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A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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When is a Union Not a Union?

Product-E-Breizh5(P-E-B5.) Welcomes a new CEO and BREIZH – CULTURE

Dafydd Elis-Thomas RIP –
a Great Welsh Nationalist

False Multiculturalism versus
Gaelscoilscolaíocht

Tíom ar Líon na mBriotáiniseoirí
ach dul chun cinn i réimsí éagsúla

Cornish Language Bill Supported
by all 5 Westminster Cornish MPs

Annie Kissack, RBD
(Culture Vannin) Award Winner 2025

Pádraig Ó Snodaigh RIP. Laoch ar Lár – a Tribute



ALBA:	AN COMANN CEILTEACH
BREIZH:	AR C'HEVRE KÉLTIEK
CYMRU:	YR UNDEB CELTAIDI
ÉIRE:	AN CONRADH CELTEACH
KERNOW:	AN KESUNYANS KELTEK
MANNIN:	YN COMMEYES CELTIAGH



Alba

Dà phrògram, Dà chànan, Dà shealladh air Cleachdadh Càinain



Crà - Nordic Noir? (Curtares TG4)

Nochd dà phrògram telebhisein o chionn gohoird a bha ag amas air a' Ghàidhlig ann an dhùiseanchadh don mbo-sàlaigh, nar dùthachan fhein agus ann an dùthachanann cùmhn. Aonan duibh Crà, a nochd air TG4 agus BBC NI san t-Samhain 2024, agus a tha a-nis ri thacim air BBC Four, agus aonan air a bheil An t-Eilean, a nochd air BBC ALBA san Phaoilteach 2025. Dà phrògram eucor ains a bheil murt agus domhairteachd agus ramsaichadh poilis ag cridhe na sgéil.

Siorraich Strughtea a dhèanadh an t-eon rud. S'e báis a chàinain ath cheum. Tha phrògraman ann sa Ghàidhlig Eireannach a tha air barrachd feum a dhèanamh de Beurla na rinn Crà. An Klondike mar eisampleir - ach bha sin gu math ann-fànsach a Ghàidhlig ga bruidhinn Stàitean agus bha no charàrann agus an robh a Ghàidhlig. Ma tha daonie aig gu math agus gu cumbhaladh num measg flein. Credhsùm gum bruidhinn an BBC ALBA den bhreithidh Ghàidhlig cheart dholigeil a measeg a teaghlach ains na Heudair Ghàidhlig. Ma thà a' Ghàidhlig a chéite, uill, chànan agus bhi bheil a chéart cho mainn sa chist.

Martainn Mac A'Bheilidh

Summary
Two similar crime dramas were recently released, one in Irish and one in Gaithling, that do more than show the fundamental difference in the two languages; they demonstrate in Ireland and Scotland the ambition of the languages' supporters

When is a Union not a Union? (The 1707 union of Scotland to England, is now declared NULL and VOID as the following reasons explain.)

A Union Treaty between two Nation States, must have the wholehearted approval of, and comply with the wishes of the majority of people of both Nations.

(A): Back in 1707 only Lords, Rich merchants, and Landowners had a vote. The common people against the proposed union with England. This petition against the proposed union with England. "What can we do about this people's petition", said one Lord. "We write, and drew up a grand petition against the proposed union with England. This petition was ignored by some, and ridiculed by others, who make Kites with the pages, said another. The people rioted, but the details of the riots of 1708, have been swept from the History shelves. We also had those riots, and the unpopular nature of the proposed union, reported back to England, by that famous English spy, Daniel De Foe, (of Treasure Island fame) He was let out of an English prison, and sent to Scotland to glean information, and try and promote the idea of a union. His report to Queen Ann, and the English Lords, was not what they wanted, as four historic uprisings later would prove. In conclusion, the fact that only less than one percent of the population was allowed to vote, makes this union a total nonsense, and therefore totally undemocratic.

(B) A Union treaty between two Nation States must comply with all the conditions of each side. This is normal practice. When the signing of any type of treaty or international agreement, the Scottish and English commissioners submitted a condition that the treaty of union, the Scottish delegates two years before, would be repeated, before this new act of union could go through.

This was only common sense, as one act contradicted the other. The Alien act passed by the English Parliament in 1705, declaring all Scots ALIENS, not to be traded with, nor enter into with in any English trade agreement. They were also banned from English colonies and were not allowed to own land in England. All those disadvantages, and many more, were racist fear tactics, drawn up and endorsed by Queen Ann, who had no love for her Scottish subjects.

The new act promoted friendship and trade incentives, access to English colonies, and other perks, and even direct bribes for votes, details in (D) below. The English delegates agreed that the Alien act would be scrapped, and it was assumed until recently that it was. A

researcher for the League of Celtic Nations, (Gordon Bryce) found that it wasn't repealed as promised back in 1707 but was kept on the active files and statute books until well into the reign of Queen Victoria 162 years later. Thus, the treaty of union was violated before it got off the ground. The only condition tabled by Scotland, and which England agreed to implement, but did not do so, makes the whole treaty null and void. If we accept this as fact, then we don't need a referendum to cancel something that doesn't exist.



Robbie Burns 'we were bought and sold for English Gold, sic a parcel of rogues in a Nation'

(C) International law condemns Union through fear or 'bullying' or undue pressure, as was the case in Shotgun Weddings, where undue force was used to bear on one, or both parties. Did this happen in the lead up to the Union? Of course it did. For over a year, an English Army were billeted on the border with orders to invade Scotland if the Scottish parliament had voted to remain free and Independent. This had special adverse effects on the merchants, who were contemplating fire and destruction to their warehouses, compelled to this serious threat by voting reluctantly for the union. Queen Ann, who had wanted to invade anyway, only added to the pressure. The never repealed Alien Act of 1705 had its threats to add to the fears of the nobles and lords who could have lost their lands if they didn't comply. Most did when Ann offered them bribes of millions in today's monies.

(D) Bribery and corruption won the day, and Robbie Burns a good few years later, wrote "we were bought and sold for English Gold, sic a parcel of rogues in a Nation" Jimmy Reid said in his 2001 speech at Wallace Day in Elderslie, 'Call it what you like but not a Union. The whole CON was a treaty of ANNEXATION, a bill of sale when our nobles sold us for cash. Those parcel of rogues in our Nation. We then had to suffer this one-sided union for over thirty years, until our royal prince annulled it by Royal decree'. A similar royal decree recently read out from a balcony in England made King Charles the third from that balcony in England. Well, if that royal decree is legal, then so was Prince Charles Edward Stewart's, from the market cross in Edinburgh. Thus, we can join ABC&D of this resolution, and say with confidence, and historical fact, 'There is no Union, and let's declare so!

Iain Ramsay
Sec/Org: League of Celtic Nations,
Alba Branch (Alba Ga Brath)

Willie McRae Mystery Endures Forty Years on

The State of Israel controversially makes the news these days often for all the wrong reasons. However, I would imagine that one of the least known aspects of Israel is that it is the site of a group (grove) of 3000 trees that commemorate one of the most enigmatic and controversial Scottish nationalists of our time. I refer, of course, to Willie McRae.

Why McRae has this grove of trees is unclear. One story says it is because he worked on mercantile legislation for the Israeli government, another that it is connected to his role (he was a lawyer) in a practice he shared with a Jewish colleague. McRae was certainly an interesting man and indeed one of his other credits is his participation in the Indian Independence movement (he served for a time in the Royal Indian Navy). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willie_McRae



Willie McRae, a forceful speaker

McRae's death on April 7th, 1985, on a road near Ardive in the Highlands has long been surrounded by controversy and many people in Scotland firmly reject the official verdict that the campaigner committed suicide. Allegedly McRae shot himself in the head although the weapon that he used was found an improbable long distance from the vehicle in which he was sitting when found. The shooting theory is also complicated by the fact a Nurse on duty at the hospital his body was transferred to said that there was a wound to the back of his head.

Added information (from just a decade ago) suggested the gun which McRae was supposed to have used to kill himself has disappeared from police evidence along with other crucial evidence about the case. It has also been revealed that the gun was not dusted for fingerprints and nor was any forensic evidence gathered at the death scene.

John Finnie, a Green Party candidate for the Highlands and Islands said at the time:

"The public will be rightly astonished that the weapon allegedly used in this case was neither fingerprinted nor subject to basic forensic examination".

In 2007, it was first revealed that two statements were missing from the police files on the case. It is understood that these statements were from former officers of the Northern Constabulary on duty at the time of his death. And that both statements are missing from the Crown Office files on the case.

The Crown Office had evidence that the statements existed in 1985, but no explanation has been offered as to why there were no moves made to secure them, or why they were ignored.

McRae is reported to have been on the radar of British Intelligence and his house and office had been burgled on a number of occasions. When you see and listen to video of McRae speaking can tell he was both a forceful and authoritative figure. He was undoubtedly a great loss to the Nationalist movement and forty years on the mystery surrounding his death endures.

Bernard Moffatt



Breizh



An t-Eilean: An Tele Gouzelek e Saozneg?

E 2024 ez embannas BBC Alba edont o filmadh an heulied tele

kaerf e gouzeleg, un gousife 14 milion en holl (£1M/fram). Skignet eo an heulied e Miz Genver 2025 gant an anv *An t-Eilean* (An

Enezenn). Ha sur a-walch'h e go gwelet gant katz la, ar peurvuiañ anezhoù tud na oar ger gouzeleg ehet. Ha resevet tud mat ivez gant ar ouzeleggerien, avat. N'e oar ket bet kozh skignet ar rann kentenn na oa souzezel kalz tud o doa sell et outañ : Perak e oa an eil hanter deus an heulied e saozneg?

Lavaret eo bet gant an *Hollowood Reporter* "Implijan a ra an heulied gouzeleg [...] e-kichen ar saozneg diwar awen filmou haug heulidou na oant ket e saozneg, evel *Squid Game* ha *Parasite* e Korea, evel heulidou llec hlemmat, hag evel an heulidou BBC kembraek evel *Hinterland (Y Gwyl)*." Ha kiverjet eo ber An t-Eilean diouzh an heulidou tec'hienam ha kenbreac'h hep mar ganit an holl... nemet, evel ma larvar as tud zo, an heulidou-se a vez en o yezh dezho pem-dabenn. Yezh voaz ne vek ket ar C'hembray an div yezh (pe get 50/50), mes filian a reont div wech, ur wech e kembris evit o zekhoù, hag ur wech e saozneg evit tud all.



An t-Eilean (Trugarez da BBC Alba)

Summary
The newest BBC Alba show, *An t-Eilean*, came out in January 2025 and received good critical responses around the English-speaking world. The feedback was far less positive from among Gaélig speakers, many of whom complained that the supposedly Gaélig language show was about 50% in English, while other such shows from Scandinavia, Wales, or Ireland managed to remain exclusively or almost exclusively in their own language. This complaint is only the latest one in a series pointing out the unavoidability of English (70% of the programmes not targeted at children, burn-in English subtitles on Gaéling programmes) on a channel that should officially be in Gaéling (Scottish Gaelic) only.

Alba diouz ar wech-mañ ?

Fanch B. Gallie

DiWAN and the Breton Language in Trouble!

Last November, the **Ois Publik ar Brezhoneg** published the figures for the start of the school year 2024-2025. The total of pupils learning our Breton language is about 20 000 out of a population of nearly five million. Since the agreement between the state and the Region-Bretagne, in 2015, the state public schools increased their number of pupils. In the private sector the Roman Catholic schools and the immersive Diwan schools the situation is worse and worse again. Also, the Diwan schools have to cope with important financial difficulties (500K€ deficit), despite being in PISA's (*Global competencies-knowledge, skills attitudes and values*) Top Five. On the other hand, in 2024, a new poll told us that only 100 000 Bretons are able to speak Breton, half the number of those in 2018!

Therefore, according to UNESCO, the Breton language is in real danger. So, what are the solutions for Diwan? Public, Private Immersive schools? The "Ois Publik ar Brezhoneg" report gave the numbers for each organisation. The state public schools with five hundred more pupils gained nearly 5 %. The Roman Catholic schools lost nearly ninety pupils and Diwan 100 pupils! All in all, Breizh gained more than three hundred pupils! Therefore, the statements of the "Ois-Publik" is positive. Anyway, this year this public body started to acknowledge difficulties in the different systems. In order to understand the situation, we'll have a look at the three different organisations in terms of teaching our Breton language!

In terms of history of our system, an important evolution started with the French Revolution. At the very beginning of last century, the republicans challenged the Roman Catholics all over Breizh! The Roman Catholic schools did quite well in the villages, while the important cities with some industries were easier to gain for the republican lobbies. The Roman Catholic did quite well in agriculture and fishing activities as well as mechanical and social matters. This century, they still represent 40 % of them. So, the republicans got 60 %. Those two historical branches have chosen to teach Breton for only 3 hours per week. That gave a small advantage to the Roman Catholic schools because a few of them started English lessons from the beginning. I must say as a pupil, and later as a teacher, in both systems, that in Brittany, money is not a real problem because the cost of the studies is nearly the same. That is the

An t-Eilean krouint er yezh, nemet implijan ar yezh en ur mod ar ouzeleg d'ober brudevez. "Sebiant a ra din eo bet (dum-troet ar skript diwar ar saozneg, ar pezh a dalvez n'e ket gouzelek na deus ar Vro." Evinat e oa kant meleuc'h d'an heulied abalamour d'an arc'hant a oa dispignet da grouwñ amezhañ, ha n'e ket pal galite.

N'e oar ket ar wech gennañ e klemm ar ouzeleggerien diwar-bevn ar saozneg e BBC Alba. Menes mard eo BBC Alba ur chaden mont hep istifou saozneg dindan ar programmoù gouzelek, names programeñ evit ar vugale. Ouzinpenn ne c'hell ket an arvestezien bialevezhioù hag o c'houent an dibab d'ober hevrio, ar pezh a veze aes hervez bureux ar BBC e Londrez. Piv a our ha seison a rato BBC Alba diouz ar wech-mañ ?

the consequence of the spirit of "brotherhood" coming from Landevennec during more than a millennium and still alive in the Breton co-operative society! This spirit is different in the French cities. If you go to a Roman Catholic school in Lyon, Paris or Lille outside Breizh you will have to pay more than in a State Public school. Therefore, you will have to pay more than in those schools' fewer pupils from lower class backgrounds.

DIWAN'S Immersive Pedagogy

The immersive system used by DIWAN schools comes from Quebec Canada, after WWII. During the first three years of school students choose their language: French in Quebec and Breton here. Afterwards, they learn their chosen language except for English, in the English courses, of course. Let's keep in mind that the best pupils, in secondary schools, will take German and the lazy ones like me will be invited to take a Latin language like Spanish. The consequence is that only the German speakers will have the opportunity to try the Top-10 Schools known as "les Grandes Ecoles"!

Going back to the figures of the "Ois Publik" in 2024, we will notice that Diwan and the Roman-Catholic pupils have been decreasing for eight years, in a row! The number of new sites is at its lowest for 20 years. The number of teenagers in secondary schools(kycles) is decreasing too. Diwan's secondary schools provide more or less one hundred pupils who take the "Baccaulure - BAC" (or "A-Level"). More than 95 % succeed. That is in line with the best Roman Catholic and State Public schools BAC results!

In the French state, Breizh is the best Region, in terms of results of the "BAC-A-Level", outside the Paris Region, thanks to a real competition, or even rivalry, in a few countries! But when it comes to

PSA, the international ranging for pupils in all French immersive schools got into the Top Five range. That's to say: Diwan (Breizh); ICASTOL(Basque); ABCMD(Alsace) It's the same for the Latin lands in Corsica and Occitania. The bilingual schools in the Public or

Roman Catholic sectors are ranked like common French schools at "A-Level"! That is to say 25th place in Sciences and Mathematics!

Ireland is in the Top Ten and Great Britain in the Top Twelve. So, better than France! Obviously, the situation is worse than "Ois Publik" showed it is because the State Public schools are growing (+50%).

Since the French Revolution, the Public sector is working like a "Religion" for a lot of civil servants, citizens and Trade Unions! Today, the shift between the Gaullist right wing and the socialists is wider than ever. Obviously, the modern technologies have helped to widen this gap! Too often, Trade-Unions are sticking to the past! After WWII, the C.N.R. (Committee National of Resistance) lead by Gaulists and communist parties made sure to control strategic sectors like: Media (FR3;FBizel), Transports (Rail etc.), Education! The situation of Diwan is very special because it started with a leader of the communist Trade Union (CGT-Arsenal-Brest). Thanks to this situation the French state Trade Unions in Education let Diwan start. Then, Diwan's success story and the fact that, from the beginning up to now, schools are FREE for all kids, protected them Diwan is still very strong on secularism and gets satisfactory results! Unfortunately, its immersive pedagogy is under huge tensions after Molac's Law (2021)! This law was supported by Molac, the best Breton MP Breizh ever had. It was supposed to help the multilingual schools to be protected in terms of the choice of language and money (see Cam. 183-Autumn-2022). Unfortunately, the "Venezuelan-Maxim", leader of the extreme-left political group (LF), Jean-Luc Mélenchon, decided to vote against Molac's law.

DIWAN: Outside the Law

The argument, as usual, in the Public state sector was: "French is the language of the Republic"! As I already mentioned, it's a



Pol Molac (LFI)

"Religious-Intolerant" way of thinking: 1 God, 1 State and 1 Language! I guess, they're afraid that Breton will overtake French! Anyway, the law passed with the help of all the other political groups! 274 MPs in favour, out of 342 MPs! But the story did not stop there! With the help of Blanquer, the French Minister of Education they appealed to the Constitutional Council who declared the immersive pedagogy "Outside the Law"! A huge blow for the future of Diwan schools. In order to stop the tension President Macron decided to pass a decree for the next school year which can be changed quickly, even faster than an executive order in USA! So, Diwan is in danger unless and until the regional languages will be included in the French Constitution. That is what Pol Molac is working on, for the next presidential elections in 2027!

The Constitutional Council "leads not only to the prohibition of immersion education in public institutions of the state, but also to the eventual cancellation of contracts of association with the State which finances teaching positions and ensures the assistance of local authorities for their operation". According to the UN France violates its commitments to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights! So, quite a lot, for a state which likes to promote itself as "The European Minority Regions".

The UN Human Rights Council considers that this decision of the Constitutional Council "leads not only to the prohibition of immersion education in public institutions of the state, but also to the eventual cancellation of contracts of association with the State which finances teaching positions and ensures the assistance of local authorities for their operation". According to the UN France violates its commitments to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights! So, quite a lot, for a state which likes to promote itself as "The European Minority Regions".

DIWAN's Deficit : €500,000!

As a consequence, fewer parents are ready to take up the challenge of a better education, in this legal and political situation. In 2024, Diwan had a decrease of one hundred pupils that is to say (-2.5 %)! In 2023, Diwan had a deficit of 300,000€ and 500,000€ last September. As a consequence, they have asked for help from public bodies: City Hall, (=Counties) and the Region. Most of them answered positively. Anyway, in the Northern County of Breizh a few City Halls with a socialist background did not support the new Molac law. Therefore, the money expected by Diwan's schools has fallen short. Otherwise, the French Court for Financial Control of clubs and associations with a budget over 100,000€, undefined surprising mistakes (cf: number of members!) in Diwan's board. For other reasons they fired the manager, leaving the board in full charge of the situation! Other politicians have taken the opportunity to underline that even if Diwan's members are in favour of a free and secular school, most of the parents are middle class and are able to pay for the education of their children. "No need to ask for public money!"

In this field, the profile of the children has changed during this century because most of the new schools are in large cities rather than in the country. As a consequence, there is less militancy. Last year, the idea of more DEVOLUTION appeared in the French Education System. Mrs S. STOLL, a former president of Diwan was elected as an MP alongside the President Macron's political group body and proposed "A Public Regional Statute" for Diwan. Last Century Diwan had this discussion during a financial crisis. The bust of the time with a republican mindset, was very much in favour of a "Public Status". Here I must remind everyone that since WWII, the French Top Administration known as "The 100-ENACheats" have strongly opposed Decentralisation or DEVOLUTION! My understanding as usual, they use a long-term strategy to KILL all regional powers.

In term of languages, I must admit that they are winning BIG time, by using Molac's law to kick out immersive pedagogy. Last century, the small Diwan school of ArfaV started the opposition against "Public Statutes" in a centralised state. A lot of other schools have followed their leaders, and Diwan avoided a long-term agony! This century, after touring all over the state, for the 'Yellow Vest's Demonstration' President Macron himself forgot his 'ID-programme'.

to centralise the power in Paris! "French-Jacobinism" is back! In March 2025 the Brezh Council voted for a budget of €2.3bn! Wales, should be €2.4bn in 2024 and €2.5bn in 2025! According to me it that some Landers/ Regions of Europe have budgets over €600Bn or even more than €800Bn!

So, we need, in principle, a real DEVOLUTION in the French state, before any "Public Regional Status" for Diwan schools would be granted. Yannick Baron, another leading figure of private Breton schools considers that "We are not anymore as in one century ago, nor 50 years, nor even 20 years... so, we Breton militants must accept that Bilingualism is gone. Therefore, we must teach a third language (Anglo-American) in primary schools (30Min/day). Otherwise, Breizh's two languages (Breton & Gallo) will have No Future!" His PMB programme, including English is obvious to our members who travel in the Celtic nations and all over the world. The report of the "Offis Publik ar Brezhoneg" shows a positive view of this school year on the basis of a global gain due to the Public State Schools (+500/20K). The private sector including the Roman Catholic schools and Diwan immersive schools are losing ground (+/-10%). With a loss of 100,000 speakers during the last five years with only 100,000 speakers left, our Celtic language is in danger, as underlined by UN!¹ Otherwise, the Constitutional lobbies and the Top Administration and L.F.I took the opportunity of Molac's law to outlaw Diwan immersive schools!

Tensions are running high in the secular fields! As a consequence, the old popular trend is breaking in Diwan schools. They have fewer pupils and less money (-500K€)! Therefore, they need to increase the number of pupils, money and a new dynamic. Of course, AI is the only solution for everything, but for now the PMB programme is the only serious plan for the future of Diwan!

Gl. Keltik

Revenge of the Ankou by Thierry Jigourel



Book Cover

Novelist, comic book writer, journalist and essayist, Thierry Jigourel is a prolific author who presents here a new novel, imbued as always with Breton culture and a captivating Celtic tradition.

Ankou returns! The old companion of the Bretons and the Celts, the one that described as "King of the Dead", has not said his last word. King of the Dead, perhaps. And sovereign of an imaginary kingdom no doubt, but here terribly incarnate, he appears to young Nong in a night in Samotors which has become, by a strange combination of circumstances, Halloween with our Irish cousins and All Saints' Day for everyone else.

Shaking up conventions, crossing eras, laughing at all borders, pulling his karigell on all the foreshores, by turns dark, determined almost vindictive, sometimes mischievous, even tender, the one who was the terror of all the cottages will definitely act up. And, with the providential help of her young friend, lead her people, like dead and the living, into a finally salutary revolt!

€20.00 Paperback, 236 pages, Format: 15,5x22cm,

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Product-E-Breizh5(P-E-B5), Welcomes a new CEO and the theme of: BREIZH5-



Anne-Claire Pons, new CEO of Product-E-Breizh5

This year the city of ST-Brieg held the AGM-2024 of the business club of "P o d u c t - E - Breizh5". This club, with a co-operative mindset, is strong, with more than 500 members who generated more than 500 little girls in 2024! In t e, in 2024!

The dancing

federation of "Kontour" presented the Giants moving five Saxophones over three meters over their heads! All of them following a local band with traditional instruments as well as a saxophone! Once the artists came on stage, the new CEO Anne-Claire Pons, (born in the Breton capital of Rennes), introduced herself to P-E-B5's strong and energetic person. A programme echoing the recent TMO-polis BREIZH5-CULTURE. A programme now down to 107,000.

She graduated from Reims' business school, in the East part of the state, before working for IBM, in Paris. Afterwards, she joined the French bank "BNP" where she managed agencies in Breizh (Gwened & Brest). Then, she managed the bank's school. After COVID, she decided to come back home! She found a job in "management and communication" at the Brest Business School (BBS). Where, she met the iconic C.E.O., Malo B. Dubourg and discovered the opportunity linked to the Agro-industry, she took advantage of her father's experience at Bridel's dairy plant to express her link to the locavore movement as well as to the P-E-B5's motto: "Buy Breton, for Breton jobs!" With all those qualities it is not surprising that she was in the short list for the job! Her creativity and energy, due to aqua gym activities confirmed her choice of the board as CEO. Of P-E-B5, Jean-Claude Simon, the President was happy to welcome her to take over the job of Malo B. Dubourg in a challenging time for Breizh, Europe and the world!

Once the 900 members of P-E-B5 were seated in the hall of ST-Brieg, the President started the AGM by paying tribute to Jean-Claude Simon, the first president of P-E-B5. Here, I must underline the fact that Yann ar Vouarch, his president at Coop-Even was a great Breton speaker who put P-E-B5 on good rails according to our Celtic culture. It was also an opportunity to remind the bosses and C.E.O. in the room that in difficult time we were as a group, as a community, as a co-operative able to build an exceptional success story. 33 years later (cf. Cam155: P-E-B5-20years).

AGM: A Summary of BREIZH5-CULTURE

AGM is always a time to sum up the activities of the year and to thank all the volunteers who cope with the different meetings, shows, contests, promotions of products and services. These efforts were applauded as usual in the business world. As the theme of the AGM was: CULTURE we will focus on all the activities of P-E-B5 in terms of the different aspects of Culture! The "Breton Language" commission led by Mathieu Breton from Coreff came on stage with a

few members. As you know Coreff is a trademark which took the name from the Cornish word "korey" which means boer according to

Ken George's dictionary. I must add that, last century, we drank a lot of Coreff; during the Fest-Noz, in order to give the teachers and personnel of Diwan schools. Even if Diwan is very republican and peculiar they are private schools according to the French law, so they have to pay the teachers during the five first years! On stages, Pol Puech from Kermé-Elagere, ran a few yards before giving the next race, "buton" to the manager of the Rededage. He introduced the 2026, from Lannion (N) to Naoned (S), of 222KM. Last year, Pol Puech managed to organise the first "Redek-Tour", a link between P-E-B5, and the Rededage. Therefore, 30 businesses bought KM and more or less 100 workers took part in this race.

The most important result of this sport event was the fact that a lot of members of P-E-B5, in the Basque region in Breizh since 2008, counterpart KORRIKA, in the Breton language. Half a million went to one Million € was given to Breton projects. Half a million to the Breton Diwan schools and the rest for more or less 15% to the "CMB" medias, audiovisual, books, sports and arts. Otherwise, for bank and "agriculteurs de Bretagne" won the 2024 award promotion of the Breton language. In this field, two organizations Stundi and Roudour gave the audience some information about six months of Breton studies for workers and managers.

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Jean-Michel Le Boulangier, President of "Etonnants Voyageurs"

After this introduction to the Celtic culture, came Jean-Michel Le Boulangier, a member of the board as well as the president of "Etonnantes Voyageurs", a great book exhibition in St. Malo. As a writer and intellectual, he gave a passionate address about the meaning of "Breizh" in "Produit-E-Breizh". How come that different businesses, often in competition, have worked together in this club this Co-operative of Produit-E-Breizh? As you travel in Breizh, in the state and in Europe, you know of no other network as strong as P-E-B5, in France for sure, and even, in Europe! How come that this link to our land as well as an open mind to the world make Breizh so special? My answer is our two languages (Brezhoneg & Gallo) you will find in the names of our villages, our cities. Here in Breizh we have a cultural vitality, and I am going to develop it in five points. Notice, that "Globalisation equals Banalisation".

- First of all: the "Arts", a link between tradition and modernity. Forty years ago Alan Stivell created "Pop-Piann", "Piann" is a traditional dance and "Pop" is the link with the electric guitar of Dan-Ar-Breiz! That is not with Provincial Folklore... NO, it's Tradition and Modernity. That's why Breizh is special!
- The second point is "Volunteers", something important in P-E-B5's culture and at the opening show with the dancers of Ken-Leur, Ken-Leur and Sonerion with 40,000 volunteers.
- Members who are ready to challenge plans bigger than themselves which unify them! That is a Breton singularity.
- The third singularity is "Diversity". The big cities concentrate on Top-Shows. OK, but out of those megalopolis's there are dead zones! In Breizh, those dead zones do not exist. Go to the tiny village of Melinoc'h (400 inhab.) there is a European movie centre for documentary films! Gouel Malgaec, a great jazz festival; Langor, a world music centre! Etc.

- The fourth point is the economy of the cultural domain. On Breizh-5 we have 44,000 professionals and 100,000 volunteers for 5M inhabitants. In France, Culture represents indirectly 5% / GDP (FIB). That is seven times

the amount of the French car industry in the Vannes & industry is everywhere. Once I was told me that "Art & Penvenn" were the first business in his village with Culture" were artists. From WWI. De Gaulle and Malraux, the professional dates from "Arts & Culture" free artists. The minister in charge knew that a free state needed the Democracy for the power of the same for Resistance, to create is the artist. In WWII, De Gaulle & Chirac, Intergum freedom censures in USSR & China, a Minister Totalitarianism as communism. They created "Democracy", So, Nazism as well, etc... Therefore, they and Culture". So, in Afghanistan, Iran, etc... for the "Arts for Democracy" and public programmes is fighting for cultural activities is fighting for our Breton identity and fighting for cultural activities which hold our Breton identity together as well as the products of Produit-E-Breizh! The cultural activities, since WWII subsidised by the regions, the states and even by European programs. Unfortunately, we know with a lot of diversity that's to say a lot of success stories of Kenleur with and P-E-B5 that's to say the dances of Kenleur with these diversities, these creations all over Breizh with these youngsters such good feelings must live on. We saw the young people represent more than 40,000 Volunteers. Those youngsters must go on and develop their creativity. Breizh must carry on but they must go on with public money, Breizh with a lot of diversity from telecommunications. I've a dream that with a lot of diversity in our festivals with business is, please help the cultural actors in the public sector, business. Here in Breizh we have a real singularity. We must make sure to keep it for the future. We must, alongside the public sector, make sure that in 2033, 2050 we will be able to say, YES, in this region of Europe we still have this Breton cultural singularity... theatre, music, dance, books & films... That's my dream for Breizh... Thanks for your attention..."

Before the elections at the end of the AGM, the members were invited to listen to different programs like PADE, Marketing-Academy, INNOV! I was happy to underline that P-E-B5 is still very active with a bilingual leaflet in all the chain stores of Breizh5, on ST-Ervan's Day! They also promote one week of Breton cooking in restaurants. Last year in An Oriant they started a new marketplace: "Buy Breton". The second event will take place on the 3rd of April in Kemper. The programme BZH(CSR)RSE-26,000 started under Hennec's presidency. This European reference helped the Breton firms to look beyond the state and to open their mind to the reality of the world. In 2024, ten new members joined the label, increasing to 35, all together. 80 members took part in the WEBinaries. In link with the label BZH(CSR)RSE-26,000, BioBlend took a Breton name thanks to the founder Michel Tabardou. In the same mindset he took the opportunity to join the label when he built a new plant in Biostandial. Under the biological skills of Eudie Coquerelle the business paid a lot of attention to the relations between the workers. They have other concerns linked with their environmental goals. One of them is to take care of the birds (cf.: LPO). Another is to invite schools and professionals to discover their bakkeries and their links to the label BZH(CSR)RSE-26,000, in the future.

In order to prepare the future, in these difficult periods, the president gave a closing speech, with the new elected board, in line with his previous goal: the 2033-Plan. I was wondering if our Celtic nations, with more or less the same cultural background, should not have a closer look to the success story of Produit-E-Breizh5, for our Celtic workers and businesses? The Inter-Celtic Business Forum which will take place in Falmouth on April the 25th might be an interesting starting point for our Celtic future. As far as Produit-E-Breizh5 in order to develop on Breton Culture, in the future, we must wish that J.-M. Le Boulangier's dream will come true!

Cymru

Rali 'Nid yw Cymru ar werth, Nefyn



Cynhalwyd rali 'Nid yw Cymru ar Werth yn Nefyn yr ddiwedd o'r bwyteisio bod angen gweud mwy na rheoleiddio i fwrchinad aii dai a thai gwyliau er mwyn mynd â'r afael ag argyfwng tui ein cymunedau.

Gadeuwch inni sefydl gyda'n gilydd i amddiffyn calon Cymru – eisithiun, ein hanes ac em pobl." Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg held its first rally for 12 years in Nefyn recently as it called for greater housing regulation. Cymdeithas yr Iaith opened a new front in its housing campaign at a 'Nid yw'r bwyteisio wedi' rally in Nefyn. The rally was to keep the pressure both on central government and on Welsh political parties, to work on a comprehensive Property Act for Wales, to regulate the open housing market.

Aled Cattie

Campaign to transfer Crown Estates to People of Wales

The campaign to devolve control of the Crown Estate to Wales has gained significant momentum in recent months, with a growing number of local authorities and political figures advocating for the transfer of these assets to Wales.

As of March 2025, seventeen Welsh councils have passed motions supporting the devolution of the Crown Estate. This movement began in September 2024 when Swansea Council became the first to back the initiative. Since then, councils, including Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil, Carmarthenshire, and, most recently, Monmouthshire, Denbighshire, Blaenau Gwent, have joined the call for change. Blaenau Gwent Labour councillors have emphasised the importance of managing these assets within Wales to better serve local communities.

Despite this widespread local support, the UK Government has rejected calls for devolution. In February 2025, the UK Government stated that devolving the Crown Estate to Wales was not in the nation's best interests, expressing concerns over potential impacts on the energy sector. This stance has been met with criticism from Welsh ministers and Senedd members, who argue that retaining control in London is unjust, especially given that Scotland secured devolution of its Crown Estate in 2016.

Public opinion continues to favour devolution. A 2023 YouGov poll revealed that 75% of people in Wales support transferring control of the Crown Estate to Welsh authorities. Proponents argue that such a move would allow Wales to reinvest revenues from offshore renewables – valued at £853 million – directly into local communities, fostering economic growth and development.

Political parties in Wales remain divided on the issue. While Welsh Labour ministers support devolution, their counterparts in Westminster have blocked reform, leading to internal tensions. Plaid Cymru continues to champion the cause, highlighting the disparity between Wales and Scotland regarding control over natural resources. Party leader Rhun ap Iorwerth stated, "The people of Wales deserve the same powers as Scotland when it comes to managing our natural resources. Westminster's refusal to devolve the Crown Estate is yet another example of how Wales is being held back. This is about ensuring that wealth generated in Wales benefits the people of Wales, not the Treasury in London."

As the debate intensifies, grassroots campaigns and local councils play a pivotal role in advocating for change. The growing support across Wales underscores a collective desire for greater autonomy in managing the nation's natural assets, aiming to ensure that the benefits derived from these resources directly enhance the well-being of Welsh communities.

Bwriad y rali oedd i gadw'r pwysau at y Llywodraeth a phleidiad gwletidyol i baracof i ffordd ar gyfer Ddedf Eiddo, ac hefyd cymunedau datblygiadau tui yn ol amgheision pobr yr ardal gan Comisiwn Cymunedau Cymreig, yn galw am tyrsus ymddygiadau tui yn ol amgheision pobr yr ardal gan lleoli i ddeini en datblygiadau tui yn ol amgheisionas fod adeiladau ar estiampl Amser Aelhaearn a chymunedau eraill.

Yn y rali, pwyseisoedd Wais George, ar y Gymdeithas fod "cymunedau wedi colli byd ym y system gwylmisiol ac yn ddiwyd y bobd o ddalbygwyd i'r llaith yn cefnogi galwad Aeth rhaid ei'n Efyddol bod Cymdeithas yn y lloegr, a Chyngor Treftadaeth Cymreig Aberdaron a Thudweleg, a Chyngor Treftadaeth Lloegr i weithredur ar ymredu a phrosesu Polisiau Gwefrau Lloegr, sy'n blannau'r statudwr Cymraeg lleol yn Lloegr a chymunedau Cymreig o'r wyl"

Trwy diffiniad, cymdu nifer yr aelwyd y Cymraeg, yn y gwasanaethau gosodol tui o'r gweinyddol. Galwn ar gwyndodesau i'r aelodau ymddygiadau tui yn y lloegr, a phrosesu polisiau Gwefrau Lloegr i'r rali yn Nefyn er mwyn diolch i'r Cyngor Treftadaeth Lloegr am ei cyfarfod ym'r rali.

Gyntaf y rali ym Nefyn er mwyn diolch i'r Cyngor Treftadaeth Lloegr wrth arloesol yn y lloegr, a phrosesu polisiau Gwefrau Lloegr i'r rali.

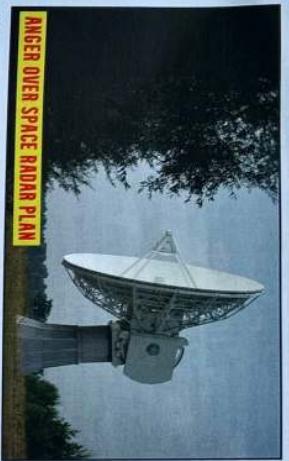
Mae'r bwyseisoedd aill gatrefi a llawn ym y lloegr, a phrosesu polisiau Gwefrau Lloegr i'r rali.

"Mac ym drefn eis achos ymddygiadau a'r werth, wrth ym mynd i'r gwasanaethau a phrosesu polisiau Gwefrau Lloegr i'r rali ym Nefyn er mwyn diolch i'r rali.

Yn siarad yn y rali am ei anhawster i gael byd i gatrefi yn ei gynnwys ei hun dywedodd Cyngor Treftadaeth Lloegr, Iwan Rhys Evans:

"Mac ym drefn eis achos ymddygiadau a'r werth, wrth ym mynd i'r gwasanaethau a phrosesu polisiau Gwefrau Lloegr i'r rali ym Nefyn er mwyn diolch i'r rali.

Welsh Peace Campaign Opposes Weaponisation of Space



ANGER OVER SPACE RADAR PLAN

Peace campaigners in Wales say plans to build a space radar station could allow US President Donald Trump to dominate space from

Wales, campaigners have said.

More than 15,000 people have signed an online petition opposing the Ministry of Defence (MoD) plans to build 27 radar dishes at Cawdor Barracks in Brawdy, Pembrokeshire. The site is poised to become a centre for DARC (Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability).

The peace campaigners believe with some justification it's another step on the road to weaponising Space. Cawdor, which was originally the site of a RNVS airfield, has been involved in US war games for years. Celtic League highlighted this over forty years ago that the location was a European terminal for the undersea SOSSUS system deployed in the Cold war. It remains to be seen as Trump threatens to disengage from NATO if the Cawdor plan will go ahead, however it seems likely that as a part of a global electronic warfare system it will remain part of US military posturing.

PARC (People Against Radar Campaign), CND Cymru, Stop the War and Peace Action Wales (Heddwch ar Waith), lobbied Senedd politicians in March 2015 to halt oppose the Brawdy plans. Spokesman for PARC Jim Scott said: "Would you trust Donald Trump, who in recent weeks has switched sides in a global proxy war, to militarily dominate all of space using Pembrokeshire as a foothold to do so?" If not, we very strongly urge you to consider ways you can help to stop DARC."

Bernard Moffatt

Death of a Great Welsh Nationalist - Dafydd Elis-RIP



Dafydd Elis-Thomas RIP
(Photo courtesy S4C)

Welsh Senedd Presiding Officer and former Plaid Cymru leader Lord Elis-Thomas has died at the age of 78. Dafydd Elis-Thomas was leader of Plaid Cymru from 1984 to 1991 and MP for Môn from 1992 until his retirement in 1997. He was the first president of the new Welsh Assembly when it opened in 1999. He was described as the "Senedd's founding father", and flags were flown at half-mast outside the Senedd building in tribute.

Welsh First Minister Eluned Morgan said: "Wales has lost one of its greatest servants, and many of us have lost an irreplaceable friend. Dafydd was a true giant of Welsh politics and a passionate champion of our nation, our language, and our culture."

Plaid Cymru leader Rhun ap Iorwerth said he was one of the most influential figures of his generation who made a "priceless contribution in laying the firm foundations of devolution". "His death will be a huge loss to Welsh politics and the civic life of Wales. We remember Dafydd as a

ground-breaking MP when he became the youngest Member of the 1974 UK Parliament before leading Plaid Cymru with passion and distinction." Mr Thomas along with his Plaid Cymru colleague Dafydd Wigley was helpful to the Celtic League as it pursued its military monitoring campaign in the 1980s. Indeed, at that time Dafydd Elis-Thomas was particularly vocal on an issue we had highlighted - that of low flying by military planes over the Celtic countries. We were campaigning at the time to get the RAF to make better use of the Sky guard mobile radar system to police exercises.

In relation to the latter, he made a forceful contribution to a debate in January 1987 contrasting the military attitude to places like the Celtic low fly areas with that taken in other countries: "I have to emphasise the contrast with West Germany. That is an environmentally conscious and "greener" country than the United Kingdom. That may be the reason for the controls in the Federal Republic of Germany, a NATO country, is committed to the NATO strategy, but it is able to minimise the environmental impact of low flying. The general height limit there is 500 ft. There are seven specific low-flying areas where low-flying is permitted down to 250 ft only. There is a general ban on low-flying at weekends. For some years. Further restrictions are being introduced. Sky guard mobile radars detect and deter infringements. A new ban was introduced in 1986 on low flying in the middle of the day. A new system has been introduced this year, which will be used for a few weeks and then closed for several months to give the residents some peace. Speaking on behalf of the residents of the Snowdonia national park, most of whose area falls within my constituency, they would love to feel that they could have peace, not just on an occasional Sunday in summer".

"(1) how many Royal Air Force police, expressed as full-time equivalent staff, are currently assigned to covert field monitoring of low-flying aircraft; and what changes have taken place in these staffing levels since 1971(2) when the practice of covert monitoring of low flying by Royal Air Force police was introduced;(3) if he will make a statement on the methods used by Royal Air Force police involved in covert monitoring of low-flying activity to assess height and speed of low-flying aircraft;(4) if he will list the locations and dates of periods of covert monitoring operations conducted by Royal Air Force police since 1974;(5) on how many occasions since 1974 disciplinary proceedings have been instituted against pilots found to have been infringing low-flying regulations by Royal Air Force police involved in covert monitoring in low-flying areas, but where no complaints were received from the public."

He was active in the inter Celtic scene as well and indeed in August 1983 my late wife Dentide and the current Mannin Branch Celtic League secretary Allen Moore shared a platform with him at a political meeting at the Lorient Festival in Brittany. News items here in Welsh and English at BBC Cymru:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/dly5b245320>
S4C news: <https://theowyddon.s4c.cymru/article/26335>

Bernard Moffatt

Pádraig Ó Snodaigh

(1935-2025)

RIP – a Tribute



Pádraig Ó Snodaigh carrying the Irish Tricolour in the Flags of the World Nations parade (Ballymun 2013)

Pseudo-Multiculturalism and Classism in Conflict with Irish-medium Education

Pádraig was a life long member of the Celtic League, he was very active in the Irish Branch and was the editor of our Celtic League magazine, CARN, from 1974 to 1977, supplying many erudite and interesting articles for it over the years. Pádraig did not use forms, everything was hand written, so the process involved a close co-operation and iteration in proofing. He had changed his name from English to Irish. From Carlow town, he worked with the Electricity Supply Board in Dublin for a number of years. He achieved an MA through night studies, and became a Keeper of the National Museum of Ireland in Kildare St., Dublin (now termed Archaeology Museum), with responsibility for the Ancient Bronze Age artifacts. He married the sculptor and artist, Clodhna Cusack (who died in 2022) and they had six sons, one of whom, Angus, is a Sinn Féin TD (member of Dáil Éireann, the Irish Parliament). Three others are members of the Afro-Celt Band K.I.A.

Readers of *Carn* may have seen a clip shared by journalist Séan Mac an tSílín in February on that much-maligned platform X (there are still worthwhile things to be found there). He spoke with a ten-year-old boy from Ukraine named Misha Yerzhizde. Two years ago, Misha fled the war with his mother and settled in Baile Átha Cliath. In the heart of Kerry Gaeltacht. However, Misha did not speak to the journalist in English; he spoke in fluent Irish, with a beautiful West Kerry accent. Not only that, but he had also mastered the art of Irish music and was fully capable of playing the button accordion. Similar stories have been reported in Wales—children from Ukraine absorbing Welsh with little difficulty.

Nearly a million people watched the video of Misha, and there were around 300 comments beneath it, the vast majority positive. However, as is customary with right-wing extremists, a small number of them spread venom about the story. One account, Real News Eire, with 55,000 followers, commented in English: ‘All yes, foreigners speaking Irish is precisely what Patrick Pearse envisioned’.

It was clear that they had no understanding of Pearse’s philosophy, who saw the power of language in uniting the divided communities of Ireland. Writing about the British education system in *The Master Machine*, Pearse referred to how ‘the lusty strokes of Gael and Gall, Ulster taking its manful part’ would challenge the ‘rotten’ education system. Furthermore, Pearse’s own father was an immigrant—a stone mason from Birmingham, England, who married an Irishwoman. Pearse was an educational pioneer, and if he were alive today, he would welcome the unifying potential of the Irish language for New Irish communities.

Pádraig was very active in the Irish language organisation, Connach na Gaeilge, and in promoting the language. He was President of Connach for a number of years and I recall many Ard Fheisanna (AGMs) when I started a room with Pádraig and established strong links with Irish speakers in Belfast. From 1970 to 1973, he was co-editor with Michael Ó Briain of *Publit*, an Irish language current affairs magazine. Pádraig founded the publishing company Conscéim, which has published nearly 2,000 books in Irish. He was very good at encouraging authors and promoting them. He co-edited three books in his most famous work, *Two Godfathers of Revisionism*. One of his most particularised book is *Eugene Kamenka's book on the Irish language*. Another discussion of the anti-nationalist revisionist in the North. Another a critique of Irish historians F.X. Martin and (1991), which contains well as a critique of the books title, *Claicéach (Echoes of Easter)*. Pádraig made by Irish historians. 24 books in the series. In addition he himself has published nearly 2,000 books in Irish. He was very good at views of the “two godfathers” of poetry, in many poetry comes in Francis Shaw (the “two poet and took part in Alba and readings there Pádraig was also particularly the visits to Alba and readings there Ireland. He relished particularity the exchange of Irish and the Ireland. He relished poets, which were part of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge and the with Gaithng poets organised by Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge. He Goulding poets, organised and which he took part in a number of times. Scottish Arts Council and which he took part in a number of times. He was indeed a polymath who shared his knowledge widely. He was a close friend whose memory will remain with us and we will miss his good company and sense of humour. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a onam dillís*

Cathal Ó Luain

Another example—if one were needed—of the gap between Pearse's vision and the reality of the modern Twenty-Six County state is the controversy surrounding Synge Street Christian Brothers' School. Former Minister for Education, Norma Foley (Fianna Fáil), promised to convert Synge Street into an Irish-medium secondary school before the election in November 2024. It appeared she had yielded to the campaigning efforts of the Gaeltachtaise BAC 24-6-8 group. However, it's not uncommon for a minister to announce a policy when they're on their way out the door. The decision now rests with Helen McEntee (Fine Gael), and the situation has become quite complicated.

Foley's decision has been detailed, with the school's board of management and teachers opposing it. The majority of the teachers do not have a high enough standard of Irish, and reports indicate that 90% of them voted against Foley's decision. One could understand their concerns—their jobs are at risk, and the announcement of the transition to an Irish-medium school was neither well-managed nor transparent. However, there is a shortage of teachers across Dublin, and over 40 English-medium secondary schools exist in the immediate area surrounding Synge Street.

Any sympathy I had for the teachers vanished when their representative resorted to the excuse of multiculturalism and class to oppose the Gaeltachtaise. The representative stated, 'it would be too great a challenge for immigrant and working-class families to send their children to an Irish-medium school. We have students from diverse backgrounds. Many of our students are Muslim or come from other immigrant backgrounds, from war-torn countries. Some of them live in direct provision centres.'

That person should speak to Místeach or visit any Irish-medium school in a working-class area—Balymun, Tallaght, South Hill, etc.—though, of course, many more are needed in disadvantaged areas.

Another example is Gaelscoil Lir in Citywest. There were 26 children interviewed and, for 40% of them, English is their second language. Due to the war in Ukraine and the presence of a refugee centre nearby, over a third—34%—of the students are from Ukraine. I interviewed the school principal a few years ago, and the children from abroad are thriving while learning through Irish.

Yet, Gaelscoil Lir was nearly stopped from opening in the first place. It was Education Minister Joe McHugh (Fine Gael) who announced in 2019 that it would be established. The early days of the school highlighted the competition between Educate Together (a body promoting multidenominational English-medium schooling) and the Irish-medium education sector. Shortly after McHugh's announcement, Educate Together wrote to the Department of Education. As the radical Irish-language group Místeach pointed out at the time: 'instead of welcoming the decision, as a truly multicultural organization would, they [lodged an appeal] against it.'

According to Educate Together, the reason for the appeal was that 'no additional Gaelscoileanna in Dublin "would hinder parents' ability to exercise their "choice of education" for their children.'

Fortunately, the appeal was unsuccessful, and Gaelscoil Lir opened in the middle of the pandemic in September 2021.

At the heart of the problem with Synge Street and other Irish-medium schools failing to Educate Together are the ideologies of pseudo-multiculturalism, racism, and classism.

There are those in the state—the Department of Education, many teachers in English-medium schools, certain members of the Labour



Patrick Pearce

surrounding Synge Street Christian Brothers' School. Former Minister for Education, Norma Foley (Fianna Fáil), promised to convert Synge Street into an Irish-medium secondary school before the election in November 2024. It

It is true that only 1% of Gaelscoil students come from immigrant backgrounds, compared to 10% in English-medium primary schools, and the figures are likely similar at the secondary level. To address this inequality, research conducted by Seabhlí a few years ago entitled *Multilingual Parents and Children's Experiences of Irish-medium Education* recommended broadening access to Gaelscoileanna for parents, adopting a multilingual educational approach, and having the Department of Education launch a major public information campaign in multiple languages targeting parents of immigrant children.

Such efforts would require funding, and the Department—operating like a neoliberal machine—is reluctant to spend that money. Strong public pressure would be needed to influence the Department and to challenge the ideology of false multiculturalism. However, a robust community-based campaign must be undertaken, tied to broader issues of Irish-medium education and the Irish language; as the issue of immigration will undoubtedly be used to attack the Irish language in the future.

Wanted for Murder - the Royal Military Police!

Dr. Kieron Ó Luain

The result of the inquest into the Clonoe, Coidlisdail deaths indicates once again that the British Army and particularly special forces like the SAS and NI based units like the FRU literally got away with murder.

The use of lethal force by SAS soldiers who shot dead four members of the IRA in 1992 in Clonoe, County Tyrone was not justified or reasonable, a judge at an inquest recently ruled. Four Provisional IRA members – Kevin Barry O'Donnell, 21; Sean O'Farrell, 23; Peter Clancy, 19, and Patrick Vincent, 20 – were killed by the soldiers after they had carried out a gun attack on Coidlisdail Royal Ulster Constabulary station. There are indications they had surrendered at the time they were killed. Relatives of the men who died welcomed the ruling but it's clear that over the years they were let down by the judicial system as the killings were glorified not investigated.

It also indicates serious shortcomings within the UK Royal Military Police (RMP). In this case as in many others in the six countries the RMP looked the other way as the British Army got away with murder.

The RMP is supposed to investigate wrongdoing and enforce military law in the UK armed forces however it has been found seriously wanting in both Iraq and Afghanistan and during the Troubles it was a bigger 'Scandal' even than the RUC CID. No serious shortcomings in the conduct of the British military in the North of Ireland were ever found by the RMP. Elsewhere it was equally as bad. Even when a case reached the outcome was more often than it exposed shortcomings in the RMP rather than exposed military wrongdoing.

In November 2005 a UK Parachute Regiment who were accused of murdering an Iraqi civilian Nadeem Abdullah 18-year-old Nadhem Abdullah and another Iraqi. They were taken out of their vehicle in

Another example—if one were needed—of the gap between Pearse's vision and the reality of the modern Twenty-Six County state is the controversy surrounding Synge Street Christian Brothers' School. Former Minister for Education, Norma Foley (Fianna Fáil), promised to convert Synge Street into an Irish-medium secondary school before the election in November 2024. It appears she had yielded to the campaigning efforts of the Gaelcholáiste BÁC 2-4-6-8 group. However, it's not uncommon for a minister to announce a policy when they're on their way out the door. The decision now rests with Helen McEntee (Fine Gael), and the situation has become quite complicated.

Foley's decision has been derailed, with the school's board of management and teachers opposing it. The majority of the teachers do not have a high enough standard of Irish, and reports indicate that 90% of them voted against Foley's decision. One could understand their concerns—their jobs are at risk, and the announcement of the transition to an Irish-medium school was neither well-managed nor transparent. However, there is a shortage of teachers across Dublin, and over 40 English-medium secondary schools exist in the immediate area surrounding Synge Street.

Any sympathy I had for the teachers vanished when their representative resorted to the excuse of multiculturalism and class to oppose the Gaelcholáiste. The representative stated: 'it would be too great a challenge for immigrant and working-class families to send their children to an Irish-medium school. We have students from diverse backgrounds. Many of our students are Muslim or come from other immigrant backgrounds, from war-torn countries. Some of them live in direct provision centres.'

That person should speak to Misha or visit any Irish-medium school in a working-class area—Ballymun, Tallaght, South Hill, etc.—though, of course, many more are needed in disadvantaged areas.

Another example is Gaelscoil Lir in Citywest. There are 26 children in the school, and for 40% of them, English is their second language. Due to the war in Ukraine and the presence of a refugee centre nearby, over a third—34%—of the students are from Ukraine. I interviewed the school principal a few years ago, and the children from abroad are thriving while learning through Irish.

Yet, Gaelscoil Lir was nearly stopped from opening in the first place. It was Education Minister Joe McHugh (Fine Gael) who announced in 2019 that it would be established. The early days of the school highlighted the competition between Educate Together (a body promoting multidenominational English-medium schooling) and the Irish-medium education sector. Shortly after McHugh's announcement, Educate Together wrote to the Department of Education. As the radical Irish-language group Misneach pointed out at the time: 'instead of welcoming the decision, as a truly multicultural organization would, they [lodged an appeal] against it.'

According to Educate Together, the reason for the appeal was that 'two additional Gaelscoileanna in Dublin would hinder parents' ability to exercise their "choice of education" for their children.' Fortunately, the appeal was unsuccessful, and Gaelscoil Lir opened in the middle of the pandemic in September 2021.

At the heart of the problem with Synge Street and other Irish-medium schools losing out to Educate Together are the ideologies of pseudo-multiculturalism, racism, and classism.

There are those in the state—the Department of Education, many teachers in English-medium schools, certain members of the Labour



Patrick Pearse

Party, and many involved with Educate Together—who believe that the Irish language is irrelevant to immigrants and the working class and that it is merely a middle-class hobby for a tiny minority. Moreover, they see it as a 'progressive', 'multicultural' and 'diverse' to exclude Irish from immigrants' lives and to ensure English reigns supreme. This same thinking has contributed significantly to the problem of exemptions from the Leaving Certificate Irish exam—arguing that immigrants shouldn't have to learn Irish because 'it's not relevant to them'. Of course, this is a pseudo-multiculturalism, often rooted in Seoinísm (a term describing Irish people who are overly deferential to British or foreign influence) and hostility towards the Irish language.

It is true that only 1% of Gaelscoil students come from immigrant backgrounds, compared to 10% in English-medium primary schools, and the figures are likely similar at the secondary level. To address this inequality, research conducted by Sealbhú a few years ago entitled *Multilingual Parents and Children's Experiences of Irish-medium Education* recommended broadening access to Gaelscoileanna for parents, adopting a multilingual educational approach, and having the Department of Education launch a major public information campaign in multiple languages targeting parents of immigrant children.

Such efforts would require funding, and the Department—operating like a neoliberal machine—is reluctant to spend that money. Strong public pressure would be needed to influence the Department and to challenge the ideology of false multiculturalism. However, a robust community-based campaign must be undertaken, tied to broader issues of Irish-medium education and the Irish language, as the issue of immigration will undoubtedly be used to attack the Irish language in the future.

Dr. Kerron Ó Luain

Wanted for Murder - the Royal Military Police!

The result of the inquest into the Clonoe, Coalisland deaths indicates once again that the British Army and particularly special forces like the SAS and NI based units like the FRU literally got away with murder.

The use of lethal force by SAS soldiers who shot dead four members of the IRA in 1992 in Clonoe, County Tyrone was not justified or reasonable, a judge at an inquest recently ruled.

Four Provisional IRA members – Kevin Barry O'Donnell, 21, Sean O'Farrell, 23, Peter Clancy, 19, and Patrick Vincent, 20 – were killed by the soldiers after they had carried out a gun attack on Coalisland Royal Ulster Constabulary station. There are indications they had surrendered at the time they were killed. Relatives of the men who died welcomed the ruling but it's clear that over the years they were let down by the judicial system as the killings were glorified not investigated.

It also indicates serious shortcomings within the UK Royal Military Police (RMP). In this case as in many others in the six countries the RMP looked the other way as the British Army got away with murder.

The RMP is supposed to investigate wrongdoing and enforce military law in the UK armed forces however it has been found seriously wanting in both Iraq and Afghanistan and during the Troubles it was a bigger 'scandal' even than the RUC CID.

No serious shortcomings in the conduct of the British military in the North of Ireland were ever found by the RMP. Elsewhere it was equally as bad. Even when a case reached court the outcome was more often that it exposed shortcomings in the RMP rather than exposed military wrongdoing.

In November 2005 a UK judge stopped the trial of seven British soldiers from 3 Para of the Parachute Regiment who were accused of murdering an Iraqi civilian Nadhem Abdullah 18-year-old Nadhem Abdullah and another Iraqi. They were taken out of their vehicle in

such measures are essential to preserving Cornwall's distinct cultural identity and ensuring that the Cornish language thrives for future generations.

In addition, Cornwall Council has expressed strong support for the Cornish Language and Heritage (Education and Recognition) Bill, aligning with its longstanding commitment to promoting Kernewek. The Council leads the Cornish Language Programme, guided by a 10-year strategy (2015-2025) aimed at increasing the number of speakers, creating more opportunities to use Cornish, and enhancing its official status.

In 2023, as part of a Level 2 devolution deal, Cornwall Council secured £500,000 in government funding to support Cornish distinctiveness, including the protection and promotion of the Cornish language. This investment underscores the Council's apparent dedication to preserving Cornwall's unique cultural identity and ensuring the Cornish language remains a living, vibrant part of the region's heritage.

The second reading of the Cornish Language and Heritage (Education and Recognition) Bill is scheduled for Friday, 20 June 2025. This stage will provide Members of Parliament with the opportunity to debate the main principles of the bill and decide whether it should proceed to the committee stage for detailed examination. The second reading will be a crucial step in determining



Anna Gelderd MP (above) says "Language visibility in public life is crucial for its survival. Currently, Cornish does not have official status in Cornwall, nor is there any legislative requirement for its promotion. However, Cornwall Council has worked hard since 2013 to implement a strategy promoting the language. I want to see this work and local efforts strengthened by increasing the use of Cornish in road signs, place names and public services."
(Image courtesy of Cornwall Live)

it included provisions for the promotion of the Cornish language, mandating that Cornish Ministers adopt a scheme to facilitate its use and, where practicable, treat English and Cornish equally in public business within Cornwall. However, the Bill did not progress to this, its first reading due to time constraints in the House of Commons. In various Early Day Motions (EDMs), were tabled. For instance, in 1999, an EDM supported by cultural organisations called for the UK Government to recognise Cornish under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. November 2002 to contribute to the UK Government's decision the Charter providing it officially recognise Cornish under Part II. While these initiatives with a degree of protection and promotion of the Cornish language have contributed to the preservation and promotion of the Cornish language, the recent Cornish Language and Heritage (Education and Recognition) Bill represents a renewed effort to education and public legislative effort to ensure its integration into greater impact. Time will tell if Gelderd's Bill will have greater impact.

Emilie Champliaud

Cornwall Elections Continue to Plague Sewage Spills Cornish Beaches

By the time readers of Cam read this, Cornwall will have held pivotal local elections on Thursday 1 May 2025, with all 87 seats on Cornwall Council up for grabs. These elections coincide with parish and town council contests across the county. The political landscape is particularly dynamic this year. Following the 2021 elections, the Conservative Party secured a majority on the council. However, subsequent resignations and defections have eroded their control, leaving the council without a clear majority by July 2024. This sets the stage for a competitive race, with parties like the Liberal Democrats and Labour aiming to capitalise on the shifting dynamics.

Mebyon Kernow, Cornwall's party for independence and democracy, has also been actively campaigning, with leader Cllr. Dick Cole stating: "As we face these crucial elections, the people of Cornwall must be given a real voice in how our future is shaped. Mebyon Kernow stands for a Cornwall that is in control of its own destiny, and this election presents an opportunity to challenge the status quo."

Election results will be reported in the next issue of Cam.

Cornwall Elections 2025

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Bill's progression through Parliament and its potential impact on preserving Cornwall's unique cultural identity. Prior to the Cornish Language and Heritage (Education and Recognition) Bill, in July 2009, Dan Rogerson, then Liberal Democrat MP for North Cornwall, introduced the Government of Cornwall Bill. This Bill aimed to establish a devolved Cornish Assembly with powers akin to those of the Welsh Assembly. Notably,



Slaynt yn Ashoon?

Toshaight Arree va fir-lheece gobbraghay da Kiarail Vannin er-chee sholkey er yn oyr naugh row ad soishey jeh chebbyn er bishaghey syn aill oc, as magh iss shen huink cheb noa ren ny fir-lheece tosaghey jeh.



Boundrynn er Jimmy picket cheumonote jeh Thie Lheys Noble sy vein

Tan Ard Oaser son Ard Ellan Vannin, David Hopton, cur trinnid jeadyssegh, agh iech tayrn gell da immeagh vees foast gall mychione boundrynn. Teh gra naugh vel emm cooie gol or cur er feuid yn obbyr oo as dy vel presys curri orroo neesht iorlach gemnid dy wirran dy veld ad immeagh mychione saubys ny sunrise. Ta Mar Hopton cheet er y ghemend dy wirrin 'syn Ellan myr creoighys; as ieh gra risk blecamny dy vel ny schleym, y profeshoond as yn obbyr scandys betynn da saubys ter've jeans, as vees goll er janno, ec boundrynn curri fion leagh firnnaigh.

Summary

A strike by doctors who are members of the British Medical Association was narrowly averted in January 2025 when the Government suddenly found it could improve on a pay offer after all, after leaving Manx Care in the humiliating position of having nothing to bargain with. However, Manx Care finds itself back in the same position with members of the Royal College of Nursing. Manx Care's most recent offer has been refused by members of the RCN, and a ballot is being held late February/early March which may see nurses return to the picket line – the last resort to which they were driven in 2023.

Research Group Receive Additional Funding

In December 2024, the Manx Language Research Group (part of Yn Cheshaght Ghaliakagh, the Manx Language Society) received a £3,000 grant from Culture Vannin.

The funding is designed to enhance the online Manx Corpus, a repository containing over two million words and numerous audio recordings. This funding enables the transcription and translation of a significant volume of Manx language audio recordings, making them accessible to a broader audience. These time-stamped, fully searchable transcriptions will enable users to search for specific words or phrases in either Manx or English and access audio of a native speaker using them in context.

Chris Williamson, vice chairman of the group, highlighted that this development speaks to provide timestamped transcriptions, allowing users to search for words or phrases in Manx or English and hear native speakers using them in context. This initiative is a significant step in preserving and promoting the Manx language, contributing to its ongoing revival.

Chris Williams added: "The searchable English transcripts will also make this important archival material open to the wider public in and beyond the island who may be interested in the language from the point of view of social history, folklore, and family history. Our grant giving work aims to support members of the cultural community in unlocking the full potential of their projects. Even a small grant can make a significant difference when combined with the expertise and commitment of groups like the Manx Language Research Group".

Dr Christopher Lewin, secretary of the Manx Language Research Group, said: "This generous grant from Culture Vannin allows our voluntary organisation to contract an experienced translator, to work on recently available recordings from the iMuseum's British Library 'Unlocking Our Sound Heritage' project, as well as other Manx language recordings, prioritising native speaker content."



Dr. Christopher Lewin

Rent ny fir-lheece cordaall gyn sholkey, as avys teiy ren ad soishey rent cheb noa. Lorish, va bishaghey 8% currit back gys yn 1 Mee April 2023, ba bishaghey 2% veihin 1 Mee April 2024.

Nash ta gell goll er cur ny boundrynn. Daa vein er dy hennay on olewyn Colleish Recoil y Vandyrys ta gobbraghay da Kiarail Vannin sholkey risht daa laa, as va limmaghyn picket cheumooie ieh. The Lheys Noble. Ec'y traashten wa bishaghey 6% cooard, agh ieh un Colleish gra, va steh son yn daa vein v'er nigholl shaghey, as ty 'n asey faille lorish £1,500.

Ec'y traashten van Colleish cur trimmid er naugh row Kiarail Vannin agh borrhaghey er barganeaghey son, ny bleantanvyn v'er nigholl shaghey, as dy row fime er gooil toshaight reesht er barganeaghey. Agh neayr's shen chaa nel bishaghey er ve ayn, as ta sun'y traashten. Agh neayr's shen chaa nel bishaghey 4%, currit back gys yn 1 Kiarail Vannin er chur cheb jeh bishaghey 4%.

Ec'y traashten van Colleish er jooddey y cheb Met April 2024. Agh ta olewynn y Cholleish et jooddey y cheb Met April 2024.

Cooch waganeagh colley ee, avys ny barganeagheytaa ta Kiarail Vannin gra naugh bee bishaghey currin back son boundrynn da gobbraghay da Kiarail Vannin ec'y traashten. Agh ier mangail neayr's shen. Tain hien as ta bishaghey corrdit, thisaagh ny boundrynn shen geddyo 'yn ill aeregt son ny obbyr ya jeans ec'y traashten. Tain Colleish ga dy vel shartmuus dy vandyren er mangail neayr's yn traashten er 'n oyr naugh row ariegh dy lloaray ty gieddynn occ, as paart jeu jammojning ieh hanney bee. Tain Colleish gra dy boundrynn shoh cunnt dy aeglan y boundrynn son oyynn tamaynagh, as naugh cariagh thoy vel daa flageg mooc jeh raghys erbee benyn dan aill son mannoshaugh Colleish er raghegy tey noa, vel boundrynn arylleagh dy myn ar test reesh et jaunys jeddyssegh, eer gys sholkey reesht, myn ar test ty vien 2023.

Scoill Source

For years, and even as a beginner Manx student, I had longed for a Manx language summer school for adults. When studying music at university, I was inspired by my trips up to Sibhal Mór Ostaig, the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye, picking up beginner Gáidhlig, and reams of beautiful songs on their week-long short courses. At the time, nothing like that existed for Manx (although I know that the late, great Dr. Brian Stowell had run adult Manx language summer schools when I was a youngster) and so when I took up the position of Manx Language Development Officer, Yn Greimayder – at Culture Vannin in late 2020, this was one of the first things I wanted to set up.

Covid put the kibosh on proceedings for a couple of years, but in July 2023, we held our first, five-day long 'Scoill Source', with one course for absolute beginners, and another course for lower intermediates, and found that the summer school attracted not only those who lived in the Island, but also students from much farther afield: five people came over specifically from the US to take part. I tentatively forecasted the summer school into three courses last year; and 2025 will see a total of five courses run by three qualified teachers: me, Paul Rogers and Janys O'Meara.

While Paul, Janys and I have our own distinctive styles of teaching, we all focus on encouraging as much spoken Manx as possible and favour communicative language teaching methods. Students engage in meaningful interaction via classroom activities which often include pair work and games, and encouraging correct practice through modelling and encouraging correct accuracy of language use. For the 2024 Scoill Source, we took on examples of language use. Fionna Castien Wilson, as an invaluable keen university student, Fionna Castien Wilson, as a past pupil of the helper for the absolute beginners' course. Fionna is a past pupil of the Bunscoil Ghlas-eagach and this September she will embark on a PGCE (Post-graduate Certificate of Education). She was a fantastic addition to the teaching team for the week, and the course enabled her to gain great experience observing and assisting with adult language teaching.

Since taking on the role as Yn Greimayder at Culture Vannin, I have worked to make a wider range of resources available, including a structured four-part course called '*Laoar Gaeg*' (Speak Manx), which brings beginner adult callers to basic fluency. Janys O'Meara began work on this course in 2019, and I subsequently collaborated with him to develop and publish books and supporting sound files. The course provides students with a roadmap for learning, keeping them on track. Most importantly, it has an exit point when learners are encouraged to become more independent – this is crucial with limited resources in terms of teachers and funding. The courses in Scoill Source are based on these levels.

Up at Sibhal Mór Ostaig, the importance of socialising and making bonds with fellow classmates was clearly on a par with the content covered in the courses; much was made of opportunities to enjoy music, dancing, and other cultural activities. I loved the opportunities



Summer School beginner attendees practise a speaking task with Ruth Keggan Geil (centre)

information email manxlanguageteam@culturevannin.im

1624 676169.

Ruth Keggan Geil
In Greimayder, Culture Vannin

Memories of Better Times

"Thank heavens for the Island's raw aesthetics" I think, as the waves, foam, and spray surge on the coasts about mid-morning. Late January 2025 and the nation has a subdued feel about it. At this time, we should be throwing off the torpor of the back end of the previous year and looking to a bright spring and new year. However, all is state - hackneyed. Three of the Ministers at least have breakfast with the Chamber in a tired ritual that has little meaning. The Chamber is a receptacle of unoriginal thought. COMINN meaning. The mainstream media struggles to find anything interesting after they recently did meteorology and the weather to death!

The government wants to continue giving money away to failed or failing businesses with little thought as to how revenue accrues. Politicians past and current reimagine their own importance and parish pump issues are dressed up as a priority of the National government.

Many young people with drive are leaving, the rest wait and hope that the ossification of a small island community this government stimulates is not eternal. As for the old? "There are memories of better times."

Bernard Moffatt

we had to watch gigs and dance the night away at a ceiliadh, all while practising our Gáidhlig. We know this to be the case with other summer schools in Ireland, too – language and culture together. With that in mind, I set up Scoill Source to coincide with the Isle of Man interCeltic festival that's been taking place in Peel or St. John's since the 1970s. All of our courses take place in Peel. This creates a central 'hub' and cultural epicentre for the week, and many more opportunities to use and practise Manx. We haven't had any A level students on the summer school (yet!) but have had Manx university students. This year there will be five short courses available, between 21st – 25th July, catering for absolute beginners right through to upper intermediate learners. Each course runs for 3 hours a day – a total of 15 hours for each course, and costs £125 per person, covering the cost of hiring teaching venues and course teachers. The course fee also includes all learning materials, and light refreshments. Each participant also receives a certificate on completion of the course. Why not join us on a course and learn 'red beg dy Ghæalg' – a bit of Manx? We'd love to see you! For further information about the summer school, including timings and course descriptors, please visit: www.learnmanx.com/summerschool. A limited number of bursaries are available for students and anyone with low income on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information email manxlanguageteam@culturevannin.im or phone +44 1624 676169.

Government Reports Indicate Population Stagnation and Income Decline

Two reports compiled by the Isle of Man government's statistics unit and issued by the Cabinet Office indicate that both the population growth and national income in the Isle of Man are stagnating (see links) show the population remaining static at 84,000 despite a (highly unpopular) strategy of the government to grow the population via inward migration.

More worrying in the last two years has shown a decline of 4%. If you collate the latest findings with trends in other years the picture is even more worrying. occurs at a time when demands on the government in terms of infrastructure projects, social care, and health care have never been higher. The factor is further complicated by the issue of current government debt and also public sector pension commitment.

<https://www.gov.im/media/1387432/national-income-2022-23-report-final-020225.pdf>

<https://www.gov.im/media/1387381/20250203-population-report-020225.pdf>

Bernard Moffatt

A Distant Study of the Isle of Man (Part 2)

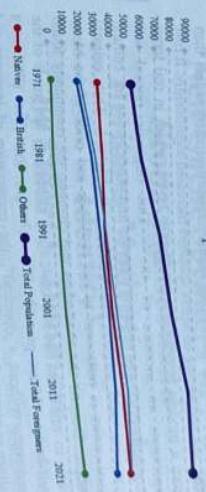


Table 2: Isle of Man Census Information by Place of Birth 1971-2021

Table 1: Numbers of Manx Speakers and Total Population of Isle of Man 1971 – 2021

In the first part of this article, published in CARN 189, we took a closer look at the decline of Manx culture. It was the first part of our journey through the political and cultural history of the Isle of Man.

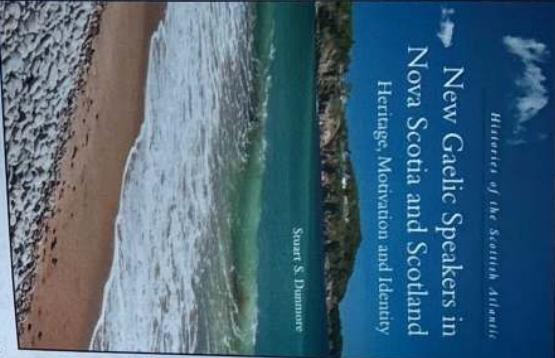
where we examined the context in which this particular nation developed. Now, it is time to try to understand how this identity, which was doomed to disappear, began to gain strength again. How the tree, dry and withered, was believed to be dead; but its still vital root hidden underground where no one sees it, enabled it to be reborn. For decades, the Isle of Man was immersed in an impressive set of social and cultural transformations that redefined its identity. It all began with a series of migration changes caused by the new tax policies of Tyrawald, which generated tensions between native residents and immigrant newcomers, generally of English origin. At that time, there is no record of immigrants being frowned upon on the island, and speaking only English was already traditionally seen as a symbol of advancement. However, different sectors of the local population began to oppose the immigration and tax policies, motivated by political, economic and cultural reasons.

This opposition triggered a series of events that revitalised Manx culture in an unexpected way. The revival began as a defensive response, similar to an organism's immune system defending itself against a virus. The natives' residents, seeing their culture and traditions increasingly relegated, began to look for ways to reconnect with their heritage. Perhaps, and this is a personal opinion, English culture, which was not close to Mannin, was overtly romanticised for generations. But mass immigration brought the two cultures together. The Manx language, which had been in decline, began to be reborn thanks to a renewed interest on the part of youth and those looking to affirm their identity in the midst of change. It was between the 70s and 80s that the first insurgent groups such as Fo Haaloo and FSFO emerged, during which time they dedicated themselves to expressing their discontent with graffiti and sabotage campaigns. The opposition groups enjoyed a good relationship with the native residents of the Isle of Man, and their actions were seen as a way of expressing native speakers and publishing literary works in the language. His passion and dedication inspired many to learn and value their ancestral language, contributing significantly to its revival.

Gaelic, an increase from 57,602 in 2011. Additionally 2.5% of the population aged three and over—approximately 310,000 individuals reported having some Gaelic language skills, including understanding, reading, or writing the language.

New Gaelic Speakers in Nova Scotia and Scotland

Herring, Motivation and Identity



Stuart S. Durnane

Nova Scotia's approach to Gaelic language development offers valuable insights that could influence revitalisation efforts in Scotland. The province's emphasis on community-based immersion programmes, such as Gaedhlig agus Beilte (Gaelic in the Community), focuses on conversational fluency through cultural activities, fostering a practical and engaging learning environment. Additionally, initiatives like the Gaelic Language Learning Bursary enable Nova Scotians to study at institutions like Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Scotland, promoting cross-cultural exchange and strengthening the Gaelic-speaking community on both sides of the Atlantic. These strategies highlight the importance of immersive, culturally rooted education in language preservation and could inform similar programmes in Scotland aimed at increasing the number of new Gaelic speakers.

This book is a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and language activists alike. It challenges simplistic notions of heritage and becomes a Gaelic speaker today. By centring the voices of learners and community members, Dunmore not only documents linguistic change but also highlights the broader social and emotional dimensions of language revitalisation across the Atlantic. It's a vital read for anyone interested in minority languages and cultural resilience.

Speak up for Palestine

I may at times sound like a lone voice crying in the wilderness.

When serious injustices are being perpetrated involving the killing tens of thousands of women and children in Palestine, our silence makes us complicit. As Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, is understandably being widely praised for his diplomatic performance in defending Irish economic interests in his meeting with US President Donald Trump in March. The morning after, RTE and other news outlets reported that Micheál Martin had praised President Trump for his peacekeeping efforts in Gaza and Ukraine. While all efforts to promote peace in Ukraine are very welcome, only time will

tell how effective or genuine the US government's Ukraine peace efforts will be.

The killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces in Gaza and the West Bank continued on 12th March as Micheál Martin was praising President Trump for his peacekeeping efforts are being actively supported and government and its military forces are being supplied with the weapons and munitions that are killing Palestinians. We may never know how many Palestinian children have died, but it is likely that many die while hypothermia, bombs and bullets, but it is likely that many die while Micheál Martin was in the US for his diplomatic visit. Irish economic interests should not take precedence over that our neighbours are all neighbours. Jesus Christ reminded us that our neighbours are all humankind.

Edward Horgan,
Castletroy, Limerick

The Irish Daily Mail published this letter in mid-March with just minor edits and the Irish Independent published it with bigger edits, but the message hopefully got across

Envoy ar Gelted en Oriant 2025

Festival Interceltique de Lorient



The 2025 Lorient Interceltic Festival, scheduled from August 1 to 10, will spotlight the Celtic diaspora in North America under the theme 'Les Cousins d'Amérique' ('Our American Cousins'). This 54th edition will celebrate the cultural ties between Brittany and regions such as Acadia, Louisiana, Quebec, New Brunswick, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Boston, and New York.

As the world's largest gathering of Celtic cultures, the festival will feature over 5,000 artists across 10 days of concerts, parades, workshops, and exhibitions. Highlights include the Grande Parade des Nations Celtes, attracting more than 90,000 spectators, and performances by renowned artists like Alan Stivell and Solas.

Attendees can also enjoy traditional Breton wrestling, Celtic games, artisan markets, and culinary specialities from various Celtic nations. The festival aims to foster cultural exchange and celebrate the enduring heritage of Celtic communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

British Intelligence and the Celtic Youth Congress - Misreading the Runes' continued from page 14 ...

...separatists and that the latter gave training in weapons and explosives to a member of the F.W.A. (17th May 1968).

It is clear that in terms of Celtic nationalism mainly through ignorance, the UK intelligence services misread the situation. The focus in the 1960s appears to have been the national movements in Wales and Scotland. Ireland, where the IRA had recently adopted a more political stance after the conclusion of the unsuccessful border campaign, appears to be sidelined. Subsequent events illustrate that this was a major security failure by the British.

As for the Celtic Youth Congress, it faded into obscurity although its existence to me, had a long association with both the Celtic League and Celtic Congress.

Bernard Moffatt

Women in Celtic Nationalist Movements From the Irish Ladies Land League to Breizh

One of the major factors in the modern Celtic nationalist movement has been the role of women, however for the most part it is overlooked or marginalised.

For example, 'The Ladies Land League' sounds like a genteel organisation. But it was, in fact, a highly organised mass movement that supported the Land Reform movement in Ireland in the 19th century. It had branches across Britain and Ireland, raised substantial amounts of money, and purchased or rented property to house and fund those evicted at the time of the land struggle in Ireland. It was, it could be argued, the forerunner of Inghinidhe na hÉireann and of course the later organisation of Cumann na mBan.



This plaque commemorates Anna Parnell, feminist, activist, and founder of the Ladies Land League, at the offices of the League at 37/38 O'Connell Street Upper, (now an AIB Bank).

Cumann na mBan (in terms of Ireland) is much better known; some of its members achieved historical prominence in the War of Independence and later took part in the various IRA campaigns throughout the twentieth century. However, the exploits of its members are generally not highly publicised, certainly not as much as those of male colleagues.

This is not a phenomenon peculiar to Ireland. In all the Celtic countries the role of women has been downplayed. For example, in Mann the contributions of women like Sophia Morrison and later Mona Douglas are celebrated for their cultural role if remembered at all and yet both had a distinctive political aspect in terms of their work.

Often even if remembered at all women's role can be subordinated to an appendage of a better-known male husband or partner. There is no better example of this than Anna Youenou-Debauvais wife of Fransez Debauvais the Breton nationalist. Anna was active at the same time as her husband and yet after her death one comment published online simply remarked disparagingly: "After the war widow Anna Youenou associated with the Breton nationalist clique in Paris. In 1968 she wrote an account of her husband's life."



Sophia Morrison,
Manx activist

In fact, Anna was a valued contributor in her own right to the Breton nationalist cause throughout her life and also a fine artist. The account of her husband's life in fact is a SIX-volume work on Fransez Debauvais that is one of the better and objective accounts of Breton Nationalism for that period.

Her's is not a unique plight, Unless I have missed it no major all-embracing academic work recognises or adequately covers the role of women in our struggles. Peter Beresford Ellis produced the book 'Celtic Women' some years ago. However, with the greatest of respect to Peter who I admire for his literary commitment to documenting the Celtic struggle, it's hardly a great academic treatise on the subject. However, the role of women in the modern Celtic nationalist movement urgently needs the attention of historians and academics to set the record straight and provide balance.



Fransez Debauvais (Breton nationalist) with his wife Anna Youenou-Debauvais who wrote a 6-volume work on his life and their activities

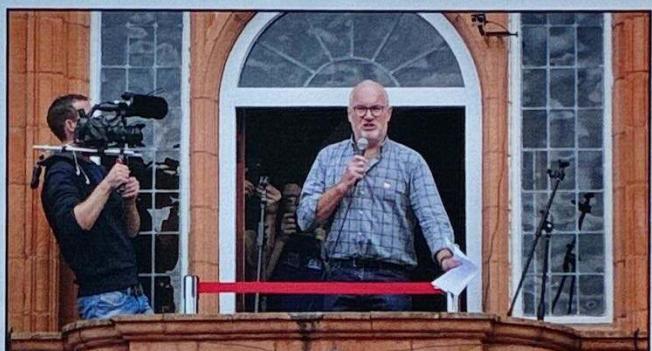
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladies%27_Land_League; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inghinidhe_na_h%C3%89ireann

<https://culturevannin.im/resources/sophia-morrison-667189/>; <http://buani.chez.com/buandebauvais.htm>

Bernard Moffatt

Independence Speeches Submitted

A contest open to 16 to 18 year olds on the topic of Welsh Independence was launched at the end of last year that was inspired by the broadcaster and rugby legend Eddie Butler who sadly passed away in 2022 aged 65 years.



Eddie Butler (above), commentator and broadcaster, speaking passionately in favour of Welsh independence at the Merthyr Independence Rally in 2019

The aim of the contest is to encourage youngsters to write Wales' best speech and was organised by pro-independence campaign group YesCymru. The Eddie Butler Award offers a £500 cash prize, as well as £250 for the school or college supporting their entry. Speeches could be submitted in Welsh or English, with a maximum length of 5 minutes, and had to be submitted by Friday 21 February 2025. Regional heats are scheduled for May, followed by the final event in June 2025 at Theatr Soar, Merthyr Tydfil.

Aurunico - a New Organisation

Piotr Pietruszewski-Gil, the founder of Aurunico, contacted me at the end of last year to tell me about an organisation that he had set up that he thought readers of *Carn* and members of the League would be interested in. Piotr invited me to meet him and another organiser of Aurunico online, to discuss their organisation further and some of the ideas he had in mind how Aurunico and the Celtic League could potentially work together. As a first step, I invited Piotr to write about what Aurunico was in a short article for the pages of *Carn*, so that members would be able to have a better idea of what Aurunico stood for and to visit their website to look for themselves if interested. Below is the article that Piotr wrote.

Rhiart Tal-e-bot

Aurunico – Uniqueness

Matters

We live in an era of globalisation, a phenomenon full of contradictions. With widespread access to the internet and popularity and availability of air travel making the world feel smaller, we can communicate and interact on a scale unimaginable in the past.

You'd think this unprecedented connectivity would be beneficial especially to small and marginalised groups and help them thrive. But sometimes, it seems like the opposite is true. Changes in the global economy – fuelled by the communication revolution – have hit many local communities and ethnic groups hard. Life in the global village has turned out to be a double-edged sword. As with most things in life, the more money and power you have, the more opportunities you can seize. This means global communication often benefits those with resources, leaving smaller, underrepresented groups struggling to make their voices heard. While everyone has access to communication tools, not everyone can use them effectively. This makes it even harder for communities to preserve and share their unique traditions and cultural heritage.

That's where Aurunico steps in. We're a passionate community dedicated to addressing



The Celtic League

The Celtic League is an inter-Celtic organisation that campaigns for

the political, language, cultural and social rights of the Celtic nations through peaceful means. It does this across a broad range of issues. It highlights human rights abuse, monitors military activity and focuses on political, socio-economic, environmental, language and cultural issues, which generally or specifically affect one or more of the Celtic countries in some way. The organisation also aims to promote the benefits of inter-Celtic cooperation. Additionally, to further each of the Celtic nations' right to independence and to concern for the peoples of the Celtic countries.

these challenges. We believe local communities and ethnic groups are essential, and the ideas they bring to the table enrich all of us. Our mission is to preserve and promote their unique traditions, languages, and cultural heritage through both non-commercial and commercial initiatives.

We understand that these groups face more than just a lack of resources. Being a minority – by definition, a small group – often makes it more difficult to gain visibility. That's why Aurunico works to amplify their voices by creating a platform where they can not only promote themselves, but also collaborate with others, and gain recognition on a broader scale. By joining forces, these communities can achieve far more than they could alone.

Our vision for Aurunico is twofold: to promote the unique content and products of ethnic groups and microsocieties, and to facilitate collaboration between ethnic groups, institutions, and creators. We aim to open new avenues of not only sharing and celebrating cultural heritage but also creating new cultural content. Aurunico acts as a bridge, helping to connect communities and share their offerings both commercially and non-commercially.

Although we are a young organisation, we're growing quickly and are always looking for opportunities to collaborate with groups from around the world. Here's a glimpse of some of our current projects:

- Publishing articles that highlight the rich heritage of various ethnic groups and microsocieties.
- Organising cultural tours to small ethnic minority regions, offering travellers the chance to experience local traditions firsthand. Upcoming trips include the Wlamowice region in southern Poland and the Gorani community in Kosovo, combined with hiking adventures.
- Providing workshops and consultations for institutions and companies to foster awareness and cooperation with ethnic minorities.
- Launching an online store featuring unique products crafted by ethnic groups.

Aurunico is just getting started, but we're excited about the journey ahead. Together, we can celebrate and preserve the incredible diversity that makes our world so vibrant.

PM and Founder <https://aurunico.com/>

Piotr Pietruszewski-Gil

Membership and Subscriptions

All those who agree with the constitution and aims with the League are eligible for membership. The membership subscription (including *Carn*) are: Sterling £21.00, Euro (airmail) £20.00, Outside Europe (airmail) £20.00, £20.00 and US\$30.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). For information about the Celtic League contact branch secretaries:

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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 July 2025.

Articles sent for publication in *Carn* must relate to our aims. All material copyright © *Carn* unless otherwise stated. The views expressed in *Carn* are not necessarily those of the editor nor of the Celtic League.



Agence
Bretagne Presse

ABP e Brezhoneg, ABP in English



<https://www.celticleague.net>
Celtic League Public Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2222378912/>