers alike. At mycornwall.tv we’re excited about playing our part as Cornwall shapes up for an online future. Tim Smit, CEO of the Eden Project said; Eden has had a profound impact on the millions of visitors that have made their way to Cornwall. The launch of Eden Project TV is the next step and our partnership with mycornwall.tv will enable us to spread the Eden message not only to those who come and see us but also to influence others from a distance. Eden Project TV is a fascinating and compelling service and we look forward to working with mycornwall.tv. Malcolm Bell, CEO of South West Tourism said; mycornwall.tv will be a powerful voice for the Cornish Tourism industry and will provide it with a new, innovative and exciting visual route to market on a global basis. mycornwall.tv is a standard bearer, both for Cornwall and for new ways of driving commercial success in the tourist industry.

mycornwall.tv offers a unique place to stay in touch with Cornwall from anywhere on the planet, through powerful, emotive and entertaining television programming. By combining the impact of television with the power, measurability and responsiveness of the internet, mycornwall.tv offers the best of both worlds for sponsors and advertisers who want to reach a wide ranging, responsive and highly passionate audience.

Dorian Spackman, Managing Director, mycornwall.tv
T: 07802 796468  Email: dorian@mycornwall.tv

Recently I visited ‘Krowji’ – the Cornish cultural and creative centre in Redruth where a film was playing on a large overhead screen. Recognising many of the people and indeed places shown I purchased the DVD ‘Tyskennow Kernow’, a very fine 104 minute collection of Cornish film shorts, with a wide ranging content of contemporary Cornish programmes taking in a diverse spread of material - political views to children’s entertainment, cultural issues to historical matters, drama and folklore to farming and presented in the English language, Cornish language and Cornish dialect.

The DVD, features many artists such as John Angarrack, Will Coleman, Nick Boyns and Nick Darke, not forgetting the unique and natural Cornish humour of ‘Jean and Dianne’ amongst many others as they variously talked, acted and allowed themselves to be filmed and clearly demonstrating, one and all, the things that combine to make Cornwall that little bit different, that place apart.

Many of the films have already won awards in their own right, showing that just by scratching the surface a little, Cornwall is revealed as an outward looking Celtic country, with close connections to Wales, to the sea, to the land and of course, always keeping an eye to a distinctive history and culture. Eminently watchable, the Cornish language shorts were subtitled and so represented no bar to enjoyment of the various programmes.

This impressive series of ten films and three extra tracks has been concisely packaged and produced by Awen Productions, based in Penzance, a ‘Community Interest Company’, whose profits are ploughed back into the community in support of local projects.

Denzil Monk of Aren Productions holding the DVD

I spoke with Denzil Monk of Awen Productions who is Chairman of the Cornwall Film Festival and a writer and producer, and as well as amongst many other things, a founding Director of Awen, who informed me that a second DVD was to
follow adding further to the company’s growing stature and varied C.V. currently working with young people, with the Cornish farming community and with Roma Gypsy people in Cornwall and Transylvania.

Oh, the introduction in Kernewek (Cornish) – well if you don’t have a grasp of the language, you’ll have to buy the DVD to find out what it means!

The Tyskennow Kernow DVD is available at £12.99 from any good quality retailer but more easily from the online Awen Productions shop – www.awen.org.uk

Produced by Denzil Monk and Bethany Sagar-Fenton of Awen Productions, sponsors of the DVD include SWFTA, Cornwall Film Festival, Maga – the Cornish Language Partnership and the European Union Objective One Partnership. 95% of the profits from sales of the DVD support the Govynn Kernewek Award – an annual Cornwall Film Festival Award presented for Cornish language film production with the remaining 5% passed to the South West Film and Television Archive (SWFTA).

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Despite its terrible and bloody history, I like Launceston Castle, ‘Castle Terrible’, sitting high on a hill overlooking Cornwall one way and England the other. Once inside the gate, it is now a haven of peace and quiet and if you are able to scramble up the motte to the top of its unusual double shell keep, the views are breathtaking particularly on a fine day. As a student of history many years ago, I included the place in a thesis I wrote on the castles of Cornwall.

My breath was also taken during a BBC report concerning vandalism which had occurred to one of the castle’s 800 year old walls. In fact, I was so surprised that I researched the BBC comments to make sure that I had understood them correctly.

Following years of ignoring Cornish demands made of English Heritage who administer many of Cornwall’s castles to come clean and admit that the heritage wasn’t English at all and that the true status of ownership placed them firmly under the control of the Duke of Cornwall, there it was, written by the BBC, finally, the admission that:

“English Heritage, which maintains and runs Launceston Castle on behalf of the Duchy of Cornwall, said the stones were smashed and impossible to repair.” (1)

So there it is, at long last, an admission that English Heritage do not actually own Launceston Castle and that they are merely sub contracted in by Duke Charles to look after it. It follows therefore, that they can own nothing else in the Duchy and merely care take the Celtic and British heritage and other post Norman and indeed, Breton sites in Cornwall. Quite simply, there is no ‘English heritage’ in Cornwall because it is not England.

The damage done to Launceston Castle is to be wholeheartedly condemned as a criminal act probably perpetrated by drunken thugs. But every cloud does have a silver lining, and perhaps this admission represents that, a very thin and fragile silver lining to this unforgivable crime.

I wish Sian Thomas, who works at the castle, well in her efforts to put right what has been done but I also thank her for enabling this admission of fact.

(1) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/8125493.stm (BBC report 29 June 2009)

Mike Chappell
‘Surfing Tommies’
A play by Doctor Alan M. Kent

During one glorious summer’s evening, I joined a large and expectant audience at an open air theatre clinging to the cliff’s edge at Driftwood Spars, Trevaunance, St. Agnes where we had all gathered, a surprising number of us, to see a live performance of Dr Alan Kent’s latest play, ‘Surfing Tommies.’

Already knowing that the play concerned the lives of Cornish miners who left all they knew to join the local regiment and depart for Flanders to engage in one of the last great Imperial wars, it seemed such an ideal setting for this interpretation by the theatre company ‘Bish Bash Bosh Productions’. Looking inland, old mine houses clung to the hillside and then, towards the ocean, the early evening sun setting into our part of the Celtic Sea to be replaced by an ascendant moon seemed to complement the story line, making this a very special and memorable evening.

The play lasted two hours and I have seldom known two hours to pass by as quickly. During that time, I joined the crowd in laughter, in tears and for many of us, a sense of pride in our unique Cornish heritage.

Dr. Kent’s play has more threads than Redruth’s Tregellas Tapestries (and that is saying something for those who have yet to view them!) and every one of them merged together to produce a glorious albeit tragic picture – indeed, as the subtitle of the play says, ‘A Cornish Tragedy’.

With just five actors, although it seemed like a dozen at times, coupled with ingenious use of a small set and an imaginative, often haunting sound track, we are swept from a Cornish Mine, North Wheal Leisure at Perranporth, across the sea to the Western Front, witnessing love gained and lost, regrets, the blind obedience of those soldiers of the old Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry, dutiful to the ultimate, then death and the introduction back to Cornwall of surfing, or should I say it’s revival, because as we all know, it was Saint Piran who first surfed a descendent of the Pascoe family, Maisie, a degree student who likes to surf. (Molly Weaver) Together these five actors filled the stage with a host of other characters and created an experience I shall not forget.

‘Surfing Tommies’ is a mind stretching pleasure and a very Cornish masterpiece.

If only we could see such things on our television screens for Dr. Kent and the whole team at Bish Bash Bosh productions, actors, directors, stage managers, costume designers, musicians alike surely understand the meaning of drama.

Bish Bash Bosh Productions maintain their own website at www.bishbashboshproductions.squarespace.com

The play was rightly awarded Development Funding from the Cultural Events Programme of the United Nations by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation World Heritage Site of the Cornish Mining Landscape. - www.cornish-mining.org.uk

‘Surfing Tommies’ ISBN978 1 903427 48 4 is available in soft back at £5.99 from Francis Boutle Publishers - www.francisboutle.co.uk
Hie yn cho-whaiyl er cummal ayns thie-oast stoamey msh meeilley cheumooie jeh mean Valley Shlighagh. T’eh er jeett dy ve beggan neu-chadijin dy cummal co-whaiylin bleinoil y Chohaglym Celtiagh ayns thieyun-oast. Son y choold smoo, ta ny co-whaiylin shoh er nyn gunnal er y gherriy ayns oollooscooilin, as chaghteryn cadley ayns shamyrryn-studeyryn. Agh heell sleih ayns banglanle Yernagh y Chohaglym Celtiagh dy bare cummal y cho-whaiyl ayns thie-oast cheumooie jeh Divlyn – va Yernne ennaggh gaccan dy jagh y cho-whaiyl er cummal ayns Divlyn ro vennik. Er y laue elley, tra homnick sleih veih ny cheeraghyn elley ny priossyn veagh ag deeky sy-thie-oast ayns Shlighagh v’ad beggan innmeagh. Agh v’eh mie dy liooar as cha dag ny priossyn aggle er monney chaghteryn. Smooinee mish rym pene ‘Foddee dy bee bye ny priossyn ny sryjey foast ayns Mannin ayns 2010!’ She Mannin yn ynrinac cheer Cheltiagh nagh vel thieyn-aaght son studeyryn eck.

Myr dy cliaightagh ec ny co-whaiylin shoh, va leaght ry-chlashtyn veih gagh cheer, va cuirrey-kuilley ayns, as hug shin shilley er buill anaasagh. Bun-chooish ny leaghtyn, va shen enmyn-buil ayns ny cheeraghyn Celtiagh. She yn Dr. Simon Mac an Tailleur loayr son Nalbn. T’eh er ve ronsaaghgy enmyn-buil ayns Nalbn son shiaght bleeaney jeeg. Chammah as shen, t’eh ronsagheyn er agh ten y Gaelg Albinagh kseaylley magh feiy Nalbn, as yn agh hie ee sheee ayns ny Eashyn Meannag. Ayns e leaght ayns Shlighagh, loayr y Dr Mac an Tailleur mychione yn agh ren chengaghyn dy liooar ayns Nalbn croo enmyn-buil ny cheerey – Pictish, Shenn Vretних, Gaelg Albinagh, Shenn Vaarle as Frangish.

Va beooin ec ny looyttee son y Vritaan as Bretyn dy loayr mychione ny caslyssyn eddyr enmyn-buil ny shey cheereaghyn Celtiagh – enmyn haink voish focklyn co-chadijin goll rish ‘ross’ as myr shen. She Jean-Yves Le Moing loayr son y Vritaan. Haink er lught-thie vyg ar Pondi as v’eh cummal ayns Roazhon tra v’eh aeg roish my eh dy yh yw ynoo studeyrys ayns Paris. Ayns y toshigahl, v’eh gobbreghey ayns cooishyn chellinsh, agh ny lugh shen cheaghill eh ghs studeyrys Celtiagh as enmyn-buil. Ta liorrey scanshoil mychione enmyn-buil y Vritaan currt magh echey.

Olloo Hywel Wyn Owen


Ta Craig Weatherhill er nyanno studeyrys er shenndaleeaght as shennaghys y Chorn son y choold smoo. T’eh er nyanno studeyrys dowin er enmyn-buil y Chorn risque bleaney as feed. Ayns e leaght ec Shlighagh, ren eh gacan dy lajer mychione yn aght ta shenn enmyn-buil tradishoonagh goll er coayl lirish almoraght as goanlys – red ta taghty ayns y Chorn as ooiiley ny cheeraghyn Celtiagh elley. Bentyn da’n leaghtyrr son Mannin, cha dod shin reih peiaig erbee elley agyh yn Olloo Dr Shorys y Creairey. She eshyhn ta er nyanno yn creear smoo va rieeu jeant jeh enmyn-buil Vannin, geitry er obbyr J.J. Kneen, va jeant ayns ny bleaneyt feed. Er jerry, cha dod Shorys y Creairey cheet gys Shlighagh son y Cohaglym, agh va leaght srecuet echo ey laue, as she mish ren livrey yn leaght shen – er-nonney, ren ennaggh va faggys da’n leaght shen. Va coipyn jeh’n leaght hene rygheddyn da ny oaylleevyn as kionfensh.

Y bun jeh leaght Shorys y Creairey, va shen enmyn-buil Vannin va ayn roish my daink ny Loghlynneg gys Mannin. Ta’n chooissh shoh doille as arganagh dy liooar. S’aashagh cur enn er ny enmyn-buil Loghlynneg, agh bentyn da enmyn-buil Gaelgagh, row ennym ennaggh ayn roish my daink ny Loghlynneg? S’dooille ansoor kiart y chur. As ta shooll kialnt sese lesh yn agh ta sleih dy liooar foast soiaghey beg jeh cooishyn Celtiagh ayns Mannin – sleih ta bunnys cur oosailjagh da ny Wiggynnege as gagh red bentyn daue. Paart dy vleenaanten er dy henney hie mee mys co-whaiyl mychione enmyn-buil Loghlynneg ayns Mannin hie er cummal ayns Thie Tashtee Vannin. Creid eh ny dyn, agh va peiaig ny ghaa ayns shen va gindys row chengey Ghaelagh ayns Mannin roish my daink ny Loghlynneg rishe! As va eie ayn keayrt dy row dy stroie ny Wiggynnege yn chengey Ghaelagh dy bollahag as dy daink er eehr gys Mannin veih’n Ghallioo (Galloway) lurj linya ny Loghlynneg. Hooar Robert Thomson rey rish y ciee shen. Va’n chengey Ghaelagh goll er loayr car thing ny Loghlynneg, as v’ee oscyn neeess. Fodmay, ny Manninice, ve booisal son Tynvaal as nyn eiraght Loghlynneg, agh foastagh ta kuse jin jeant skee liorish smaght da ny Wiggynnege lurj oolilge ye bleeanyn shen. Agh ta reddyn couyral.

Ren J. J. Kneen obbyr yindyssagh son y Ghaelg. Ayns ayn bleaneyt feed, she eshyhn ren y chled chreear mooar jeh enmyn-buil Vannin. Hooar er cooyr veiney’n scooil Loghlynnagh Carl Marstrander. Kyndagh rish shen, fodddee, smooine Kneen dy nee enmyn-buil Loghlynnagh va kuse dy ennym nargh Loghlynnagh. Cha jehren son Kneen jen eu, agh va sleih dy liooar ayns Mannin bruw eeneu dy ghra dy daink bunnys dy chooolilhe nhee ayns Mannin veih ny Wiggynnege. Ayns e leaght, hug Shorys y Creairey roish y teelaayts dy daink enmyn-buil Manninagh goll rish Bemahague,
Bibale as Bil own veih enmyn Gaelagh, as cha nee veih enmyn Loghlynnagh. Foddee dy ghow ooi ley ny enmyn shoh toshiaght lesh ‘both’ keayrty dy row, as dy daink Bemahague veih ‘Both mo Thadhg’, as myr shen. As she ro-Loghlynnagh veagh ny enmyn-buill goaill toshiaght lesh ‘both’. Ro-Loghlynnagh neesht veagh ‘Doolish’ as enmyn dy lioor lesh ‘Balley’ as ‘Slieau’. Agh she cooish arganagh cooish ny enmyn-buill, son shickyrys.

Summary
The Celtic Congress held its annual international conference in Sligo this year, the theme of lectures being the placenames of the Celtic Countries. One universal theme which emerged was the need for the resolute protection of traditional placenames from ‘developers’ and ignorant officials.

Brian Stowell

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh
Further good news has been the appointment of a new teacher to the ever-growing Manx Gaelic medium school in St John’s. With a Head, four teachers and 16 new children starting this September bringing the total number of students to 65, the school’s success continues to reflect well on the commitment and skills of its staff.

Manx Language News

Manx Language News

Many people may already be aware that over the next few years I am committed to develop the adult Manx Gaelic sector. With this in mind we have recently held a number of very successful training sessions for adult tutors.
A big ‘gura mie ayd’ must go to Elwyn Hughes from the Department of Life-long Learning at the University of Wales, Bangor, for his excellent day-course held in Ballabeg. The teaching materials that complement our new course (which thanks to JJ Kneen I have christened Saase-jeeragh) seem to have been well received too.
We are now working towards a well-managed network of trained tutors running an Island-wide programme of classes and events for learners.

Brian Stowell

UNESCO

Finally, it’s good to see that UNESCO has updated the status of Manx from ‘extinct’ to ‘critically endangered’. I look forward to achieving the position of ‘doing extremely well but susceptible to occasional bouts of melancholia’.

Brian Stowell

Belfast Trip

An excellent example of the events programme we are developing was our recent day-trip to Belfast. The Steam Packet generously provided us with some discounted tickets that enabled us to have a great time in Nerin Twoaie (The North of Ireland). We didn’t spend the whole time in pubs (even if my photos suggest that) but headed straight for the Ulster Folk Museum at Cultra and then, to what must be the best language and cultural centre in the Gaelic world, the Culturlann. It was a long but very rewarding day. We are now looking into the possibility of a 4-5 day trip to Ireland next year.

Brian Stowell

Eary Cushlin

The Belfast trip was followed up with a fantastic four-day course at Eary Cushlin. We ran a series of classes during the day and evening and finished the week off with a trip around Cregneash and the Sound on the Friday morning. A big thanks to everyone who attended including our visitors from Scotland and the Manx Gaelic speaking community in North America!

The Eary Cushlin language week (Shiaghtin ny Gaelgey) will now be a regular summer event, with next year’s week being scheduled for the week of the 26th to the 31st July. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Adrian Cain
Manx Language Officer

Eary Cushlin

Eary Cushlin, the venue for the course
Kernow hosts successful AGM 2009

A successful Celtic League AGM was held between 17th and 19th July 2009 in the Cornish capital of Truro. In addition to the AGM, a tour of a Cornish brewery, a trip down a tin mine and a visit to an important Cornish Methodist site was also organised by the Kernow Branch, who were hosting the AGM this year over the fully packed three day event. Delegates to the AGM came from all of the Celtic countries, including the USA, the Basque Country and England in one of the most successful AGM’s of recent years.

At the AGM itself the issue of how the Celtic League should further develop one of its long term aims of establishing a formal association between the Celtic countries was discussed, preparations for the referendum on independence in Scotland in 2010 and plans for the celebration of the League’s 50th anniversary in 2011.

The Saturday evening after the AGM was taken up with a series of talks by special guests covering the Cornish language, politics and history, giving delegates a taste of the past, present and future of Cornish culture, heritage and political life.

The general secretary of the Celtic League, Rhisiart Tal-e-bot, said after the AGM: “On behalf of the General Council of the Celtic League, I would like to thank the Kernow Branch and other individuals for organising and hosting the AGM, despite some last minute difficulties that involved changing the location, time table and venue of the event. Particular thanks should be extended to Branch Secretary Iwan LeMoine, Branch Convenor Dougie Johnson and Branch Treasurer Tony Leamont. Thanks should also go to the speakers on the Saturday evening, David Riley, Councillor Julian German, Dr Loveday Jenkin and Councillor Dick Cole, Steve Skinner of Skinner’s Brewery and the principle organiser of the Sunday tours, Michael Chappell. ”

It was agreed that the next AGM will take place in Mannin (Isle of Man) in 2010.

Some of the resolutions passed at the AGM, the rest may be found at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/celtic_league/message/1576

Resolutions passed at the AGM

Alba Branch
The Celtic League congratulates William Robertson (Uilleam MacDhonnchaidh) and Michael Bauer (Micheal Bauer) on making Dwelly’s Gaelic Dictionary available online for the first time at www.dwelly.info We further note that they did this without subsidy or financial reward.

(Background - Dwelly’s dictionary is the finest in existence. Edward Dwelly compiled, collated, illustrated, bound, printed, and sold the work by himself. Messrs Bauer and Robertson keyed in the entire tome without being given any subsidy whatsoever - which is a great tribute to them, and Dwelly himself. Other much less worthy Gaidhlig projects have received substantial funding.)

Cymru Branch
Noting that the 2010 Armed Forces Day “national celebrations” are to be held in Cardiff, Cymru, the AGM agrees in principle to arrange or support an inter-Celtic part of the expected demonstrations against the event, depending on the nature of the opposition to be organised.

Éire Branch
Dúilteann an Chruinniú Chinn Bhlíana seo do chumailéireacht rialtas na hÉireann agus ceannairí na hÉorpa, atá ag iarraidh ar muintir na hÉireann vótá a chaiththeach ar son Conradh Lisopóil aris, ag diúltú don daoilathas, agus gan athrú ar bith ann. Éilíonn muid go nglacfar le toradh an chéad referéim

This AGM rejects the charade of the Irish Government and European leaders who are calling on the Irish people to vote on the Lisbon Treaty again, in a negation of democracy, for exactly the same Treaty without an iota changed. We call for the result of the first referendum to be respected.

Kernow Branch
That the Celtic League utterly condemns the frequency used description of Cornish nationals as ‘inbred’ amongst other insulting phrases both in the media and on the internet and elsewhere, and calls upon the Equality and Human Rights Commission as well as the Council for Racial Equality in Cornwall to join us in taking action to remedy the ongoing insult.

England Branch
This Annual General Meeting of the Celtic league in Kernow 2009 condemns the racist “Sinhala only” law of 1958 which has led to so much strife in Sri Lanka. This AGM fully supports the struggle for self-determination by the people of Tamil Eelam.

General Secretary
The Celtic League reiterates its support for the planned Scottish referendum on independence in 2010 and aims to help promote and publicise a positive result in the run up to the vote.

Calls for the ‘nationality’ section on UK/French passports to also include the nationalities ‘Breton’, ‘Cornish’, ‘Irish’, ‘Scottish’, ‘Manx’ and ‘Welsh’ and in their respective languages.

Celtic League members enjoying the visit to Skinner’s Brewery in Truro (left-right), Mike Chappell, Steve Skinner and Kernow Branch Secretary, Iwan Le Moine.
Symbolic step for Gaelic in Europe

Western Isles SNP MSP, Alasdair Allan, has welcomed news that the Scottish and UK Governments have signed an EU Memorandum of Understanding which will take the use of Gaelic in EU institutions a step closer.

From now on Scottish Gaelic speakers can write directly to EU bodies in their mother tongue if they wish and receive a reply in that language. Dr Allan commented: “I am delighted that the Gaelic language has received another boost with the signing of today’s Memorandum of Understanding and that Gaelic is finally receiving European recognition. “This is a significant step forward for the recognition of the Gaelic language, particularly with the Scottish Government’s ambitious targets of creating a new generation of Scottish Gaelic speakers.

Obviously, today’s news is symbolic to some degree, but a sign of commitment. “I hope that one day soon we may also see Gaelic accepted as one of the ‘official’ languages of the EU, of which there are currently 23, but for the moment I am sure that this is a measure which all supporters of Gaelic will welcome.”

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

Material for the next issue of *Carn* should reach the Editor no later than 1st December 2009. Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All materials copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Celtic League.

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